Planning Form for an American Studies Major, 16-17

This form is designed to help us think together about how you'll complete the requirements for the American Studies major, how you will construct an individualized version of the major, and how you'll manage the flexibility and freedom inherent in the major to ensure that you've gained some specific kinds of expertise by the time you'll propose a comps plan.

STUDENTS: This page should be printed. Send completed copies to the current director of American Studies, c/o Tami Little mail stop: 2-Goodsell.

1. Name____________________________ Class ____ e-mail address __________________

2. General topics or areas of interest for the Major:

3. Core courses
   American Studies 115 (introductory course, list term & year taken):
   ______________________________________________________
   American Studies 345 (topics and methods course, list term & year taken):
   ______________________________________________________
   American Studies 396 (junior seminar, list term & year taken):
   ______________________________________________________
   American Studies 399 (senior seminar, list term & year taken):
   ______________________________________________________
   American Studies 400 (comps credits, list term & year taken):
   ______________________________________________________

4. Survey courses - Students must take three survey courses.
   Students will take a one-term survey course from a department other than the department used for the two survey courses.
   One survey course (e.g. POSC 122, English 112). List course, term & year taken:
   ______________________________________________________
   Two survey courses must come from a single department (e.g. History 120-121, History 220-221). Students may also, at the discretion of the Director, substitute other American history classes for the history survey, so long as one class focuses on American history up to and including the Civil War and the other class focuses on American history after 1765.). List course, term & year taken:
   ______________________________________________________

5. Topical Courses (No more than one of these courses may be a 100-level course. (Survey courses above and beyond those used to satisfy the required one-term survey courses may count as a Topical Course.) No more than two Topical Courses may be from the same group. In order that majors acquire the research skills necessary to complete the major, one of these courses must be a 300-level course.)
   Topical course. List course, term & year taken:
   ______________________________________________________
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   ______________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________________

6. Off-Campus Programs you are considering.

7. Please provide a paragraph about your specific areas of interest in American Studies, as you know them so far.

8. In which areas, disciplines or methodologies will you have a substantial background by the time of your senior comps project? What additional courses might strengthen your preparation?

9. Please tell us a bit about your research skills:

a) What database(s) do you use to find the greatest concentration of recent (last 5 years) articles in your areas of interest?

b) Where do you usually go to find primary sources in your field/areas of interest?

c) Tell us two strategies you use to identify authors writing in your field.

d) How would you rate your research skills on a 1-4 scale:

1 few skills beyond Google and a couple of easily accessed databases; I use a term or two in searching; my search protocol does not vary meaningfully in different contexts

2 possessing a solid understanding of the sources and methods appropriate to interdisciplinary inquiry, familiar with and regularly use a varied set of tools

3 possessing a solid understanding of the sources and methods appropriate to interdisciplinary inquiry, able to use a variety of tools and modes to find and process information, able to independently differentiate poor, good, and excellent sources
possessing a sophisticated understanding of the sources and a deep familiarity with the methods appropriate to interdisciplinary inquiry; able to independently differentiate poor, good, and excellent sources. I consider myself a savvy and efficient researcher.

10. Anything else you would like us to know?