

Frequently Asked Questions: Counting Classes Toward BOTH an American Studies Major & Other UT Requirements

Q: Some courses listed for the American Studies major (English 231, 232, 233) are also on list for lower level Humanities B distributions. Do these courses double-count for both Humanities B requirements and the American Studies major/minor?

A: Yes. However, some students may need to use the new catalog rules that go into effect in Fall 2013. Currently these courses count for both Humanities B and *pre-requisites* for the major, and they don't count toward a minor. Under the new rules you can count two of these directly toward the major, or one toward a minor.

Q: What about courses on the lists for both lower division Social Science distributions and American Studies (MUCO 310, REST 233, SOC 344)? Do these also double-count for Social Science requirements and the major/minor?

A: Yes. However, you must use the new rules if you want REST 233 to count automatically (it can count now by petition).

Q. Do courses that fulfill the upper level US Studies requirement (including many on our list) or upper level Foreign Studies (including a few on our list) double-count for UT upper level requirements and the American Studies major/minor?

A. This varies. UT does not allow this sort of double-counting toward **primary majors**. However, it does encourage you to double-count them toward **secondary majors**. Likewise they double-count toward upper level distributions and **minors**.

Q: So, if I take American Studies classes for upper division requirements (US and Foreign Studies), and take just one more American Studies class for any lower level requirement (Humanities or Social Science), I already have three-fifths of a minor?

A. Yes. And there is no reason to stop with only one American Studies class when doing lower level distributions. You could take four American Studies courses to fulfill requirements at that level, and then take two more at the upper level. That's 18 hours, and you only need 15 for a minor. (But don't forget to *declare* your minor; it doesn't register automatically.)

Q. If I major in American Studies, I'll take many classes that count toward majors in other departments. Can these count toward two majors—both in American Studies and another department?

A. Yes. Up to 12 hours of the 33 required for an American Studies major can double-count in this way.

*Q. What if I want to use courses for both an American Studies **minor** and a major in another department? Is there a limit to how many of these I could double-count?*

A. No, there is no limit on this front. Most students can easily do an American Studies minor consisting *almost entirely* of courses that also count for another major and/or required UTK distributions.

Q. What if I'm interested in a subfield of American Studies, for which classes not listed for the major are logical? For example, what if I want to study Meso-American history due to my interest in border culture, or do advanced work in film theory as part of my interests in cinema?

A. We strongly *encourage* you to seek out and propose classes like this. As long as they are a logical match for your interests and fit the spirit of the major, you can and should count them. This is done by petition during the advising process. It is a routine part of American Studies advising due to the many variable topics classes that fall in this category.

Q. So, there is virtually no obstacle to prevent almost any student from picking up an American Studies minor, and few obstacles preventing most students from a secondary major—unless they come to the program very late?

A. Yes! In fact the most common obstacle is simply getting a seat in AMST 310. If you have this problem, let Dr. Hulsether know and we'll move you to the front of the line. Majors/minors have priority, but myutk cannot handle this automatically.