



January 26, 2024

Dr. Michael T. Benson  
President and Professor of History  
Coastal Carolina University  
107 Founders Drive  
Conway, SC 29526

Dear Dr. Benson:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

**Program Closure**

**Undergraduate Certificate in American Studies**

Submission date:

**12/15/2023**

Intended Implementation date:

**8/1/2024**

Case ID:

**SC024704**

The closure of the undergraduate certificate in American Studies was initiated by faculty due to a lack of enrollment in the program. Faculty members, program coordinators, and the Dean's office were included in the conversations.

There are no students currently enrolled in the program. Therefore, there will be no need to notify students and no student will incur additional costs. There was only one student in the program and the student decided not to continue their studies in June of 2023. Only four students have ever enrolled in the program and there have been no completers since the program's implementation in 2016.

No faculty or staff will be negatively impacted by the program closure. Faculty teaching within this certificate program have teaching loads in other degree programs.

**The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves the closure of the Undergraduate Certificate in American Studies.**

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Lynne S. Crosby at (404) 492-5390 or via email at [lcrosby@sacscoc.org](mailto:lcrosby@sacscoc.org).



Dr. Michael T. Benson  
January 26, 2024  
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Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/DDG:sb

cc: Ms. Holly J. Legg, Director of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analysis, Coastal  
Carolina University  
Dr. Lynne S. Crosby, Vice President, SACSCOC



Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analysis

December 15, 2023

Dr. Kevin Sightler  
Director of Substantive Change  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Sightler,

Please accept this request for approval to close the American Studies undergraduate certificate program effective August 2024 at Coastal Carolina University (CCU). No new applications will be accepted into the program as of this date. This closure is pending approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE) to terminate the undergraduate certificate. Approval is anticipated by July 2024.

The only student enrolled in the certificate program decided not to continue with the program in June 2023. With only four students ever being enrolled in the program and no completions since implementation in Fall 2016, it was recommended and approved by the faculty and administration for the program to be closed.

Enclosed are the substantive change cover letter, the teach-out plan, and a copy of the American Studies curriculum. The approval letter from the SCCHE will be provided upon receipt.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Legg  
Institutional Accreditation Liaison  
Director

**Coastal Carolina University**  
**Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences**  
**Termination of American Studies Certificate**  
**Teach-Out Plan**

1. Provide the closure date, defined by SACSCOC as the date when students are no longer *admitted*.

No new students will be admitted to the American Studies undergraduate certificate program as of Fall 2024.

2. An explanation of how affected parties – students, faculty, staff – will be informed of the impending closure.

The closure of the undergraduate certificate in American Studies was initiated by faculty due to lack of enrollment in the program. Faculty members, program coordinators, and the Dean’s office were included in the conversations. There are no students currently enrolled in the program.

3. An explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption or additional costs.

There are currently no students enrolled in the program.

4. Explain whether the students subject to the teach-out plan will incur additional charges or other expenses because of the teach-out and, if so, how the students will be notified.

Not applicable.

5. Copies of signed teach-out agreements with other institutions, if applicable.

Not applicable.

6. A description of how faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment.

No faculty or staff will be lost as a result of this program being discontinued. Faculty teaching within this certificate program have teaching loads in other degree programs.

## American Studies Certificate Curriculum

### American Studies Certificate

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← Return to: [Degrees and Programs by College](#)

The American studies certificate seeks to explore competing ideals and values that frame perceptions of American identity. Students engage with and analyze the various ways in which citizens and international observers view the American experience. Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach, students develop their understanding of important political and social issues, cultural trends, and historical periods in the United States. Students strengthen their critical thinking skills through close reading and analysis of materials such as art, literature, music, and popular culture. They improve their writing and communication skills through discussion, written analyses, and presentations. Finally, they develop research skills through independent research projects.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the competing ideals that form the ethos of the United States.
2. Demonstrate an ability to think critically and draw connections between changing American values and the expression of those values in our politics and culture.
3. Demonstrate cultural literacy through familiarization with classic works of American art, literature, and music.
4. Synthesize information effectively in forming oral and written arguments about interdisciplinary topics related to American Studies.
5. Conduct independent research in the field of American Studies.

#### Program Requirements (12 Credits)

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Complete the following course:

- [AMST 300 The American Experience - 3 credits](#)

#### Electives

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Choose three courses that approach the study of American creative expression, identity, history or governance. The following list of courses is not exhaustive, and additional courses may be selected in consultation with the director of the American studies program.

#### Creative Expression

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- [AMST 303 American Studies - Literature and/or Art - 3 credits](#)
- [AMST 304 American Studies - Music and/or Theatre - 3 credits](#)
- [AMST 305 American Studies - Popular Culture - 3 credits](#)
- [ANTH 314 Survey of African American Musics - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 305 American Literature I - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 306 American Literature II - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 328 Modern American Writers - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 333 The American Novel - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 336 Contemporary American Literature - 3 credits](#)
- [MUS 257 American Popular Music - 3 credits](#)
- [MUS 258 Jazz and the American Experience - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 303 American Government Through Literature and Film - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 306 American Law through Literature and Film - 3 credits](#)
- [RELG 325 Religion in Film - 3 credits](#)

## Identities

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- [AMST 306 American Studies - History and/or Social Issues - 3 credits](#)
- [ANTH 317 Q Gullah Culture and Identity - 3 credits](#)
- [ENGL 341 African-American Literature, 1750-present - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 200 Introduction to Southern Studies - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 386 History of American Women - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 389 The New South - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 309 African-American Political Thought - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 363 Southern Politics - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 372 Q\\* Women and Public Policy - 3 credits](#)
- [RELG 365 Religious Diversity in the South - 3 credits](#)
- [SOC 357 African American Communities - 3 credits](#)
- [SOC 470 Sociology of the South - 3 credits](#)
- [WGST 305 Q\\* Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Class in Popular Culture - 3 credits](#)

## Traditions

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- [AMST 306 American Studies - History and/or Social Issues - 3 credits](#)
- [AMST 307 American Studies - Cultural Eras - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 360 The Early Republic 1783-1820 - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 361 Antebellum Period 1820-1850 - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 362 Becoming American - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 367 Colonial America - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 370 Revolutionary America - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 371 Civil War and Reconstruction - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 372 U.S. History 1876-1917 - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 373 U.S. History 1917-1945 - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 374 U.S. History 1945 to the Present - 3 credits](#)
- [HIST 393 Crime and Punishment in Early America - 3 credits](#)

## Governance

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- [AMST 301 American Studies - Domestic Political Issues - 3 credits](#)
- [AMST 302 American Studies - Foreign Policy - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 360 American Political Parties - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 361 American Politics: Interest Groups - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 362 Mass Media and American Politics - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 366 Public Opinion - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 368 Q\\* Campaigns and Elections - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 371 Public Policy - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 406 American Political Thought - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 449 Constitutional Law I - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 450 Constitutional Law II - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 451 The Supreme Court - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 452 The Judicial Process - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 455 American Jurisprudence - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 462 The Legislative Process - 3 credits](#)
- [POLI 463 The American Chief Executive - 3 credits](#)

**Total Credits Required: 12**