In 1993 Humanities and American Studies merged into one department within the College of Arts and Sciences. The Departments faculty reviewed this policy in October 2003.

Humanities interdisciplinary curriculum deals with the visual arts, music, literature and the culture from which they emerge. In addition to making a vigorous, personal response to specific works of art, literature, and music, students are expected to complete a thorough examination of secondary sources to support their readings. The department offers courses focused on Asian, Classical, Medieval, modern European, and North and Latin American cultures. Some specific areas of research and teaching are: American autobiography, Native American culture, Women's Studies, gender and spirituality in the Italian Renaissance, 19th and 20th century cultural and intellectual history, environmental history, American Technology and Material Culture, Family History, American Religious History, early medieval monasticism, Romanesque architecture, modern and postmodern culture, history of museums, history of architecture, Pre-Columbian civilizations, Latin American Colonial literature and music, identity formation in post-independence Latin America, and Latin American popular music.

The American Studies major is designed for students who seek to understand the cultural patterns, beliefs and values that have unified and sometimes divided Americans. American Studies is an interdisciplinary program which emphasizes the diversity of American people and institutions; the importance of gender, race, ethnicity and social class; the material and technological foundations of American society; the development of distinctive regions within the United States; and creative expression in art, architecture, film, literature, music and photography.

**Graduate Programs**

The Combined department offers masters degrees in American Studies, and in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Humanities. The Master of Arts in American Studies offers students the opportunity to study the immensely complicated social relations and cultural patterns that have unified and sometimes divided Americans. Topics covered in American Studies courses include popular and elite culture, the material and technological foundations of American society, cultural heroines and heroes, and the lives of both ordinary people and recognized historical and cultural figures. The Liberal Arts/Humanities Masters Program requires a combination of coursework in Humanities, outside electives, and completion of a thesis.

**Chronological guidelines:**

None.

**Geographical guidelines:**

American Studies focuses on the United States. Humanities curriculum and faculty research interests are global.

**Publication data guidelines:**

Current and retrospective works are of equal importance.

**Languages:**

The primary language of acquisition is English. English translations of foreign language works are also valuable to the program. Humanities/American Studies faculty use the non-English primary texts acquired for other departments, and have requested non-English resources for their own research and for advanced students.
Types of Materials Collected:

Treatment of subject:

While both American Studies and Humanities study culture (including popular culture) they are interested in treatments of the subject above the popular level. This includes museum catalogues, books, and journals dealing with the evolution of film, music, art, and literature. They also require a substantial collection of primary sources from many cultures, including music, film, all literary genres, and reproductions of artwork and photography.

Format:

For these scholars the premiere mode of scholarly communication remains the printed book. However, they also have access to the electronic texts of Net-Library, LION, the Literature Research Center, Pastmasters databases in philosophy and literature, the Patrologia Latina, and the Amico and Saskia Art image collections. The faculty requires high quality reproductions of art, architecture, artifacts, and photography for teaching and research. The library acquires supporting materials (encyclopedia, reference works, art catalogues) to aid students in studying the objects and understanding the cultures that produced them. Humanities scholars also request musical recordings, and documentary and feature films on videocassette and DVD. These are tools for both research and classroom instruction. Along with the USF History Department, Humanities/ American Studies scholars still request microfilm collections. While most of the journal subscriptions that are currently coded to Humanities/American Studies are only available as print subscriptions, the department benefits from electronic journal packages and aggregated journal databases. Older journals and magazines are also collected both for their intellectual content and because they have value as cultural artifacts. Licensed or purchased Internet based collections of art imagery (such as Amico) are of special interest to both Humanities and American Studies, as is online image management software (like LUNA) that allows them to replace slides and carousel projectors.

Acquisitions Strategy:

The collection development librarian and the faculty liaison select materials for Humanities/American Studies with priority given to faculty requests. The library maintains an approval plan for university and trade presses in the United States, and for major British university presses. Resources beyond the scope of the approval plan and book money allocated to the department are funded by special program enhancement. Most material used by Humanities/American studies faculty and students enters the collection under the auspices of other departments, i.e. Religious Studies, Philosophy, History, English, Art History, etc. and the policies of those areas contain their current collection ratings and collection goals.

Special or Rare Collections:

The Library owns and continues to develop a substantial collection of rare American literature and, Juvenile literature. It also houses collections donated by former Humanities/American Studies faculty Ted Hoffman (Japanese Music) Jack Moore (American Culture). And Hans Juergensen (Poetry)

Submitted by Margaret Doherty, Collection Development Librarian for Humanities and American Studies, October 17, 2003