



FIND YOUR VOICE. SPEAK YOUR MIND.

1359 Route 2 • The Mohawk Trail • Charlemont, MA 01339 • 413.339.4912 • Fax 413.339.4324 • www.charlemont.org

American Studies is an interdisciplinary Humanities class, as described below.

Our study of American literature will be centered in the restlessness with which this vast, vibrant landmass has consistently affected its inhabitants. The fundamental framework of our studies will be the American journey. As we explore and investigate this journey, we will seek to expand cultural literacy, improve writing skills, and create a platform to think critically and have rational discussions about timeless themes related to the human condition.

The study of US history is famously fraught; as Americans, we are afforded many rights and freedoms, but long threads of conflict, discontent, and oppression are woven throughout our nation's past. Understanding our short, complex, and often painful history is paramount to being a reflective, analytical member of modern American society. As we examine our national narrative and the ideologies that have shaped it over time, we will focus on how race, gender, and class affect the American experience. We will accomplish this by turning our attention to those whose voices have historically been silenced or muffled. Although we will cover topics more or less in chronological order, there will be a fair amount of overlap across units. We will revisit themes that are present throughout our nation's history, and that have shaped modern American identity.