

# CULTURAL STUDIES

As a Cultural Studies major, you will peer beneath the surface of the pop culture you consume, the music you listen to, the clothes you buy, the foods you eat, the places you visit, the speeches you hear, the things you read, and the art you see. At RWU, you will examine the impact of identity on American culture and be empowered to make change in your community and beyond.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, Cultural Studies majors can:

### Get a Great Internship

Cultural Studies majors work with the RWU Community Partnership Center (CPC) to get involved with local communities. You will gain crucial professional experience while supporting important initiatives in museums, societies, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and more. Cultural Studies majors collaborate on exciting, impactful projects with organizations like:

- The Rhode Island Historical Society
- The Newport Art Museum
- Mount Hope Farm
- Girls, Inc of Taunton
- Herreshoff Marine Museum
- Women's Fund RI



- + **Do you like discussing how pop culture affects the world around us?**
- + **Are you moved to make change in your community and beyond?**
- + **Are you interested in studying race, gender, sexuality, and other aspects of identity?**

## CAREER OUTLOOK

What are **Cultural Studies** majors doing now?

- Working as a Park Ranger
- Teaching High School Social Studies
- Fundraising and Coordinating Events for a University Athletics Department
- Managing a University Academic Program
- Coordinating the Education Department at a Museum
- Earning a PhD in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“I learned so much more about people and culture, and how to work with a wide variety of individuals.”

Nicole Bauer '15

Double major in Cultural Studies and Psychology  
Social Worker at Devereux Behavioral Health

## Participate in Social Justice Education

Cultural Studies focuses on social justice. Both in and outside your classes, you will seek to understand oppression and equity. You will study gender, sexuality, race, and the many ways they intersect. Whether it's a teach-in on successful student-led protests throughout history, a civil disobedience training, an immersive internship experience, or a class on resisting oppression, this program provides context and inspiration for making meaningful change.

## Study Abroad

Cultural Studies majors enjoy various opportunities to live, work, and study abroad. You may pursue a semester-long program, take a short-term course like Americans in Paris or Social Justice in Hispaniola, or work with the Foundation for the International Medical Relief for Children (FIRMC), an organization that offers free medical care to children and mothers. Traveling outside the United States gives you a deeper understanding of culture, language, identity, and society.

## CURRICULUM

### Faculty

Our faculty have expertise in subjects like immigration history, queer and feminist studies, and pop culture. Cultural Studies majors have freedom to pursue their specific interests within the program. Students receive individualized guidance according to their specializations, and mentorship that supports their learning and career paths post-graduation. Cultural Studies classes are made up of small group discussions, community engaged projects, and lectures, giving students the opportunity to learn in the ways that best suit them.

### Structure

Majors first complete five foundation courses. Then, they take courses in the topic areas of race, gender and sexuality in America, ethnicity, class and region in America, American material and popular culture, and American ideas and institutions. Together, with Cultural Studies faculty, they choose a specific program of study and take four interdisciplinary electives from related disciplines such as Art and Architectural History, Architecture, English, History, Music, Philosophy, and Political Science. Majors are encouraged to apply electives toward a minor or second major.

### Special Courses

The program offers a number of exciting courses that connect what students are seeing, hearing, and experiencing in their daily lives and in pop culture to the larger American society. Examples include:

- Wakanda Forever: The Racial Politics in Marvel's *Black Panther*
- Queer and Trans Lives in America
- Superheroes/heroines in American Popular Culture
- 10 Days in Paris

**OVER 80% OF  
RWU STUDENTS  
GRADUATE WITH  
MORE THAN JUST  
A SINGLE MAJOR**

RWU students have paired **Cultural Studies** with:

- History
- Creative Writing
- English Literature
- Secondary Education
- Political Science
- Legal Studies
- Psychology



Dr. Aaron Allen, Assistant Professor of American Studies