



**BROWN UNIVERSITY**  
Providence, Rhode Island

## Memorandum

Office of the Provost  
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**MEMO TO:** Faculty Executive Committee  
**FROM:** David I. Kertzer, Provost *DK*  
**DATE:** February 9, 2011  
**RE:** Proposal to change the American Civilization Department name

I am writing to let you know that the Academic Priorities Committee endorsed a proposal to change the name of the American Civilization Department to the American Studies Department. The Committee recognizes that this new name will better represent the breadth of scholarship of the faculty and graduate students, as well as the curriculum the department offers to undergraduate students. American Studies is the term immediately recognizable to colleagues, students, and interested laypersons and is the term normally used to designate the interdisciplinary field by various professional associations, including the American Studies Association and in the recent NRC rankings.

The proposal was posted on the Academic Priorities Committee website for two weeks, and faculty members across the University were invited to respond. We received several messages supporting the proposal, and no feedback opposing it.

The proposal can be found at the following link:

<http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Provost/proposed/>

DK/bjz