

**1. Programme title(s) and UCAS code(s):**

BA History and American Studies VT17

BA History and American Studies with a Year Abroad\*

\*Students may only enter this degree programme by transferring at the end of year 1.

**2. Awarding body or institution:**

University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study:**

Full time

**b) Type of study:**

Campus-based

**4. Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

Year abroad:

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

ABB at A level or BBB at A level plus B in Extended Project Qualification. General Studies accepted.

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 30 points, including at least one subject with 6 points at higher level.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case basis and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

**7. Programme aims:**

The programme aims to

- enable students to explore their interest in History and American history, politics and culture through a syllabus that offers a secure foundation in the subjects and the opportunity for intellectual progression and independent study
- foster students' independent thinking and judgement

- provide an intellectually challenging and stimulating curriculum drawing on the research expertise and teaching strengths of the historians within the School of History, Politics and International Relations, and the Centre for American Studies
- develop students' skills in close reading and historical and cultural analysis
- develop students' ability to carry out independent research
- develop students' ability to communicate clearly and effectively
- deliver lectures, seminars, workshops and individual supervision
- enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of skills necessary for the study of History and American history, politics and culture at undergraduate and postgraduate level
- enable students to develop the transferable skills necessary for successful career development and effective independent learning

In addition to the aims of the programme outlined for the three-year degree in History and American Studies, the four-year degree also aims:

- to broaden students' learning experience in an international context;
- to widen students' cultural experience by living and studying abroad;
- to develop students' transferable skills in order to enhance their employability;
- Intended learning outcomes for the year will be those of the modules they take at the Higher Education Institution they attend during their year abroad.

#### **8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**

- QAA Benchmarking Statement for History:  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-history-14.pdf>
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Area Studies:  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Area-Studies-16.pdf>
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- [University of Leicester Learning and Teaching Strategy 2011-2016](#)
- The University of Leicester's Discovery-Led and Discovery-Enabling Learning Strategy, 2016-2020
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Reports for History and American Studies
- National Student Survey Results
- Programme Approval Panel Report on the new BA History October 2014
- Annual Development Review of the School of History for 2015-16 and the Centre for American Studies for 2015-16
- External Examiners' reports (annual)

**9. Programme Outcomes:**

<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i>		
<b>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</b>		
Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge and practice pertaining to History and American Studies.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, resource-based learning.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion
<b>(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques</b>		
Demonstrate skills of a close reader of texts relating to history and American Studies.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio.
Demonstrate a knowledge of and application of a variety of methodological approaches to the study of history.		
Demonstrate an understanding of the multidisciplinary approach to the study of American history and politics.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills, team work	
Demonstrate a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of history, and American history and politics.	Seminars, tutorials, independent research, application of IT skills, team work.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(iii) Critical analysis of key issues</b>		
<p>Analyse texts relating to history and American Studies for their varied significance and value.</p> <p>Demonstrate self-consciousness about critical methods in the practice of history.</p> <p>Demonstrate understanding of historiography and the differences between historical sources.</p> <p>Analyse and integrate an understanding of the history, politics and culture of the USA.</p> <p>Analyse historical and cultural processes in the formation and development of the USA as a nation and its international relationships</p> <p>Develop the ability to utilize effectively the critical methods that contribute to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies.</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research</p> <p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertation.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio</p>
<b>(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material</b>		
<p>Present historical problems and arguments in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>	<p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertation.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio, podcasts, posters.</p>
<b>(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight</b>		
<p>Marshal appropriate evidence in close reading, critical analysis and contextualization of a range of texts, documents and other source material.</p> <p>Use evidence effectively in the construction of arguments</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work, IT skills, dissertation</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>

<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<b>(vi) Other discipline specific competencies</b>		
<p>Demonstrate imagination, sensibility and linguistic fluency.</p> <p>Design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing reflecting an understanding of one or more contributing disciplines in American Studies (if opting for an American Studies dissertation) or History (if opting for a History dissertation)</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.</p> <p>Independent research, long and comparative essays.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p> <p>Dissertation, final year module essays.</p>
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>		
<b>(i) Oral communication</b>		
<p>Present arguments orally pertaining to History and American Studies in a range of registers and to audiences with different needs.</p> <p>Participate effectively in group discussion.</p> <p>Make appropriate use of visual aids and supporting material.</p>	<p>Seminars, workshops, presentation of team work projects.</p>	<p>Oral presentations, seminar discussions, podcast.</p>
<b>(ii) Written communication</b>		
<p>Present written arguments of varying lengths and levels of formality.</p> <p>Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, workshops, supervisions, tutorials</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, contribution to seminar discussion, portfolio, posters.</p>
<b>(iii) Information technology</b>		
<p>Use word-processing, internet, email and Blackboard, effectively, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of evidence and interpretation</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.</p> <p>Induction programme, computer practical classes, data analysis.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations.</p> <p>Computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.</p>

<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>	<b>How Demonstrated?</b>
<b>(iv) Numeracy</b>		
<p>Ability to use numerical skills in the assessment of electoral data pertaining to American national elections</p> <p>Ability to use numerical skills in the assessment and presentation of data</p>	<p>Seminars for AM1103</p> <p>Lectures, seminars and tutorials</p>	<p>Assessment for AM1103</p> <p>Independent research projects, computer-based projects, problem-based exercises</p>
<b>(v) Team working</b>		
<p>Be able to work collaboratively to explore jointly issues relating to History and American Studies and to recognise the value of working closely with others.</p>	<p>Tutorials, seminars, team problem-solving exercises.</p>	<p>Seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, contributions to team problem solving exercises.</p>
<b>(vi) Problem solving</b>		
<p>Address historical problems in depth using contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature.</p> <p>Design a research methodology.</p> <p>Make analytic links between cognate disciplines in American Studies.</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises.</p>
<b>(vii) Information handling</b>		
<p>Identify, retrieve and manipulate textual, historical and critical sources and information.</p> <p>Transform the significance of this information in the construction of arguments</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, computer practical classes, team work.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, group projects, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises</p>
<b>(viii) Skills for lifelong learning</b>		
<p>Demonstrate intellectual independence.</p> <p>Reflect on your own learning, achievements and plans for personal, educational and career development.</p> <p>Manage the time and resources available to you</p>	<p>Tutorials with personal tutor. Seminars, career development programmes. Dissertation, independent research.</p>	<p>Dissertation, seminar exercises, team-work projects, curriculum vitae</p>

## **10. Progression points:**

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

For HS coded modules, certain modules include qualifying elements which students have to pass in order to obtain credits for the module. Please refer to individual module specification forms for further information.

For first year AM coded modules, each element of assessment must be passed individually in order to obtain a pass for the module overall.

## **11. Scheme of Assessment**

This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5.

## **12. Special features:**

At the end of the first year students are eligible to apply to transfer to a 4-year Joint History and American studies degree, with a year abroad either:

1. in the U.S.A.
2. or at one of the European partner institutions of the School of History, Politics and International Relations.

## **13. Indications of programme quality**

The History and American Studies programmes have been consistently praised by external examiners for their geographical, chronological and thematic breadth. The programme has regularly been ranked among the top ten American Studies programmes in the country in the National Student Survey and across the three major University Subject League Tables. It is currently ranked 6th in *The Complete University Guide* and in *The Guardian*. Our value added score is currently well above average. The programme has also been regularly praised by external examiners for its breadth, innovation and rigour.

## **14. External Examiner(s) reports**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found [here](#).

## Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

### BA HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES

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#### FIRST YEAR MODULES

##### SEMESTER 1

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
AM1001	Freedom Written in Blood: United States History 1776-1877	15
AM1103	Introduction to U.S. Politics	30
HS1002	The Shock of the Modern	15
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>60</b>

##### SEMESTER 2

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
AM1104	American History since 1877	30
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
30 credits of approved History options		
HS1012	Global History: Connections and Cultures in a Changing World, 1750 to the present	(15)
HS1013	Great Britain: The State We're In	(15)
HS1016	Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation	(15)
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>60</b>

#### SECOND YEAR MODULES

##### SEMESTER 1

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
AM2016	Americas Plural: Latin America and the United States	15
HS2400	Perceiving the Past	30
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
15 credits of approved History varieties or option modules		
HS2232	Religious History	(15)
HS2237	All Bourgeois Now? Class in History	(15)
HS2238	Global Cities	(15)
HS2301	Anglo-Saxon England to Alfred	(15)
HS2307	Madness, Monarchy and Politics in Georgian England	(15)
HS2328	Jack-the-Ripper: Popular Culture and Policing in Victorian Times	(15)
HS2348	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union	(15)
HS2349	Stormtroopers, Arrow Cross and Iron Guard	(15)
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>60</b>



## SEMESTER 2

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
AM2014	Ethnicity and Diversity in American Life, from Emancipation to the Present	15
HS2500	The Historian's Craft	30

### Optional Modules

15 credits of approved American History/Politics options:

HS2311	Domestic Revolutions: Women, Men and the Family in American History (15)	(15)
HS2329	World Connected: Welfare, Economy and Government since 1945	(15)
HS2346	Slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction in the United States	(15)
HS2360	History in the Classroom	(15)
PL2022	Foreign Policy Analysis	(15)

### THIRD YEAR MODULES

There are **THREE** elements to the final year programme:

1) <b>Dissertation</b>	<b>45</b>
2) <b>Special Subject</b>	<b>45</b>
3) <b>Two 15 credit option modules</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>

*Students must ensure that they do not take all three elements in one discipline.*

1) A year-long 45 credit dissertation (notionally 30 credits in semester one and 15 credits in semester two). Students may take their dissertation in either History or American Studies

#### Either

HS3510	Dissertation in History	(45)
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#### Or

AM3001	Dissertation in American Studies	(45)
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2) A year-long 45 credit Special Subject (notionally 15 credits in semester one and 30 credits in semester two)

HS3768	The British Antislavery Movement, 1787-1833	(45)
HS3769	The Holocaust: Genocide in Europe	(45)
HS3771	After Hitler: Society, Culture and The Politics of The Nazi Past in The Two Germanies, 1945-1990	(45)
HS3772	The Age of Bede and Alcuin: Anglo-Saxon Northumbria and Mercia in the 7th and 8th Centuries	(45)
HS3773	Beauty, Sex & Science: Whose Body is it Anyway c.1550-2015?	(45)

HS3776	How Soon is Now? A Social History of Urban England, 1945-1985	(45)
HS3777	The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt	(45)
HS3778	Church, State and Belief in Soviet Russia, 1941-1991	(45)

3) In addition, students take 30 credits of options, 15 credits in each semester, chosen from a list of American History/Politics options and Non-US History options.

### SEMESTER 1

#### American History/Politics options:

HS3634	The USA and the Vietnam War	(15)
HS3662	Crime and Punishment in African-American History	(15)
PL3071	The American Presidency	(15)

#### Non-American History options:

HS3646	Fourteenth Century Crisis in England? Politics and Society 1297–1413	(15)
HS3678	Food, Diet and Health in Early Modern Europe	(15)
HS3689	When Two Dragons Fight: China and Japan at War in the Twentieth Century	(15)
HS3694	Diasporas and Migrations in the Modern World	(15)
HS3808	Gender, Crime and Deviance in Eighteenth-Century Britain	(15)

### SEMESTER 2

#### American History/Politics options:

HS3691	Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, c. 1350–1650	(15)
HS3680	Women in American Society from Civil War to First World War	(15)
PL3114	American Political Development	(15)

#### Non-American History options:

HS3614	The Imperial Economy: Britain and the Wider World 1815–1914	(15)
HS3696	The Medieval Natural World	(15)
HS3699	From Empire to Nation: Modern South Asia, c. 1857–1947	(15)
HS3681	Clothing and Fashion in Historical Perspective: Case Studies of Modern European Fashion in Transnational Context	(15)
HS3620	What Difference Did the War Make? British Society and the Great War	(15)

The above four-year degree is also available. Students may only enter the four-year variant of the relevant three-year programme by transferring at the end of the first-year and on the recommendation of the heads of the divisions concerned. Transfer is not automatic, and those wishing to transfer will have to satisfy the American Studies Board of Examiners in terms of both their academic performance and their good academic standing. The programme structure is as for first, second and final year modules for the three-year programme (above).

There are two routes a student could take

Either

1) A year spent in North America in which the marks a student obtains count towards their final degree classification. Students taking this option must take their dissertation in American Studies in their final year, AM3002.

AM3002          Dissertation with Research in the USA          45

**Or**

2) Students may opt to participate in the Erasmus programme like other joint degree history students:

This programme is assessed as a Four Year Programme with a year out, with the year abroad treated as the 'year out'. The year out does not count towards the final classification, but a student must pass all modules taken during the year abroad to proceed to the final year of the programme. The second and fourth years are used in determining the degree class, according to the standard scheme for three-year programmes. Degrees will be classified using the same scheme as for three-year programmes.

**To take part in the History Erasmus programme students must pass all modules in years 1 and 2, and achieve a minimum average mark of 60 in year 2. They must also have learned the language of the destination country, providing the Office with a language certificate as evidence of satisfactory completion of training through the 'Languages at Leicester scheme' or an appropriate alternative. Failure to meet these criteria will lead to the School recommending transfer to the 3-year degree which the student would otherwise have taken.**

### **Appendix 2: Module specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>

### **Appendix 3: Skills matrix**