



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

For students entering in 2018/19

Date amended: December 2018

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

Minor in American History and Politics

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

5. Typical entry requirements:

Dependent on the requirements of the Major degree

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

Dependent on the requirements of the Major degree.

7. Programme aims:

The Minor pathway aims to

- enable students to explore their interest in American history and politics 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 Centre for American Studies
- develop students' skills in historical and political 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 American history and politics at undergraduate level
- enable students to develop transferable skills necessary for successful career development and effective independent learning

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- [University of Leicester Learning Strategy](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- First Destination Survey
- Leicester Learning Institute guidance on accessible curriculum design

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i>		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of historical and political knowledge and practice pertaining to the study of the USA.	Seminars, lectures, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research and resource-based learning	Essays; essay-based examinations; seminar presentations; seminar discussion
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Demonstrate skills of a close reader of historical and political texts and primary documents	Seminars, lectures, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.
Demonstrate a knowledge and application of a variety of methodological approaches		
Demonstrate an understanding of American history and politics.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills and teamwork.	
Demonstrate an understanding of multi-disciplinary approaches to American history and politics.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills and teamwork.	
Demonstrate a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of American history and politics.		

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
<p>Analyse historical and political texts.</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of relevant critical methods.</p> <p>Analyse and integrate an understanding of the history and politics of the USA.</p> <p>Analyse the history and politics of the formation and development of the USA as a nation.</p> <p>Develop the ability to utilize effectively the critical methods that contribute to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies.</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.</p> <p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
<p>Present and develop key ideas and arguments in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>	<p>Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
<p>Marshall appropriate evidence in 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, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work, IT skills.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
<p>Demonstrate historical sensibility and linguistic fluency</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion</p>
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
<p>Present arguments orally pertaining to American history and politics 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</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Written communication		
Present written arguments of varying lengths and levels of formality. Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression.	Lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials	Essays, essay-based examinations, contribution to seminar discussion
(iii) Information technology		
Use word-processing, internet, email, Blackboard, effectively, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of evidence and interpretation.	Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research. Induction programme, computer practical classes, data analysis.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations. Computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises
(iv) Numeracy		
Analyse historical and political data using statistical and graphical techniques	Computer practical classes attached to American history and politics modules	Independent research projects, computer based exercises, problem-based exercises.
(v) Team working		
Solve problems collaboratively by participating in group projects. Reflect on the value and challenges of group working Collaboratively identify methodologies, manage the distribution of effort and collectively arrive at conclusions.	Group work for projects, seminars, formative and summative group work projects, workshops.	Group projects and reports. Group seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, contribution to teamwork exercises.
(vi) Problem solving		
Solve problems of historical and political interpretation and argument. Design a research methodology	Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises.
(vii) Information handling		
Identify, interpret, retrieve and manipulate historical and political sources and information. Transform the significance of this information in the construction of arguments	Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, computer practical classes, team work	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, group projects, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Demonstrate intellectual independence.	Seminars, career development programmes, independent research	Seminar exercises, team-work projects, curriculum vitae
Reflect on your own learning, achievements and plans for personal, educational and career development.		
Manage the time and resources available to you		

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

11. Scheme of Assessment

As defined in Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study.

12. Special features:

The Minor Pathway has been developed to ensure that, in their First Year, students will receive a grounding in the American political system and an overview of American history from the end of post-Civil War Reconstruction to the present day. Students will also be introduced to the requirements of degree level history and politics. In the second year, students will continue their disciplinary development by focusing on the United States in its hemispheric context. Students will then study the history of race and ethnicity in the United States, from the end of a Civil War fought over the issue of slavery to the election of the nation's first black president, Barack Hussein Obama. In the final year, students will take two optional modules that will allow them to refine their personal interests and strengths in American history and politics, and develop chosen specialisms.

13. Indications of programme quality

The American Studies 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)

First Year

Semester 1

- AM1003 Introduction to American Politics (15 credits)

Semester 2

- AM1004 American History 1877–Present (15 credits)

Second Year

Semester 1

- AM2016 Americas Plural: Latin America and the United States (15 credits)

Semester 2

- AM2014 Ethnicity and Diversity in American Life (15 credits)

Third year

Students select one optional module each semester from among those available in American History and American Politics. These might include:

- HS3662 Crime and Punishment in African American History (15 credits)
- HS3634 The USA and the Vietnam War (15 credits)
- HS3691 Indigenous Peoples of the Americas c1350-1650 (15 credits)
- PL3071 The American Presidency (15 credits)
- PL3114 American Political Development (15 credits)

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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

Appendix 3: Skills matrix