

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

Minor in American Literature and Culture

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 for 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 literature 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 Centre for American Studies
- develop students' skills in close reading and literary 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 American literature and culture at undergraduate level
- enable students to develop transferable skills necessary for successful career development and effective independent learning

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)

8. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<i>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</i>		
<i>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</i>		
Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of literary and cultural 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; seminar presentations; seminar discussion.
<i>(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques</i>		
Demonstrate skills of a close reader of literary and cultural texts	Seminars, lectures, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.	Essays, seminar presentations, seminar discussion
Demonstrate a knowledge and application of a variety of methodological approaches		
Demonstrate an understanding of literary and cultural history, and literary and cultural genres.		
Demonstrate an understanding of multi-disciplinary approaches to American literature and culture	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills and teamwork	
Demonstrate a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of American literature and culture.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills and teamwork	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
<p>Analyse literary and cultural texts for their formal, thematic and rhetorical significance.</p> <p>Demonstrate self-consciousness about critical methods.</p> <p>Demonstrate understanding of the history of literature and the historical differences between texts and cultural forms.</p> <p>Analyse and integrate an understanding of the literature, culture and film of the USA.</p> <p>Analyse literary and cultural processes in 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, 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, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
<p>Marshall 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, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work, IT skills</p>	<p>Essays, seminar presentations, seminar discussion</p>
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
<p>Demonstrate imagination, sensibility and linguistic fluency.</p>	<p>Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research.</p>	<p>Essays, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.</p>
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
<p>Present arguments orally pertaining to American literature and culture 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, 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.	Seminars, lectures, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research. Induction programme, computer practical classes, data analysis.
(iv) Numeracy		
(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 literary critical, literary theoretical, literary historical and cultural problems. Design a research methodology.	Solve literary critical, literary theoretical, literary historical and cultural problems. Design a research methodology.	Essays, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises
(vii) Information handling		
Identify, retrieve and manipulate textual, literary, cultural and critical 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, 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. Reflect on your own learning, achievements and plans for personal, educational and career development. Manage the time and resources available to you	Seminars, career development programmes, independent research.	Seminar exercises, team-work projects, curriculum vitae.

9. 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

10. Scheme of Assessment

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

11. Special features:

The Minor Pathway has been developed to ensure that, in their First Year, students will be immersed in classic works of American Literature and receive a broad grounding in the study of US visual culture. In the second year, students will study a full range of ethnic American writing published in the second half of the C20th including the work of major African American, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American and Jewish American authors, plus an examination of literary figures. In the final year, students will take two modules, one in each semester, that will allow them to develop their interests and strengths.

12. 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.

13. 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

- AM1002 Classic US Texts (15 credits)

Semester 2

- HA1224 Introduction to American Film & Culture (15 credits)

Second Year

Semester 1

- AM2013 Ethnicity & Diversity in American Literature (15 credits)

Semester 2

- AM2010 American Literary Figures from the Settler to the Hipster (15 credits)

Third Year

Students select one optional module in each semester:

Semester 1

- HA3432 Contemporary Hollywood (15 credits)
- HA3436 Stardom in Chinese and American Cinema (15 credits)
- AM3024 Modern American Poetry (15 credits)
- AM3023 American Studies in Action (15 credits)

Semester 2

- HA3030 Women and Cinema (15 credits)
- AM3021 Literatures of Protest: Reading and Political Action (15 credits)
- AM3039 Modern Monsters The Other in Contemporary American Texts (15 credits)

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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

Appendix 3: Skills matrix