



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

For students entering in 2019/20

Date amended: January 2019

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

BA American Studies T700

BA American Studies with a Year Abroad T701

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 (320 points) at A2 level. General Studies accepted. International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 28-30 points, plus any subject requirements.

Year Abroad:

ABB (320 points) at A2 level. General Studies accepted. International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 28-30 points, plus any subject requirements.

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

- provide an intellectually challenging and stimulating curriculum that draws on the research expertise and teaching strengths in, or closely associated with, the Centre for American Studies;
- deliver a multidisciplinary American Studies syllabus with a clear line of progression from introductory modules in Year One, via intermediate modules in Year Two, to opportunities for all students to concentrate on aspects of particular interest in specialist modules in the Final Year;
- create a supportive environment to assist the students' academic, cultural and personal development;
- develop students' ability to initiate and carry out independent research on topics relating to American history, politics and culture;

- foster students' independent thinking and judgement;
- harness students' individual interests and enthusiasms through the diverse academic approaches that are embedded in the multidisciplinary structure of the American Studies degree – a structure that also reflects diversity in the curriculum;
- provide a learning experience in which transferable skills can be developed alongside specific subject knowledge to equip students for a range of career opportunities;
- develop students' ability to access, organise, and present information to professional standards of accuracy, articulacy, and precision, including the acquiring and use of relevant bibliographical skills;
- develop students' skills in close reading and historical, political and cultural analysis.

In addition the BA American Studies with a Year Abroad programme aims to:

- enable students to study for one year at a University in North America.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Benchmarking Statement for Area Studies
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Area-Studies-16.pdf>
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#)
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data
- Annual Development Reviews

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 multidisciplinary knowledge pertaining to the study of the United States of America	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, resource-based learning	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, seminar discussions.
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
Demonstrate an understanding of the multidisciplinary approach to the study of American culture, history and politics.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, application of IT and numeracy skills, team work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, dissertations, seminar discussions.
Demonstrate a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of American culture, history and politics.	Tutorials, seminars, independent research, application of IT and numeracy skills, team work.	

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
Analyse and integrate an understanding of the culture, history and politics of the USA. Analyse historical, cultural and political processes in the formation and development of the USA as a nation. Develop the ability to utilise effectively the critical methods that contribute to the field of American Studies.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertations. Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertations. Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertations.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, independent research, seminar discussions, dissertations.
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
Present and develop key ideas and arguments in a variety of written and oral formats.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertations.	Writing tasks, seminar presentations, seminar discussions, dissertations.
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
Develop and sustain argument and analysis of historical, political, literary and visual texts, formulating appropriate questions and utilising evidence. Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually on a range of texts, documents and other source materials.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertations. Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, IT and numeracy skills, team work, dissertations.	Essays, essay-based examinations, seminar presentations, independent research projects, seminar discussion, dissertations.
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
Design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing reflecting an understanding of one or more contributing disciplines in American Studies.	Independent research, long and comparative essays.	Independent research projects, dissertations, final year module essays.
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues pertaining to American Studies as a field of inquiry Participate effectively in group discussion. Demonstrating appropriate use of visual aids and supporting material.	Seminars and presentation of team work projects. Seminars and presentation of team work projects.	Formative and summative assessment of seminar presentations (in years 1 and 2); contribution to seminar discussions.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Written communication		
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression relating to American Studies as a field of inquiry. Demonstrate the ability to write to varying lengths, audiences and levels of formality.	Written exercises and group work projects. Written exercises and group work projects.	Essays, essay-based examinations, independent research projects, dissertations.
(iii) Information technology		
Use IT to support effectively American Studies, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis, and written/visual presentation of evidence and interpretation. Utilisation of word processing, email, VLE, internet and Powerpoint as writing, data retrieval and research tools.	Induction programme, computer practical classes, data analysis, independent research. Computer practical classes, taught modules, independent research.	Independent research projects, 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		
Collaboratively solve problems, identify methodologies, manage distribution of effort, and collectively arrive at conclusions. Students will be able to reflect constructively on the challenges of team working.	Seminars, formative and summative group work projects. Seminars, formative and summative group work projects.	Group seminar presentations, contribution to discussions, contribution to team work exercises.
(vi) Problem solving		
Demonstrate ability to solve historical, literary, political and media-related problems. Demonstrate ability to design research methodologies and make links between contributing disciplines in American Studies.	Seminars, essays, team work, independent research.	Essays, independent research projects, statistical and computer based exercises.
(vii) Information handling		
Demonstrate the ability to retrieve, manipulate and assimilate sources and critical information. Develop the ability to transfer and analyse information in construction of arguments.	Seminars, independent research, computer practical classes, team work. Seminars, independent research, computer practical classes, team work.	Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
Reflect upon own learning achievements and plans for personal, educational and career development.	Seminars, career development programmes, resource based learning, tutorials with personal tutor, dissertations.	Seminar exercises, abstract for dissertation, curriculum vitae.
Time management.	All of the above, particularly independent research.	Seminar exercises, essays, dissertation, team work projects.
Demonstrate intellectual independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of historical, political and cultural problems.	All of the above, particularly independent research.	All of the above.

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.

Students on the three year degree (BA American Studies) who wish to transfer to the four year degree (BA American Studies with a year abroad) will have to satisfy the June Board of Examiners of both their academic performance and their good academic standing before their transfer can be confirmed.

Note: There are minimum grades for entry to North American universities. It is a requirement of the University of Leicester that all students spending a year at a partner institution in the US/Canada shall have satisfied the American Studies Examination Board that they have passed all their first and second year modules before departing on the year abroad. If there are elements of assessment that have not been satisfactorily completed at the time of the June Examination Board, the year in the United States will be put in jeopardy.

11. Scheme of Assessment

This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#).

12. Special features:

Three year degree: Students are eligible to apply to transfer to the 4-year American Studies degree, with a year abroad in North America. The structure of the degree has flexibility and choice built into it: from multidisciplinary courses (The American West; The American City), and American history options in Year 2, to specialist options across American Studies in the Final Year.

Four year degree: The third year is spent on a year abroad at one of a wide variety of partner institutions in North America. This enables students to develop specific disciplines of interest and to work closely with archives and primary documents that are unavailable in the UK, in preparation for writing the dissertation. The structure of the degree has flexibility and choice built into it: from multidisciplinary courses (on The American West, and The City), and American History options in Year 2, to specialist options across American Studies in the Final Year.

13. Indications of programme quality

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 American Studies

FIRST YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER ONE

Core Modules		Credits
AM1001	Freedom Written in Blood: United States History, 1776-1877	15
AM1002	Classic U.S. Texts	15
AM1103	Introduction to American Politics	30
Semester total		60

SEMESTER TWO

Core Modules		Credits
AM1004	US History since 1877	15
AM1005	Modern American Writing	15
HA1324	American Film and Visual Culture	30
Semester total		60

SECOND YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER ONE

Core Modules		Credits
AM2212	The American West	30
AM2013	Ethnicity and Diversity in American Literature, 1950-2000	15
AM2016	Americas Plural	15
Semester total		60

SEMESTER TWO

Core Modules		Credits
AM2211	The City	30
AM2014	Ethnicity and Diversity in American Life, from Emancipation to the Present	15

Optional Modules

One optional module from an approved list:

AM2010	American Literary Figures from the Settler to the Hipster	(15)
HS2311	Domestic Revolutions: Women, Men and the Family in American	(15)
HS2359	From Beer to Fraternity: Alcohol, Society and Culture in North	(15)
HS2329	A World Connected	(15)
PL2022	Foreign Policy Analysis	(15)
Semester Total		60

THIRD YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER ONE

Core Modules

Students undertake a year-long dissertation (notionally 30 credits in semester one, 15 credits in semester two).

AM3001	Dissertation	45
--------	--------------	----

Optional Modules

Two options chosen from a range of American Studies and American modules in other departments as agreed with the Centre for American Studies:

AM3024	Forms of Modern Poetry	(15)
AM3038	Coming of Age in America	(15)
AM3043	New York Stories	(15)
AM3023	American Studies in Action	(15)
HA3465	Seriality: Film, TV and Other Media	(15)
HS3634	The USA and the Vietnam War	(15)
HS3680	Women in American Society from Civil War to First World War	(15)
PL3071	The American Presidency	(15)

Students also have the option of taking a year-long History special subject on an American subject as one of their options in each semester (notionally 15 credits in semester one, 30 in semester two):

HS3766	Special Subject F	(45)
--------	-------------------	------

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Core Module*

AM3000	Dissertation Supplement	15
--------	-------------------------	----

Optional Modules

Two options chosen from a range of American Studies and American modules in other departments as agreed with the Centre for American Studies (Note if a student is taking a History Special Subject, this will be one of their options):

AM3021	Literatures of Protest: Reading and Political Action	(15)
AM3022	American Autobiography	(15)
AM3039	Modern Monsters	(15)
AM3044	American Masculinities	(15)
HA3436	Stardom and Identities in Chinese and American Cinema	(15)
HA3464	Screen Gothic	(15)
HA3030	Women and Cinema	(15)
HS3661	Slavery in The Americas	(15)
HS3691	Indigenous Peoples of the Americas	(15)
HS3627	The Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968	(15)
EN3175	Understanding Screenplays	(15)
PL3114	American Political Development	(15)

Semester Total 60

* NOTE: This module is only available to and core for those students not taking a History Special Subject.

BA American Studies with a Year Abroad

The programme structure is as for first, second and final year modules for the three-year programme (above). The third year is spent abroad at an approved partner institution in North America. During their year abroad students take approved courses at the partner institution. In their final year students take a core year-long dissertation module: 'AM3002: Dissertation with Research in the USA' (45 credits) in place of AM3001.

The programme is assessed as a Four Year Programme with a year abroad. The year abroad counts towards the final classification, with the second, third and fourth years used to determine the degree class, according to the standard scheme for four-year undergraduate programmes.

Appendix 2: Module specifications

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

Appendix 3: Skills matrix