Programme Specification (Undergraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

Date created: 17/02/2021 **Last amended:** 23/04/2026 **Version no.** 5

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

BA History and American Studies VT17
BA History and American Studies with a Year Abroad^
BA History and American Studies with a Year in Industry^

^ Students may only enter this programme by approved transfer at the end of Year 1 or Year 2

HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100768	100

a) UCAS Code (where required)

VT17

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

[BA History and American Studies VT17]

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration five years

[BA History and American Studies with a Year Abroad]

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration six years

[BA History and American Studies with a Year in Industry]

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration 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.

• 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, for the 'with a Year abroad' variants

- The 'Year Abroad' variant of this programme is offered in accordance with the University's standard specification for the experiential year abroad variant.

In addition, for the 'with Industry' variants

- The 'Year in industry' variant of this programme is offered in accordance with the University's standard specification for year in industry programme variants.
- To provide experience of applications of professional and discipline-specific skills in Industry and to reinforce knowledge through its use in different environments.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

Year Abroad

In addition, for the 'with a Year abroad' variants the additional programme outcomes apply

Year in Industry

In addition, for the Year in Industry' variants the additional programme outcomes apply

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate skills of a close reader of texts relating to history and American Studies. 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. Demonstrate a variety of critical approaches to the interpretation of history, and American history and politics.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research. Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, independent research, application of IT skills, team workSeminars, tutorials, independent research, application of IT skills, team work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio.

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Analyse texts relating to history and American Studies for their varied significance and value. Demonstrate self-consciousness about critical methods in the practice of history. Demonstrate understanding of historiography and the differences between historical sources. Analyse and integrate an understanding of the history, politics and culture of the USA. Analyse historical and cultural processes in the formation and development of the USA as a nation and its international relationships Develop the ability to utilize effectively the critical methods that contribute to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research Lectures, tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertation.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present historical problems and arguments in a variety of written and oral formats.	Tutorials, seminars, directed reading, independent research, team work, dissertation.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, portfolio, podcasts, posters.

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Marshal appropriate evidence in close reading, critical analysis and contextualization of a range of texts, documents and other source material. Use evidence effectively in the construction of arguments	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, tutorials, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work, IT skills, dissertation	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion.

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate imagination, sensibility and linguistic fluency.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research. Independent research, long and comparative essays.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion. Dissertation, final year module essays.

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present arguments orally pertaining to History and American Studies in a range of registers and to audiences with different needs. Participate effectively in group discussion. Make appropriate use of visual aids and supporting material.	Seminars, workshops, presentation of team work projects.	Oral presentations, seminar discussions, podcast.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present written arguments of varying lengths and levels of formality. Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression.	Lectures, seminars, workshops, supervisions, tutorials	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, contribution to seminar discussion, portfolio, posters.

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research. Induction programme, computer practical classes, data analysis.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations. Computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Consider the uses of numerical data in historical and political analysis	Lectures, seminars and tutorials	Independent research projects, computer-based projects, problem-based exercises

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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.	Tutorials, seminars, team problem-solving exercises.	Seminar presentations, contributions to discussions, contributions to team problem solving exercises.

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address historical problems in depth using contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature. Design a research methodology. Make analytic links between cognate disciplines in American Studies.	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, team work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises.

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Identify, retrieve and manipulate textual, historical and critical sources and information. Transform the significance of this information in the construction of arguments	Seminars, lectures, supervisions, workshops, directed reading, written assignments, independent research, computer practical classes, team work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertation, seminar presentations, group projects, seminar discussion, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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	Tutorials with personal tutor. Seminars, career development programmes. Dissertation, independent research.	Dissertation, seminar exercises, team-work projects, curriculum vitae

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the year of entry.

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.

a) Course transfers

[n/a]

b) Year abroad

For the Year Abroad variant (for experiential Year Abroad only) the additional progression points apply

c) Year in Industry

For the Year in Industry variant, the additional progression points apply

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

12. Special features

At the end of the first or second 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**.**

For the Year Abroad variant (for experiential Year Abroad only) the additional Special Features apply

For the Year in Industry variant. The University recognises that undertaking a work placement as part the programme of study can enhance career prospects and provide added value, and as such this programme includes a 'year in industry' variant.

By experiencing real-world scenarios and applying skills and knowledge to a professional environment, students can gain a unique insight into how their studies can be utilised in industry. This will not only showcase their abilities to future employers but will also enhance their studies upon returning to university to complete your programme.

To understand the special features for year in industry undergraduate programme variants, this programme specification should be read in conjunction with the programme specification content which can be found here. This outlines details including programme aims, support, progression and duration.

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 American Studies at Leicester 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 8th 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.

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Academic year affected	Module Code(s)	Update
2023/24	HS1017	Title changed from "With Liberty and Justice for All? US History since 1877"
2023/24	PL1013	Title changed from "Introduction to US Government and Politics"
2025/26		Special subjects changed from 45 credits to 30 credits

BA HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	45 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	15 credits

120 credits in total

FIRST YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS1000	Making History	30 credits
Sem 1	PL1013	The Government and Politics of the USA	15 credits
Sem 1	HS1002	The Shock of the Modern	15 credits

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS1100	People and Places	30 credits
Sem 2	HS1017	US History since 1776	15 credits

Optional Modules

15 credits of approved History options

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	HS1012	Global History: Connections and Cultures in a Changing World, 1750 to the present	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	HS1013	Modern Britain: The State We're In	15 credits
Semester 2	HS1016	Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation	15 credits

Semester Total 60

Level 5/Year 2 2024/25

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	45 credits	45 credits

120 credits in total

Semester One

Core module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2401	Perceiving the Past	15 credits

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2238	Global Cities	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2302	Blood, Position and Power: The Nobility of Later Medieval England, 1066-1485	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2329	A World Connected: Welfare, Economy and Government since 1945	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2346	Slavery, Abolition and Reconstruction in the United States	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2353	Enter the Dragon: An Introduction to Modern China	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2359	The History of Alcohol in North America, 1650-1950	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2362	Living with Dictatorship: European Societies, 1918-1941	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2369	Digital Histories	15 credits

Semester Total 60

Semester 2

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2502	Becoming the Historical Researcher	15 credits

Optional Modules

45 credits of optional modules, including at least 15 credits with an American History or Politics focus

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2307	Madness, Monarchy and Politics in Georgian Britain	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2311	Domestic Revolutions: Women, Men and the Family in American History	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2314	Imperialism and Decolonisation	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2348	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2360	History in the Classroom	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2368	Fight the Power! Race, Rights and Protest in the USA	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2802	Working with History: The Heritage Field Project	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2803	World's End: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Environmental Crises	15 credits

Level 6/Year 3 6/27

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	30 credits	30 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

There are THREE elements to the final year programme:

Element	Semester	Credit Value
Dissertation	15 credits – Sem 1 30 credits – Sem 2	45 credits
Special Subject	Year Long	30 credits
Optional Modules	30 credits – Sem 1 15 credits – Sem 2	45 credits

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

Dissertation

Delivery period	Code	Title	
Sem 1	HS3505	Dissertation I	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3506	Dissertation II	30 credits

Special Subject

Delivery period	Code	Title	
Year long	HS3771	After Hitler: Society, Culture and The Politics of The Nazi Past in The Two Germanies, 1945-1990	30 credits
Year Long	HS3774	Cultures of Struggle and Liberation: Twentieth Century Southern Africa	30 credits
Year long	HS3777	The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt	30 credits

SEMESTER 1

Optional Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS3677	Sport and the British	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3681	You are what you Wear? Clothing, Fashion & Belonging in the Modern World	15 credits
Sem1	HS3682	Daring to be Free: The Women's Movement, 1850s to 1970	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3694	Diasporas and Migrations in the Modern World	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3699	The Making of a Nation: India and the British Empire 1857-1947	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3071	American Presidency	15 credits

SEMESTER 2

Optional Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS3614	Britain's Imperial Economy: Power, Wealth and Colonialism 1830-1939	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS3627	The Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3653	The Death Penalty and its Abolition: A Global History	15 credits
Sem 2	EN3021	Literature of Protest: Reading and Political Action	15 credits
Sem 2	EN3130	The Other in American Fiction and Film	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3114	American Political Development	15 credits

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

BA HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES WITH A YEAR ABROAD

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 or second-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 History 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.

2) Students may opt to participate in the Year Abroad 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 Year Abroad programme students must pass all modules in years 1 and 2, and achieve a credit weighted average of 55% 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 [login required]

Appendix 3: Skills matrix