

School of Humanities

Title of Programmes: English Literature, History

Programme Code: HULIT/ HUHIS

Subject: American Studies

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
23 September 2019

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Marjolein Groefsema

Signature

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme:

Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification **American Studies**

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	De Havilland
Programme accredited by	Not applicable
Final Qualification	BA Hons
All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)	
English Literature Programme:	English Literature and American Studies English Literature and American Studies with a Year Abroad English Literature and American Studies with Study Abroad English Literature and American Studies (Sandwich) English Literature with American Studies English Literature with American Studies and a Year Abroad English Literature with American Studies and Study Abroad English Literature with American Studies (Sandwich)
History Programme:	History and American Studies History and American Studies with a Year Abroad History and American Studies with Study Abroad History and American Studies (Sandwich) History with American Studies History with American Studies and a Year Abroad History with American Studies and Study Abroad History with American Studies (Sandwich)
FHEQ level of award	6
UCAS code(s)	Q3U5 English Literature and American Studies V1U5 History and American Studies
Language of Delivery	English

A. Programme Rationale

The American Studies Joint and Minor degrees offer students the opportunity to combine modules with an American focus from Literature, History and Film. After studying foundational interdisciplinary modules in American Studies at level 4, students can follow a specified pathway of modules drawn from the subject areas of English Literature, Film and History, each with a distinctive focus on America. This enables students

to develop both a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to the field. While aiming to make students aware of the multiple and close interconnections between American Studies and the respective subjects with which it can be combined as a Joint or a Minor, the degree also offers them the experience of studying both subject areas beyond points of explicit overlap, in their full disciplinary scope.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Year Abroad in North America, and to gain an informed and critical perspective on North American culture, history and society. Students on the pathway also have the option to apply to spend semester B of Level 5 studying at a partner institution in the United States, the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

Additionally this programme aims to:

- Provide students (including those who are new to American Studies) with the opportunity to study a stimulating, challenging and enjoyable -- but also balanced -- range of topics and materials from different periods, exploring American history, society and culture from a variety of disciplinary perspectives;
- Provide students with a detailed, region-specific perspective on the process of globalisation;
- Equip students with a range of intellectual and subject-specific skills;
- Equip students with a range of transferable skills.

The aims of a Joint in American Studies are, in addition to the above:

- Familiarise students with an extensive range of American cultural products, particularly literary texts and films, from the colonial period to the present day;
- Enable students to connect the stylistic, aesthetic and thematic features of these cultural texts to the socio-historical and political contexts in which they were produced;
- Enable students to understand the historical underpinnings of many of the central debates and discourse of contemporary American life.

The aims of a Minor in American Studies are, in addition to the above:

- Familiarise students with a moderate range of American cultural products, particularly literary texts and films, focusing largely on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries;
- Enable students to connect the stylistic, aesthetic and thematic features of these cultural texts to the socio-historical and political contexts in which they were produced;
- Enable students to understand the historical underpinnings of some of the central debates and discourse of contemporary American life.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Area Studies and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
Show knowledge and understanding of:	A1, A2, and A3 will be embedded in the Level 4 module Introduction to American Studies. Lectures and seminars each week will	A1, A2 and A3 will be assessed as part of both assessments on the Intro to American Studies module –

<p>A1. the origins and development of American Studies as a distinct field of academic study;</p> <p>A2. the ways in which the disciplinary methods and critical approaches of History, Literary Studies and Film Studies can be fruitfully combined in the study of American culture;</p> <p>A3. some of the diverse ways in which American cultural, social and political identity has been conceptualised and defined, at different historical moments, by different ethnic or social groups, and in different parts of North America.</p> <p>A4. How American cultural, social and political identity emerged and developed over time, from the colonial period through to the present day.</p> <p>A5. The regional and ethnic variety of American experience.</p> <p>A6. The status of America as a political and cultural power in relation to the rest of the world.</p> <p>A7. Alternative perspectives on the dominant myth of 'the American Dream', such as those of minority ethnic groups.</p> <p>A8. How American media and visual culture (particularly film) has evolved to reflect and shape political, social and cultural events, and responded to advancements in technology.</p>	<p>address these issues explicitly and implicitly, and the prescribed reading will be chosen to help students develop their understanding. Students are also encouraged to read widely around the topic independently. A4 will be fostered by the period-based History and Literature modules which are offered at Level 5.</p> <p>A5 and A7. All modules of American Studies stress that there is no monolithic and homogenous American identity. Level 5 period-based modules give students a broad introduction to African-American History (e.g. slavery and Civil Rights) and Native American History, which are built upon by the Level 6 modules in African-American and Twenty-first Century American Writing, in which students study a wide range of primary texts by non-white American authors.</p> <p>A6 will emerge in the course of the period based History module at Level 5, and in the two American Literature modules at Level 5, particularly American Literature to 1900.</p> <p>A8 will be delivered in the Level 5 US Cinema Module, and the Level 4 module Leisure and Lifestyle.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</p>	<p>a group seminar leadership assignment, including critical review, and a critical essay which will require students to take an interdisciplinary approach to a topic.</p> <p>A2 will be assessed by the History Extended Essay, if taken as an option by American Studies students.</p> <p>A3, A4, A5, A6, and A7 will be explicitly or implicitly assessed on all assignments for Literature and History modules at Levels 5 & 6.</p> <p>A8 will be assessed by the extended research paper assessment or the video essay assignment for American Nightmares at Level 6.</p>
Intellectual skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p>B1. Be able to use and critically interrogate a range of primary and secondary written and/or oral and/or visual sources;</p> <p>B2. Be able to compare and contrast the appropriateness of different disciplinary approaches in an examination of the area studied.</p>	<p>B1 and B2 are developed throughout the American Studies modules at all levels by the methods and strategies outlined above. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to</p>	<p>B1 is assessed on each American Studies module, by assignments including a critical review, critical essays, presentations, material culture commentary, oral performance, and exam. B2 is explicitly assessed by the critical review and critical essay on Making America</p>

	develop intellectual skills further by independent study	and Introduction to American studies, and will be an integral part of any independent research project at level 6.
Practical skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p>C1. Demonstrate skills in the construction of bibliographies, library and internet research skills;</p> <p>C2. Read and use materials both incisively and with sensitivity to compare and contrast ideas and concepts found within different disciplinary and geographical contexts;</p> <p>C3. Communicate ideas with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness;</p> <p>C4. Synthesise information, adopt critical appraisals and develop reasoned argument based on such appraisals;</p> <p>C5. Select and apply appropriate methodologies and theories.</p>	<p>Skill C1 is begun at Level 4 when students are inducted into the facilities of the Learning Resources Centre (use of the library catalogue, Internet, electronic resources) and is continued through the programme. Lecturers in each discipline will discuss the resources available to students and how to access them.</p> <p>C2, C3, C4 and C5 will be developed throughout the American Studies pathway through the completion of assigned reading, and contribution to seminar discussions, which will hone skills of synthesis and communication. On Introduction to American Studies, each week will have a discipline-specific methodological focus.</p>	<p>C1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 will be tested by the seminar leadership assignment with its critical review component, and by critical essays. The group presentation assessment for Intro to American Studies, and the oral performance for Native American Literature will assess C3.</p>
Transferable skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p>D1. Work with a significant amount of independence, demonstrated in self-direction, self-management and intellectual initiative both in learning and studying and in time management;</p> <p>D2. Present materials orally in a clear and effective manner, using audio-visual aids, where appropriate, and answering questions from an audience;</p> <p>D3. Listen effectively and work creatively, flexibly and adaptively with others;</p> <p>D4. Write and think under pressure and meet deadlines.</p>	<p>Students will always be asked to supplement the set reading with independently sourced material, developing skill D1. Regular seminar contribution will be expected and will help to develop skills D2 and D3. Thinking under pressure can be embedded in seminar discussions and exercises such as debates. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.</p>	<p>All assessment on the pathway will assess students in skills D1 and D4. Additionally, the seminar leadership assessment in Intro to American Studies, and the oral performance on Native American Literature will allow for them to be assessed on skills D2 and D3.</p>

D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full- time (normally 3 years), sandwich (normally 4 years) and part- time (normally 5 years) modes, and leads to the award BA Degree with Honours with the appropriate title from those listed in Section 1.

Entry is normally at Level 4 (with suitable A level or equivalent qualifications) but is possible at Level 5 and Level 6 with suitable accredited prior learning. Intake is normally in Semester A.

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

An award in the sandwich mode requires the successful completion of at least **360 hours** placement activity from a maximum of two separate placements in addition to the period of academic study required for the full-time award. This optional placement year is undertaken after Level 5 and before Level 6 and meets the SEEC criteria for Level 6.

Erasmus Exchange programme

Erasmus students are permitted to study modules at all levels.

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the Honours award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed. In addition, on the Major-Minor pathways the Major and on the Joint pathways the Joint Subject/Programme Learning Outcomes are developed and assessed through the constituent modules, as identified within the relevant Subject /Programme Specification.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

Mode of study Full-time

Students on a full-time mode of study must normally take the equivalent of eight 15 credit modules per year with the equivalent of four 15 credit modules undertaken per semester.

In addition, at level 5 students must normally study the module 5HUM1064 Graduate and Employability Skills. Failure in this module would not prevent progression, providing the normal progression rules had been met, but would result in a code of FREN (Fail, Re-enrol). Should a student fail the module at the second attempt, a fail would show on his/her transcript.

Compulsory Modules (full-time students only) Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Graduate and Employability Skills	5HUM1064	0	English	0	100	0	AB

At level 6, students must normally study the module 6HUM1096 Graduate Skills: Career Planning. Failure in this module would not prevent graduation, providing the student has achieved the required credits, but would result in a code of FREN (Fail, Re-enrol), which would show on his/her transcript.

Compulsory Modules (full-time students only)

Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% e Practical	Semesters
Graduate Skills: Career Planning	6HUM1096	0	English	0	100	0	AB

Mode of study Part-time

Students on a part-time mode of study are allowed to take up to five 15 credit modules per year and most normally choose to study between 2 and 5 modules per year, with modules being taken in each semester. Varying rates of study are possible: students can increase or decrease their rate of study year by year or semester by semester in response to their changing circumstances. Students are entitled to take a break from study for a semester or even a year if their circumstances require it.

Students can apply to transfer to a full-time rate of study; this should be arranged at the beginning of the academic year.

Entry point Semester A

BA (Hons) English Literature and American Studies

BA (Hons) History and American Studies

BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and American Studies

Level 4

Students study the following American Studies modules:

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Compulsory Modules							
Module Title							
Introduction to American Studies	4HUM1071	15	English	0	80	20	A
Making America: Studies in American Culture and Society	4HUM1108	15	English	0	100	0	B
Leisure and Lifestyle: 20th Century American Music, Sport and Entertainment	4HUM1101	15	English	0	100	0	A
American Voices: Introduction to US Literature and Culture	4HUM1140	15	English	0	100	0	B

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject.

Progression to level 5 requires a minimum of 60 credits at level 4, including 30 credits in each Subject.

Level 5

Students study the following American Studies modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
USA 1861-1969: From Civil War to Civil Rights	5HUM1164	15	English	0	100	0	A
American Literature to 1900	5HUM0338	15	English	0	100	0	A
Twentieth-Century North American Writing	5HUM0352	15	English	50	50	0	B
US Cinema: Studio System to Digital Era	5HUM1129	15	English	0	60	40	B

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject.

Progression to level 6 requires a minimum of 60 credits at level 5, including 30 credits in each Subject.

Level 6

Students study 60 credits of the following American Studies modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Twenty-first Century American Writing	6HUM1151	15	English	0	75	25	A
American Nightmares on Screen	6HUM1178	15	English	0	70	30	B
African-American Literature	6HUM1056	15	English	30	70	0	B

Optional Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
The American Pacific Rim: Colonisation, Conflict and Connections, 1800-present	6HUM1163	15	English	0	100	0	A
History Extended Essay *	6HUM1065	15	English	0	100	0	A

* Students have the option of taking the History Extended Essay (6HUM1065) instead of The American Pacific Rim. In this case they will be required to pursue an extended essay with a specifically American focus.

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject.

The award of a BA Honours degree requires 360 credits passed with a minimum of at least 120 credits at Level 6.

BA (Hons) English Literature with American Studies
BA (Hons) History with American Studies

Level 4

Students study the following American Studies modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Introduction to American Studies	4HUM1071	15	English	0	80	20	A
Making America: Studies in American Culture and Society	4HUM1108	15	English	0	100	0	B

In addition, students study 90 credits of English Literature or History.

Progression to level 5 requires a minimum of 60 credits at level 4, including 30 credits in each Subject.

Level 5

Students study the following American Studies modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
USA 1861-1969: From Civil War to Civil Rights	5HUM1164	15	English	0	100	0	A
Twentieth-Century North American Writing	5HUM0352	15	English	50	50	0	B

In addition, students study 90 credits of English Literature or History.

Progression to level 6 requires a minimum of 60 credits at level 5, including 30 credits in each Subject.

Level 6

Students study 60 credits of the following American Studies modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Twenty-first Century American Writing	6HUM1151	15	English	0	75	25	A
American Nightmares on Screen	6HUM1178	15	English	0	100	0	B

In addition, students study 90 credits of English Literature or History.

The award of a BA Honours degree requires 360 credits passed with a minimum of at least 120 credits at Level 6.

Sandwich Year and Year Abroad

Students on all pathways may optionally undertake a placement year or a year abroad studying at a foreign University after successfully completing their level 5 studies at honours level. The placement year and year abroad offer an additional optional year (0 credited) which increases the length of the Honours degree award to a four year full-time degree. Successful completion of the placement year or year abroad is reflected in the degree title.

Optional Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Percentage Practical	Semesters
The Humanities Placement Year	6HUM1123	0	English	0	100	0	AB
Study Abroad	6HUM1049	0	English	0	0	0	AB

Sandwich Year

The placement year comprises an agreed period of 36 weeks (including employers' and statutory holidays) of work based learning a maximum of two institutions or companies which has agreed to those terms and conditions regarded as essential by the University of Hertfordshire. Students will be supervised according to university regulations. The learning experience will be assessed with assessments set by the Employability Tutor to enable students to demonstrate both their knowledge of the industry, their skills development and their professional attributes.

Placements are advertised through the Career and Placements Office and have included areas such as marketing, journalism, PR, management and Policy Units. Students may also source their own placement, but it must be subsequently approved by the School in terms of health and safety, equality legislation and supervisory guidelines before a student can take it up.

All students are eligible to proceed to a placement year provided they have achieved 120 credits at Level 4 and at least 90 credits at Level 5 and have completed the appropriate placement induction and documentation. Success in the placement will be recognised in the title of the award but does not carry additional credit towards the Honours programme.

Year Abroad

The year abroad comprises an agreed programme of study in the third year of a partner institution in Europe (other than the UK), North or South America, Australia or Singapore with which the University of Hertfordshire has an institutional agreement.

A student's programme of study will be negotiated and approved by the Dean of School (or nominee) in consultation with appropriate others and the host University. The programme provided by the host institution may comprise taught modules, a research project, field studies, or a mixture of these components. The programme of study will require a minimum of 25% of studies to be undertaken in aspects of culture of the placement country. Prior to the commencement of the year abroad, the student and Study Abroad Tutors from UH and the host institution will agree a learning contract. The learning contract will specify the assessment requirements to be met for successful completion of the programme of study. A Module Board of Examiners will consider the results for the year abroad during the first semester of the following academic year. All assessments must be completed by the end of the year abroad, and no subsequent referrals will be permitted. Students who have varied their programme of study without agreement from UH or have failed to meet the requirements of the learning contract will not have their year abroad studies included in the degree title.

A student must confirm the intention to study abroad during the first ten weeks of study at Level 5. This will enable a place to be negotiated at a host institution and the Study Programme and learning contract to be arranged and agreed. Only a limited number of places exist. These will be awarded on the basis of the suitability of students and guided by choice on the most appropriate programme and host institution.

To be eligible to proceed to a year abroad, a student must, by the time of the Semester B Module Boards of Examiners, have achieved at least 210 credits overall, including at least 90 credits at Level 5. Success in the year abroad will be recognised in the title of the award but does not carry additional credit towards the Honours programme.

For the year abroad in Europe where study will be undertaken in a foreign language students must meet the host University's language requirements.

Honours classification

The University has approved structure and assessment regulations common to all programmes. Full details are provided in [UPR AS14](#), Section D.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
BA (Hons)	See Section 1	360 credit points including 240 at level 6/5 of which 120 must be at level 6	6	For titles with American Studies as a Joint: All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2) For titles with American Studies as a Minor: A subset of the programme learning outcomes (see table 2)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
University Certificate		45 credit points at level 4	4	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm

Certificate of Higher Education		120 credit points at level 4	4, 5	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm
Diploma of Higher Education		240 credit points including at least 120 at level 5	5, 6	See UPR AS11, section 13: http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm
BA	See section 1	300 credit points including 180 at level 6/5 of which 60 must be at level 6	6	A subset of the programme learning outcomes (see table 2) depending on the student's individual module choices.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#)/[UPR AS13](#) (*delete as applicable*) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been approved by the University:

None

Further programme-specific regulations (requiring School-level approval) are given below:

- Progression from one Level to the next depends on meeting the pre-requisite requirements: students must normally have 30 credits in a subject area at the lower Level before progressing to study of that subject at the higher Level;
- Attendance at all scheduled learning and teaching sessions is required on this programme. If attendance falls below 75% on a module but not lower than 50% and the student passes the assessment, the module grade will be capped at the pass mark (40%). If attendance falls below 75% on a module and the student fails the assessment or attendance falls below 50%, the student will normally be deemed to have failed the module at the first attempt and will not be permitted to undertake referred assessment in the module.

Students who have a disability which might impact on their attendance should consult with their disability advisor.

Semester abroad at UNCW

- Students who wish to spend a semester abroad at UNCW must express their intention to apply during Semester B of the year before which they wish to go (i.e. during Level 4).
- Students must normally have passed 120 credits at level 4 to be eligible for a semester abroad.
- There will be a limited number of spaces available for the semester abroad. Should demand outstrip supply, then places will be allocated on the basis of academic merit, with reference to academic performance on American Studies modules at Level 4. Should it still prove impossible to separate students on this basis, overall academic performance at Level 4 will be taken into account.
- Successful applicants will be informed immediately after the Level 4 Programme Board in July. They will then need formally to apply to UNCW.
- The deadline for applying to study at UNCW in Semester B is October 1st. Early application is encouraged to ensure that places can be secured on the required modules.
- While studying at UNCW, students will follow a prescribed programme of study in American Studies modules, and in other modules which will be defined according to the other subject(s) which they are studying as part of their degree programme. In instances where no obvious equivalent to UH modules exists, students will be allowed to enrol on alternative equivalent modules, in consultation with the American Studies co-ordinator.

- Students travelling to UNCW will be expected to arrive in early January in time for the start of the semester. This may mean that they are not available to sit Semester A exams at UH. In such instances, they would be allowed to sit these exams as deferred first attempts in the referral / deferral exam period in June.
- Students who spend a semester abroad will have their final degree calculated on the basis of their Level 6 grades only.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.

Management

The programme is managed by:

- A Dean of School who has overall responsibility for all programmes in the School
- An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who has overall responsibility for academic quality, assurance and enhancement with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- A Programme Leader
- Admissions Tutors, with specific responsibility for selection
- A Head of English Literature and Creative Writing who is responsible for all the modules in the subject area
- Designated Student Administrators to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the courses and modules within the Programme
- A Programme committee which have a membership which includes all of the above plus Subject and student representatives
- An Associate Dean of School (Learning and Teaching) who has overall responsibility for learning and teaching with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School (Commercial) who has specific responsibility for induction
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules

Support

At university level, students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- StudyNet, a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- Guided student centred learning through the use of StudyNet.
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- A substantial Student Centre which provides advice on issues such as Finance, University regulations, visa applications, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- The Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Overseas Orientation
- A Medical Centre
- Student Wellbeing: Disability Services
- Student Wellbeing: Counselling Centre
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- A Careers and Placement Service for all current students and graduates

At School level, students are further supported by:

- An American Studies Co-ordinator
- A student support team to provide confidential academic and pastoral advice through a daily Helpdesk run during term-time

- Scheduled weekly Student Support and Advice ('Drop-in') hours for all academic staff for student support and guidance
- Designated Programme Administrators to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the Programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules
- A School Community Organiser (SCO)
- A Study Abroad Tutor
- An Academic Skills Tutor
- A Student Experience Tutor
- A Tutor for Employability
- An International Student Support Tutor

On the English Literature, History and Politics & International Relations Programmes students are further supported by:

- A Programme Leader to help students understand the programme structure.
- An induction session at the beginning of each new academic session.
- Personal tutors to provide further academic and pastoral support, with scheduled meetings each semester to advise on academic performance, feedback, module choices, and long term plans.
- Student Representatives on the Programme Committee.

F. Other sources of information

This Subject Programme Specification should be read in conjunction with the Programme Specification for the English Literature Programme, the History Programme, or the Politics and International Relations Programme, as applicable.

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF

panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>.

G. Entry requirements

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:
Andy Penn, School Administration Manager, A.Penn@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

American Studies

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

			Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)																			
			Knowledge & Understanding									Intellectual Skills		Practical Skills					Transferable Skills			
	Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Level 4	Introduction to American Studies	4HUM1071	x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Making America: Studies in American Culture and Society	4HUM1108	x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	Leisure and Lifestyle: Twentieth Century American Music, Sport and Entertainment	4HUM1101				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	American Voices: Introduction to US literature and culture	4HUM1140				x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Level 5	American Literature to 1900	5HUM0338				x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
	US Cinema: Studio System to Digital Era	5HUM1129				x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	The USA 1861-1969: From Civil War to Civil Rights	5HUM1164				x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
	20 th Century North American Writing	5HUM0352				x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Level 6	African-American Literature	6HUM1056				x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
	American Nightmares on Screen	6HUM1178				x		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	The American Pacific Rim: Colonisation, Conflict and Connections, 1800-present	6HUM1163				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
	Twenty-first Century American Writing	6HUM1151					x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	History Extended Essay	6HUM1065		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. The origins and development of American Studies as a distinct field of academic study.
- A2. The ways in which the disciplinary methods and critical approaches of History, Literary Studies and Film Studies can be fruitfully combined in the study of American culture.
- A3. Some of the diverse ways in which American cultural, social and political identity has been conceptualised and defined, at different historical moments, by different ethnic or social groups, and in different parts of North America.
- A4. How American cultural, social and political identity emerged and developed over time, from the colonial period through to the present day.
- A5. The regional and ethnic variety of American experience.
- A6. The status of America as a political and cultural power in relation to the rest of the world.
- A7. Alternative perspectives on the dominant myth of 'the American Dream', such as those of minority ethnic groups.
- A8. How American media and visual culture (particularly film) has evolved to reflect and shape political, social and cultural events, and responded to advancements in technology.

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Be able to use and critically interrogate a range of primary and secondary written and/or oral and/or visual sources
- B2. Be able to compare and contrast the appropriateness of different disciplinary approaches in an examination of the area studied

Practical Skills

- C1. Demonstrate skills in the construction of bibliographies, library and internet research skills;
- C2. Read and use materials both incisively and with sensitivity to compare and contrast ideas and concepts found within different disciplinary and geographical contexts
- C3. Communicate ideas with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness
- C4. Synthesise information, adopt critical appraisals and develop reasoned argument based on such appraisals
- C5. Select and apply appropriate methodologies and theories

Transferable Skills

- D1. Work with a significant amount of independence, demonstrated in self-direction, self-management and intellectual initiative both in learning and studying and in time management;
- D2. Present materials orally in a clear and effective manner, using audio-visual aids, where appropriate, and answering questions from an audience.
- D3. Listen effectively and work creatively, flexibly and adaptively with others.
- D4. Write and think under pressure and meet deadlines.

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements
Type of programme
Date of validation/last periodic review
Date of production/ last revision of PS
Relevant to level/cohort
Administrative School

Area Studies

Undergraduate
December 14
November 2018
Level 4 entering September 2019
School of Humanities

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECoS
HULIT HUHIS	BA (Hons) English Literature and American Studies BA (Hons) History and American Studies	100319/101273 100302/101273