Keele UNIVERSITY

# Programme Specification: Undergraduate

## For students starting in Academic Year 2018/2019

### 1. Course Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| **Names of programme(s) and award title(s)** | BA (Hons) American Studies<br>BA (Hons) American Studies with International Year (see Annex A for details) |
| **Award type** | Single Honours |
| **Mode of study** | Full time |
| **Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award** | Level 6 |
| **Duration** | 3 years<br>4 years with the International Year |
| **Location of study** | Keele University – main campus |
| **Accreditation (if applicable)** | Not applicable |
| **Regulator** | Office for Students (OfS) |
| **Tuition Fees** | **UK/EU students:**<br>Fee for 2018/19 is £9,250*<br><br>**International students:**<br>Fee for 2018/19 is £14,000**<br><br>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee |
| **Additional Costs** | Refer to section 18 |

***How this information might change:*** *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

### 2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on American Studies. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules outside American Studies, in other disciplines and in modern foreign

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languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

## 3. Overview of the Programme

American Studies explores the nature, development and rich diversity of the United States from a range of perspectives. Keele pursues this goal by bringing together several disciplines – history, literature, film, politics, geography. You will be encouraged to develop your own disciplinary interests; equally, you will develop multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives on America. One important element of the course is the opportunity to spend a semester or a year abroad with a partner university in North America, thereby permitting you to experience a different academic and social environment while simultaneously pursuing your Keele degree.

Beginning in the 1960s, Keele was a pioneer in the development of American Studies in Britain. Principally located in the School of Humanities, but drawing contributions from other schools, notably the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment (SPIRE), the Programme is delivered by a group of research-active teachers, among whom are some of the leading practitioners in their respective disciplines.

## 4. Aims of the Programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Experience a flexible, high quality, intellectually stimulating modular programme within which you will improve your knowledge and understanding of US society and culture.
- Develop your international awareness and experience to enable you to play an active, thoughtful and inquiring role in society.
- Promote the use and development of a wide range of transferable skills, such as effective collation, interpretation and comparison of information from a broad range of sources using different analytical methods. These skills are not only central to progress in American Studies but also vital in helping you meet professional employment needs.
- Encourage you to develop your full potential by providing you with the ability to acquire and develop skills at each level of the programme that enable you to fulfil the more challenging requirements of each subsequent level.

## 5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

### Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical, literary, and cultural development and contemporary character of the United States
- Use and interrogate a range of primary and secondary written, and/or oral and/or visual sources
- Understand and critically apply key concepts and scholarship in more than one separate discipline
- Recognise the opportunities and limits afforded by disciplinary perspectives

### Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Engage critically with different disciplinary approaches to the United States
- Possess the ability to integrate a diverse range of appropriate primary and secondary materials
- Command a range of techniques and methodologies, such as bibliographical, library and internet research skills, proficiency in reading and textual analysis, appreciation of theoretical models, and alertness to different interpretations of issues and events

### Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Locate and evaluate information and ideas from a variety of sources, including on-line and digital materials
- Present materials in a written form, with clarity in the use of language, professional referencing, and lucid and effective layout
- Present materials orally in a clear and effective manner
- Write and think under pressure, and meet deadlines
- Organise their learning through self-management
- Record and reflect on their achievements
- Work with others in a constructive and respectful way

**Keele Graduate attributes**

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/

## 6. How is the Programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Lectures may also involve use of audio-video materials.
- **Seminars** in groups of up to 20 students where key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part, and occasionally to lead, these discussions. In some modules seminars classes may also incorporate elements of formal lecturing, as well as audio-visual presentations.
- **Workshops** are literature classes which involve a mixture of formal presentation and small-group work, and are specifically designed to allow students to engage in detailed textual analysis of individual passages.
- **Independent study** based on directed reading from text books, research monographs, academic journals and/or viewing of visual materials, as well as detailed research investigations in primary texts.
- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual online learning environment (KLE). The KLE is accessible to all students on and off campus and provides easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, including access to documents, quizzes, discussion boards, assignments, announcements

and blogs.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- **Lectures** provide students with the tools and the knowledge to further their understanding of their subject, and help them to organize and focus their material in preparation for seminar discussion.
- **Seminars** differ in length, format and texture, depending upon the subject, but are essential components of each module, and invariably include individual or group presentations. They aim to provide a supportive environment for debate and discussion and provide an important opportunity for the expression and of individual ideas and interaction with those of others.
- **Independent study** through the research dissertation allows students, under the supervision of a specialist research-active teacher, to formulate relevant research questions, to devise an appropriate strategy for answering them, and to deliver the research results in appropriate narrative form.

## 7. Teaching Staff

The permanent teaching staff on the American Studies Programme – who have a wide experience of higher education teaching in Britain, continental Europe and the United States – currently consists of full-time faculty members from the School of Humanities, embracing the disciplines of history, literature, geography and popular culture, and American politics specialists from the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment (SPIRE). All new academic staff undertake Keele's nationally accredited Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Programme; other qualifications possessed by American Studies faculty include the Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are three types of module delivered as part of this programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Elective modules – a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year.

| Year | Compulsory | Optional | | Electives | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Min | Max | Min | Max |
| 1 | 75 | 15 | 45 | 0 | 30 |
| 2 | 60 | 30 | 60 | 0 | 30 |
| 3 | 30 | 60 | 90 | 0 | 30 |

## Year 1 (Level 4)

In Year 1 all Single Honours students must take five compulsory modules and a further optional module. In the Autumn semester they take A Beginner's Guide to Contemporary America and Starting Out: an Introduction to American Literature. In the Spring semester they take New York, New York: an Introduction to American Literature, The American Past: Explorations in US History and Debates in American Politics.

| Compulsory modules | Credits | Optional Modules | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| A Beginner's Guide to Contemporary America | 15 | Reading Film | 15 |
| Starting Out: An Introduction to American Literature | 15 | Transatlantic Gothic: Studies in 19C English and American Literatures | 15 |
| New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture | 15 | Understanding Culture | 15 |
| The American Past: Explorations in US History | 15 | | |
| Debates in American Politics | 15 | | |

## Year 2 (Level 5)

In Year 2 all Single Honours students take two core modules and one optional module per semester. Students can choose further modules, which can but need not include American Studies optional modules. Modules are listed in the table below.

| Compulsory modules | Credits | Optional Modules | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| History of the US in the Twentieth Century | 15 | Globalisation and its Discontents | 15 |
| Rebels, Bandits and Outcasts | 15 | Alfred Hitchcock's America | 15 |
| From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century | 15 | The Detective and the American City | 15 |
| The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | 15 | The Romance of Fiction: History and Society in 19thC American Literature | 15 |
| | | U.S. Government and Politics | 15 |
| | | Why Policy Changes | 15 |

## Year 3 (Level 6)

In Year 3 all Single Honours students study the 30-credit American Studies dissertation module in both semesters. Students then choose a further four optional modules from the list below. Students can choose further modules, which can but need not include American Studies optional modules.

| Compulsory module | Credits | Optional modules | Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dissertation in American Studies | 30 | The US Presidency | 15 |
| | | Violence and Power in Antebellum America | 15 |
| | | Silence, Strength and Sentiment: Gender and Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century American Writing | 15 |
| | | The whole United States is southern! The | 15 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | | Modern South and America | |
| | | Violence and Power in Civil War America | 15 |
| | | Film Noir: The Dark Side of America | 15 |
| | | Words and Pictures: The Contemporary American Graphic Novel | 15 |
| | | "Eyes on the Prize" The Struggle for Civil Rights in America | 15 |
| | | High Culture: Drink, Drugs and the American Dream | 15 |

Students may choose to study elective modules which are offered as part of other programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and across the University. These include:

- Modules in other subjects closely related to American Studies such as English Literature, Film Studies, History, or Politics.
- Modules in other subjects in which they may have a particular interest such as Criminology or International Relations.
- Modules designed to help students for whom it is not their first language to improve their use of English for Academic Purposes.
- Modern foreign languages modules at different levels in French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese (Mandarin).
- Free standing modules related to the development of graduate attributes, student volunteering, and studying abroad as part of the University's exchange programme.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:
www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az

## Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in each year of the Programme, the modules in which that learning takes place, and the main ways in which students are assessed on their learning. In Year 1 these learning outcomes are achieved in the four compulsory modules that all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Years 2 and 3 the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the compulsory and optional modules offered in each semester.

| **YEAR 1 (Level 4)**<br><br>First year modules provide students with a thorough grounding in the study skills needed to pursue American Studies subjects at more advanced level as well as some basic knowledge on specific areas of the American experience. | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Subject Knowledge and Understanding** | | |
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Recognise disciplinary and multi- or cross-disciplinary approaches to studying America | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture<br><br>A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America | Essay; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Recognise and describe the basic | A Beginners' Guide to | Essay;; exam; portfolio and |

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|---|---|---|
| features of American historical identity and major contemporary political and cultural issues | Contemporary America; The American Past; New York, New York; Debates in American Politics | presentation |
| Recognise and describe the works of a range of 19$^{th}$C and/or 20$^{th}$C authors in the context of a national literature | Starting Out | Essay; exam; portfolio |

| **Subject Specific Skills** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Analyse and interpret a range of primary and secondary written and/or visual sources | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Make coherent arguments based on discipline-specific evidence and analysis | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essay; exams; portfolio and presentation |
| Carry out research in a range of textual and electronic sources | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essay; short exercise; portfolios and presentations |
| Use appropriate referencing and presentation conventions | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essays; short exercise; portfolio and presentation |

| **Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Argue coherently based on evidence and analysis | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Analyse basic texts | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A | Essays; short exercise; exam; |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | portfolio and presentation |
| Locate and retrieve information, including employment of basic IT skills. | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essays; short exercise; portfolio and presentation |
| Communicate effectively and appropriately both orally and in writing | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essays; short exercise; unseen exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Work independently and as part of a team | New York, New York: An Introduction to American Culture; A Beginners' Guide to Contemporary America; Debates in American Politics; Starting Out; The American Past | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |

**YEAR 2 (Level 5)**

In the second year Single Honours students build on the foundations laid in the first year. Modules permit students to develop more detailed knowledge and understanding of specific subjects and to improve their subject-based and generic skills. Students deepen their knowledge of selected American Studies topics by choosing to study from a range of subjects which vary from year to year but reflect the specialist expertise and active research interests of members of staff.

**Subject Knowledge and Understanding**

| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
|---|---|---|
| Display broad knowledge of and critical engagement with the United States. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Display detailed knowledge and understanding of specific topics relating to the American historical, political, literary or cultural experience. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social | Essays; exam; portfolio and presentation |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | |
| Display detailed knowledge of a range of historical, political, literary or cultural texts relating to the United States, including an understanding of the contexts in which they are produced and read. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to<br>Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture:<br>American Literature and Social Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; ; exam; portfolio and presentation |

| **Subject Specific Skills** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Evaluate major issues relating to the historical, literary and cultural experience of the United States through analysis of a range of primary and secondary texts. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to<br>Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture:<br>American Literature and Social Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Analyse and interpret a range of primary and secondary written and/or visual sources relating to the United States. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to<br>Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture:<br>American Literature and Social Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Present understanding and evaluation of conflicting scholarly interpretations of source materials. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to<br>Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture:<br>American Literature and Social Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; exam and presentation |

| **Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Develop appropriate intellectual and key skills, especially critical evaluation of evidence, oral and written communication, and independent thought. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence both orally and in writing. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Work productively in a largely unstructured context exercising initiative and personal responsibility | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | Essays; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Display proficiency in use of IT resources, including e- mail, word processing, databases and internet sites | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; portfolio and presentation |
| Display effective essay and other narrative writing skills, showing ability to integrate and evaluate material from widely differing sources. | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture: American Literature and Social Criticism in the 20th Century; The New World | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio |

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|---|---|---|
| | in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | |
| Reflect on personal learning and respond appropriately to constructive feedback | History of the US in the Twentieth Century; Discovering America: From Empires to<br>Revolutions; From Modernity to Counterculture:<br>American Literature and Social Criticism<br>in the 20th Century; The New World in Chains: Slavery and<br>the Bonds of Race in America | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |

| **YEAR 3 (Level 6)**<br><br>In their third year students progress to more detailed investigations of particular subjects. Students write a supervised 30-credit research dissertation over 2 semesters on a topic of their choice | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Subject Knowledge and Understanding** | | |
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Pursue specific areas of interest in either history, politics, literature or culture through students' choice of specialist modules. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Pursue disciplinary interests while at the same time exploring the intellectual links between them. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | essay; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Extend specialized study by exploring in depth an area of particular interest through a substantial piece of focused research and writing. | Dissertation Module | Dissertation Assessment |

| **Subject Specific Skills** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Display detailed knowledge and understanding of specific topics relating to the American historical, political, literary or cultural experience. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in the broad multi- or inter-disciplinary context of analysing American diversity. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Carry out detailed research, informed by appropriately framed questions, on a specific topic relating to the United States. | Dissertation Module | Dissertation assessment |

| **Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Learning Outcome**<br><br>*Successful students will be able to:* | **Module in which this is delivered** | **Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used** |
| Display evidence of critical evaluation and independent thought. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essay; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Analyse and engage with complex arguments on the basis of appropriate primary and secondary evidence. | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essays; short exercise; exam; portfolio and presentation |
| Apply proficiency in use of IT resources, including word processing, databases and internet sites | All modules approved as part of the American Studies Programme | Essay; short exercise; portfolio and presentation |
| Exercise individual initiative and personal responsibility in the context of self- motivated and self-monitored work | Dissertation Module | Dissertation Assessment |
| Present validated results in effective narrative form on the basis of the ability to integrate and evaluate material from widely differing sources. | Dissertation Module | Dissertation Assessment |

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Honours Degree** | 360 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6<br><br>You must accumulate at least 270 credits in American Studies (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in American Studies. |
| **Diploma in Higher Education** | 240 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher |
| **Certificate in Higher Education** | 120 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher |

**American Studies with International Year:** in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree in American Studies with International Year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year American Studies programme.

## 10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within American Studies at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within American Studies:

- **Unseen examinations and class tests** test students' knowledge of American Studies topics. Examinations may consist of essays, short answer and/or multiple choice questions
- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in scholarly style using an appropriate referencing system
- **Research dissertations** enable students to explore in depth an area of particular interest through a substantial piece of focused research and writing, and test their ability to formulate and answer research questions
- **Oral presentations and reports** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development
- **Portfolios** may consist of a range of different pieces of work but routinely include a requirement that students provide some evidence of critical reflection on the development of their own learning

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year/stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

| Activity | Year 1 (Level 4) | Year 2 (Level 5) | Year 3 (Level 6) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scheduled learning and teaching activities | 15% | 12% | 13% |
| Guided independent Study | 85% | 51% | 87% |
| Placements | 0% | 37% | 0% |

## 12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 13. Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

## 14. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

| Subject | A-level | Subjects not included | International Baccalaureate | BTEC | Access to Higher Education Diploma | GCSE requirements |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Studies | BBB/ABC | None | 32 points | DDM | Obtain Access to Higher Education Diploma with 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction | English Language @ C (or 4) |

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/

## 15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module and tutorial group leaders are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.
- Every student is allocated to a personal tutor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in American Studies.
- Personal tutors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues, which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services.
- All members of teaching staff on the American Studies Programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment
- Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice.

## 16. Learning Resources

American Studies is taught in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- The extensive collection of American Studies materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- A smaller collection of American Studies publications and materials is held in the Undergraduate Resources Centre in the University's main Chancellor's Building (CBB1.045). The URC is open at regular times during teaching periods and the resources are specifically related to the needs of students on the American Studies Principal Programme.
- The KLE, which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources – video, audio and text-based – accessible from external providers via the internet.

## 17. Other learning opportunities

**Study abroad (semester)**

Students on the American Studies programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

**Study Abroad (International Year)**

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided at Annex A.

## 18. Additional costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation.

We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

## 19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in American Studies are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The Learning and Teaching Committee of the School of Humanities is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the American Studies Programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year and as part of the University's Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every American Studies module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of the Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.
- Findings related to the American Studies Programmes from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the American Studies Programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Programme's Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

## 20. The principles of programme design

The American Studies Programmes described in this document have been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Area Studies (2016) http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-area-studies-16.pdf?sfvrsn=e9edf781_14

c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

## 21. Document Version History

**Date of first approved version (v1.0):** 19th September 2017

Revision history

| Version number[1] | Author | Date | Summary of and rationale for changes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | Jonathon Shears | January 2019 | Replacement compulsory module in year 2 ('Rebels, Bandits and Outcasts') and loss of one optional module in year 3 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

[1] 1.1, 1.2 etc. are used for minor changes and 2.0, 3.0 etc. for major changes (as defined in the University's Guidance on processes supporting curriculum changes)

**Annex A**

**BA (Hons) American Studies with International Year**

| **International Year Programme** |
|---|
| Students registered for Single Honours American Studies may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Single Honours 'American Studies with International Year'. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.<br><br>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the BA (Hons) American Studies and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.<br><br>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'BA (Hons) American Studies with International Year'. |
| **International Year Programme Aims** |
| In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:<br><br>1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject<br>2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially |
| **Entry Requirements for the International Year** |
| Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.<br><br>The criteria to be applied are:<br><br>• Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required)<br>• General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director) |
| **Student Support** |
| Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:<br><br>• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.<br>• Support from the University's Global Education Team |
| **Learning Outcomes** |
| In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:<br><br>a. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments<br>b. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation<br>c. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within |

an international setting.

In addition, students who complete 'BA (Hons) American Studies with International Year' will be able to:

d. Design, plan and critically evaluate critical projects within the field of American Studies, record relevant information accurately and systematically and be able to reflect upon a range of sources in a critical manner.
e. Integrate, apply and develop principles relating to American Studies, to describe and explain cultural, historical or political phenomena and reflect critically on problems relating to contemporary society and culture.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

**Course Regulations**

Students registered for the BA (Hons) American Studies with International Year' are subject to the course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any American Studies module with significant overlap to Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

**Additional costs for the International Year**

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

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