**Title of the module**

AMST3030 (EN303) Introduction to American Studies

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Centre for American Studies

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

4

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn and Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

BA American Studies

BA American Studies (History)

BA American Studies (Literature)

BA American Studies (Latin America)

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. show a good, broad understanding of the American experience commensurate to a 1st year survey

course, and appropriate to embarking on an American Studies degree

* 1. show familiarity with a number of different disciplines that usually contribute to American Studies,

most notably US history, literature, and politics

* 1. recognize core issues of race, gender, class and environment in the development of the nation and

national culture

* 1. critically analyse the US experience, identifying problematic assumptions linked to key terms (such as

‘wilderness’, ‘freedom’ and ‘identity’)

* 1. show confidence in discussing key concepts in American Studies such as ‘exceptionalism’ and the

‘American dream’

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Assimilate and evaluate complex information from different sources
   2. Construct arguments in writing and speech
   3. Conduct self-guided study
2. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module offers students the opportunity to explore the breadth of American life in a critical, academic fashion. It covers a wide variety of topics, from Native American culture to McDonaldization, all united by the concept of American Studies and the aim to understand the mechanics of the modern US experience. The module establishes a firm base from which American Studies degree programme students can proceed to Stage II modules here at Kent and ultimately go on to study at US institutions, while also providing English and History students with a useful introduction to American Studies. The emphasis throughout the module is in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary thought, and stays loyal to the ethos of American Studies as a groundbreaking fusion of theories, pathways, and academic criticism. Study skills sessions are also included in the module, including a library tour and writing workshops.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

C. Bigsby & H. Temperley (eds.), *A New Introduction to American Studies* (2006)

Richard Horowitz, (ed.) *American Studies Anthology* (2003)

J. Saldivar, *Border Matters: Remapping American Cultural Studies* (1997)

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (2013)

Robert Kaplan, *An Empire Wilderness* (1999)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

**Total Contact Hours: 44**

Private Study: 256

Total Study Hours: 300

1. **Assessment methods**

Coursework Essays: 45%

Comprised of 1 x 1000 word essay (15%); 1 x 2000 word essay (30%)

3 hr Exam 45%

Seminar Performance 10%

**13.2** Reassessment methods

Coursework 100%

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |  |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lecture | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Coursework | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Exam | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Seminar Performance | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Centre for American Studies recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

This module is constitutively international, taking as its subject the history and culture of the United States using both national and transnational frames, addressing topics such as Native American cultures, black nationalism, Pan Africanism, US imperialism, European settlement, the War of Independence and globalization.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |