ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Discover America – its past, its present and what its future may hold. Study its history, examine its politics and discuss the influence of American culture. If the 20th century was ‘the American century’, what will America’s role be in the years ahead?

The American Studies degree explores the history, literature, politics, culture and visual arts of the United States, a nation that has a rich past, was a major cultural influence on the 20th century and, of course, has played a dominant role in world politics since 1945. The degree can be combined with study of the equally rich and diverse cultures of Latin America.

Kent is one of the few universities in the UK that gives you the choice to study America from afar or through first-hand experience. Our degree programmes reflect our belief that the USA is uniquely well suited to integrated, multi-disciplinary study.

Varied programmes
We run four American Studies degree programmes. All offer the opportunity of spending at least a term in North America or Latin America and all are single honours degrees.

Our three-year programme gives you the option to visit a US university for one term as part of your third year, or you can choose to remain at Kent for the duration of your degree. This degree is very flexible – under the banner of American Studies, you can choose a wide range of modules from American art to race relations.

On the four-year programmes, you spend one year at a university in the USA, Canada or Latin America (see p4 for more information). You specialise in history, literature or Latin America from the outset.

All the programmes take an interdisciplinary approach; for instance, you might be encouraged to combine literary texts and historical materials to develop your understanding.

Individual choice
American Studies offers a balance between a structured, interdisciplinary degree and a pattern of study based on your particular interests. In your final year, you write an extended essay on a subject of your choice, which gives you the chance to explore an aspect of the United States that fascinates you. Recently, students have written on subjects as diverse as the Beat poeils, ‘Blaxploitation’ films of the early 1970s and the history of the death penalty.

Placement year
Students who decide not to study in America during their degree course can take a placement year between the second and final years of their degree. Placements can be in the UK or abroad, with a range of employers in the private, public and third (charity) sectors, and in the arts, education and cultural heritage areas. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
Inspirational teaching
Kent has a reputation for excellent teaching. Our academics are at the forefront of their field and all our lecturers have spent considerable time researching and teaching in North America. Areas of particular interest include the American West, slavery, crime fiction, the Cuban revolution, Native American literature and environmental issues. We ensure that you study within a challenging and inspiring academic environment and we encourage you to become an independent thinker.

Supportive academic community
As a student, we want you to feel that you are part of the academic community at Kent, and we welcome the contributions you make. When you arrive, you are assigned an academic adviser, who is available both as an academic guide and for general help with pastoral issues.

A successful future
As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a strong position to succeed in your chosen career. Graduates of our American Studies degree courses have excellent employment prospects. Prospective employers value the fact that you have spent a term or year studying or working in another country. We ensure that our students have opportunities to develop the transferable skills they might need.

For more information about the careers help we provide at Kent, please see p10 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/employability

World-leading research
In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities. American Studies programmes draw on modules from a number of subject areas, including English, History and Hispanic Studies. At Kent, modern languages and linguistics (which includes Hispanic Studies) was ranked 3rd in the UK for research output and research quality, while English was ranked 10th and History 8th for research intensity.

A global outlook
Kent is known as the UK’s European university and has developed international partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions. We have an international community on campus: 42% of our academic staff come from outside the UK and our students represent 158 different nationalities. We encourage our students to develop their studies in an international context.

Independent rankings

Centre for American Studies

The Guardian University Guide 2018
• Ranked 11th in the UK

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
• Most successful American Studies students in the UK at finding jobs or further study opportunities after graduation in 2015

University of Kent

National Student Survey (NSS) 2016
• 1st in London and the south-east
• 4th highest score for overall student satisfaction

The Guardian University Guide 2018
• 22nd in the UK

DID YOU KNOW?
We have held the British Association for American Studies conference at Kent
STUDYING IN THE USA, CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA

Studying abroad is a great experience and worth doing for that reason alone. But there are many other benefits stemming from the period you can spend in North America or Latin America.

Living and studying abroad enriches your degree studies, offering new and different insights. Experiencing another culture aids your personal development. Employers tend to view these experiences in a very positive light. Our students have a highly successful and enjoyable time abroad.

If the idea of travelling to the Americas does not appeal to you, our three-year degree programme spent at Kent allows you to study the USA and Latin America from afar.

American Studies students do not have to pay American universities’ (often high) tuition fees; you pay a greatly reduced tuition fee to the University of Kent if you are spending a full academic year abroad (students spending a term abroad pay 100% of the normal annual tuition fee). Other costs include accommodation and living expenses, travel costs and the cost of any documentation required, such as visas.

Partner institutions

In previous years we have been able to offer opportunities to study abroad at a number of institutions in North America and Latin America, including the following:

The USA

- **California** University of California: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Diego; California State University, Long Beach; San Diego State University
- **Indiana** Indiana University Bloomington; Purdue University, West Lafayette
- **Kansas** University of Kansas, Lawrence

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![Map of the USA](image-url)
• **Maryland** University of Maryland, College Park
• **Massachusetts** Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley; University of Massachusetts Amherst
• **New York State** University of Buffalo, Buffalo
• **North Carolina** University of North Carolina at Charlotte
• **South Carolina** University of South Carolina, Columbia
• **Tennessee** University of Tennessee, Knoxville
• **Wisconsin** Marquette University, Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

### Canada
• **Alberta** University of Calgary
• **Ontario** Brock University, St Catharines; Ottawa University; Trent University, Peterborough

### Latin America
• **Chile** Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago*
• **Peru** Pontificia Universidad Católica, Lima*
• **Uruguay** Universidad ORT, Montevideo*
• **Colombia** Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá*

Places are subject to availability and you must meet certain academic and attendance requirements in order to participate in the year abroad. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

*All Spanish speaking
Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus is within easy reach of London and mainland Europe.

First-class facilities
The study resources on campus are excellent. The Templeman Library has extensive print and electronic collections, which are specifically aimed at supporting the courses and subject areas taught at Kent. There are also over 1,000 PCs on campus and a range of support services for help or advice.

International community
Kent offers an incredibly diverse and cosmopolitan campus. There are 158 nationalities represented here and we encourage all our students to develop their studies in an international context.

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral. Kent has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. The campus has its own cinema, theatre and student nightclub, many restaurants, cafés and bars, and a sports centre and gym. Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, a bookshop, a bank and cash machines, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus ride into Canterbury.

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.
Jessica Crabbe is in the third year of her degree in American Studies (Literature).

Why did you choose Kent?
I liked the campus, and I love the city of Canterbury. Then I had a one-to-one meeting with the Head of Admissions and it felt very caring – and this feeling was confirmed when I started studying here. I felt like everyone knew me from the moment I arrived.

How is your course going?
Right from the start I’ve loved it. The Introduction to American Studies gave me a broad overview of American history and I still think back to it now and the texts we looked at; it gave a really good grounding in the subject. And it helps you to identify your particular interests, which you can go into in more depth later. You get to take modules in a number of different disciplines – in fact the breadth of subjects the course covers is incredible.

By taking the Literature pathway you read fiction, then learn the context in which it was written, so you get history and literature all rolled into one, which gives so much more meaning to everything. We look at film, popular culture and the media too. And the option of a year studying abroad is a massive bonus. I was at the University of South Carolina, and it was everything I could have imagined.

What is the level of support like in your studies?
I’ve always felt that the Centre [for American Studies] is a very close unit – it’s not a huge department so you get to know everyone. This means the teaching somehow feels very personal and the lecturers are easy to talk to, they’re always available. They really know their subjects and you can get a good dialogue going with them.

How would you describe your fellow students?
Really good fun! Everyone on my course gets on really well, and it’s good getting together with people who are taking the history pathway because we have great discussions about all sorts of different things. I think we reassured each other a lot in the first year – you never felt overwhelmed because of the support of other students.

How was your year abroad?
I got to see a great deal of America. I’d only been to New York before, so the Deep South was completely new to me. It’s one of those places that’s so rich in history, particularly race relations, and has been through so many changes. It really widened my knowledge to see it all first-hand and put me in good stead for my third year. I was well looked after and, although I knew my point of contact back in Canterbury, I had no problems, so didn’t need to contact them. I found the mode of teaching different out there – it was more like being back at school – but the whole year was really enriching.

What are the facilities like on campus?
Workwise, the revamped library is really nice and you’ll always find somewhere to study there, whether you want to be in a quiet area or a social space. Then there’s a good gym, loads of places to eat – and everything’s easy to get to.

What do you do in your spare time?
I work on The Tab, an online student magazine – it’s for a number of universities and I edit the Kent strand. It’s a small team and I started as a writer, then worked my way up. I played lacrosse for two years as well, which was fun.

What kind of career do you hope to follow when you leave?
I’d like to do something creative involving editorial, or possibly advertising – maybe something in the arts. I’ve had work experience in magazine publishing and at the The Telegraph and enjoyed that. I do like the immediacy of online work too.

Any advice for other students coming to Kent?
Kent has a lot to offer but if you have the chance to take the year abroad programme, do it. If you work hard enough, then, as an American Studies student in particular, you have the opportunity to study at some of the most prestigious and exciting locations around the world.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a strong position to develop a successful career. Kent equips you with the essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job.

Good career prospects
According to recent employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing better than ever in the job market. Six months after graduation in 2016, more than 96% of Kent graduates were in work or further study. We pride ourselves on helping students to develop valuable transferable skills throughout their studies.

Wide-ranging professions
American Studies students tend to do well after graduating. With experience of living abroad, they offer employers maturity and an ability to cope with change. Recent graduates now work in the media, publishing and a variety of other businesses in the UK, Europe and the USA. Teaching is also a popular option, as are marketing, public relations, and (for those who have taken advantage of the language teaching offered on the Latin America pathway) translation and interpretation.

Gain transferable skills
Studying for a degree is not just about mastering your subject area. Nowadays, employers are looking for a range of key skills and you are encouraged to develop these within your degree programme.

Dealing with challenging ideas, thinking critically, and the ability to write well and present your ideas clearly are important skills that you gain at Kent.

Careers advice
The award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, apply for jobs, write a good CV and perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides information on current graduate opportunities, both before and after you graduate.

Further information
For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/employability
Zara Afolabi graduated with a BA in American Studies in 2015 and is now an account manager at Gumtree UK.

Why did you choose to study at Kent?
I really wanted the opportunity to study in the US, and Kent seemed to have one of the best ranges of places to attend across the pond, as well as a varied programme of study in the UK.

Were there areas of the course that you particularly enjoyed?
I got to take courses in subjects ranging from American politics to American crime fiction. One of the most interesting courses was The Contemporary Memoir, in which we studied both written and visual pieces of work to understand the genre better. I felt I was able to gain a well-rounded insight into studying literature, history and culture through such a diverse range of subjects.

What was the academic support like?
I had a great mentor for my extended essay and I took modules with him in both my first and final years. He was particularly helpful at the start of my fourth year when I was unsure about the module choices I'd made months before; he advised me to change modules, which proved to be a good decision. He was a big influence in helping me to achieve my goals at Kent.

How would you describe your fellow students?
Diverse and curious. From the moment I joined the university I felt I was part of a family of like-minded and interesting people seeking to broaden their own horizons and influence my own.

How was your year abroad?
I went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee – I wanted to go somewhere unlike the UK and experience ‘real America’. I think the year abroad taught me how to adapt to a new city and integrate with new people. I gained a huge amount of independence and travelled to several new cities on my own for the first time in my life (I even got the chance to go to Hawai). The courses were great too. I took a class focused on activism in America and it inspired me to do my extended essay in my final year on environmentalism in America, specifically looking at extremists of the movement.

How did your career progress after graduation?
My biggest achievement was becoming involved in a programme called ‘45forthe45th’, where I worked as a volunteer on the US Election in 2016. I went twice that year, first to participate in the primaries and again in November for the final election. On the first trip I went to Iowa and New Hampshire where I took part in door-to-door campaigning on behalf of the Democratic Party. This involved giving out campaign information, and fielding questions on the prospective candidate. I got to meet a number of politicians and speakers, including Hillary Clinton. It’s a non-partisan organisation so we also worked on the Republican campaign. I would never have got this amazing opportunity if I hadn’t taken this course and been able to apply everything I learned at Kent to becoming part of history itself!

What are your plans for the future?
I hope to be able to do more work in politics (potentially even in America) but for now I’m happy pursing a career and living in one of the best cities in the world (London!). The skills I learnt on my degree course, such as being organised and keeping to deadlines, are vitally important in my day-to-day work. Also, because American Studies is multi-disciplinary, you gain knowledge in different subjects, and I think this has helped me in understanding and interpreting my clients’ requirements.

What advice would you give to prospective students?
I would say don’t be afraid to take a chance. Some of the best modules I took I didn’t know much about before I started them but with the right guidance and advice I thrived at Kent. I would also say get involved in everything you can, whether it’s sports or academic activities. Make the most of it because three (or, in my case, four) years go by very fast!
We run four American Studies programmes. All offer the opportunity of spending at least a term in North America or Latin America, and all are single honours degrees.

Your studies are divided into three stages: Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. If you are planning to spend a year abroad, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

All degree programmes share an interdisciplinary approach; for instance, you may be encouraged to combine literary texts and historical materials to develop your understanding.

Teaching and assessment

At Stage 1, modules are usually taught by lectures and seminars. Assessment varies from 100% coursework (essays, class participation) to a combination of coursework and examination. In Stages 2 and 3, modules are taught either by lectures and seminars, or by seminars alone. You have six to 12 hours of contact with staff per week in Stage 2, rising to ten to 12 hours per week in Stage 3. Assessment varies (depending on the modules) from 100% coursework to a combination of examination and coursework.

Module information

On each of the programmes listed below, you study at least one compulsory module at each stage. You also study American-related optional modules drawn from Drama, English, Film, History of Art, History, Politics and Hispanic Studies. The choice of modules available depends on the stage you have reached in your studies.

At each stage of the American Studies programmes you also have the opportunity to choose ‘wild’ modules from a wide range of degree courses offered by the University.

Please note: the module lists below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

To read a full description of the modules listed, or to find out more about the wild modules available, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module codes.

Compulsory modules

Stage 1

• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)

Stage 2

• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)

Stage 3

• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

American Studies (Literature)

www.kent.ac.uk/ug/10

On this four-year programme you spend a year studying at one of our partner universities in the USA or Canada. In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, you choose literature modules at each stage, for example:

• American Modernities: US Literature in the 20th Century (EN721)
• Empire, New Nations and Migration (EN695)
• Harlem to Hogan’s Alley: Black Writing in North America (EN667)
• Native American Literature (EN623)
• Writing America (EN332).

In addition to the literature modules, you may also have the opportunity to choose modules with a different focus (eg, history).
Compulsory modules
Stage 1
• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)
• Romanticism and Critical Theory (EN333)

Stage 2
• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)
• Declaring Independence: 19th-Century US Literature (EN675)

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

American Studies (History)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/8
On this four-year programme you spend a year studying at one of our partner institutions in the USA or Canada. In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, you choose history modules at each stage, for example:
• The American Civil War Era, 1848–1877 (HI5023)
• From Buffalo Bill to Bison Burgers: The American West in the 20th Century (HI766)
• How the West was Won (or Lost): The American West in the 19th Century (HI763)
• Inviting Doomsday: US Environmental Problems in the 20th Century (HI796)
• Making History: Theory and Practice (HI426).

Compulsory modules
Stage 1
• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)
• The Emergence of America: From European Settlement to 1880 (HI390)
• The Rise of the United States Since 1880 (HI391)

Stage 2
• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

American Studies (Latin America)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/9
The four-year Latin American programme involves learning Spanish and spending a year at one of our partner universities in Latin America, where you are taught in Spanish. In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, you choose Latin American modules at each stage, for example:
• After Dictatorship: Spain and Latin America (LS571)
• State-Building in Latin America (LS319)
• Latin American Fiction (CP532)
• Terrorism and State Terror in Latin America (LS563)
• Writing the Cuban Revolution (LS554).

Compulsory modules
Stage 1
• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)
• Introduction to Hispanic Culture (LS312/313)
If you have little or no proficiency in Spanish or have studied the language to GCSE level, you take:
• Learning Spanish 1 (LS302)
If you have attained the equivalent of an A level pass in Spanish, you take:
• Learning Spanish 3 (LS300).

Stage 2
• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

International students
If you are applying from outside the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). The Kent IFP can provide progression to the American Studies degree programme. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come to an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see for yourself what it’s like to be a student at the University of Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject talks, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library and University accommodation. For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our Applicant Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Applicant Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and current students about your chosen subject. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visit

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or Applicant Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Self-guided tours
You can explore the Canterbury campus in person or from the comfort of your home. Our self-guided audio tour gives you a real flavour of the campus and you will hear from people who help make Kent such an inspiring place to study – our staff and students. Go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html to get started.

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding
More information
If you would like more information on Kent’s courses, facilities or services, please contact us on:
+44 (0)1227 768896
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

To download another subject leaflet, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets

For more information about the Centre for American Studies, please see www.kent.ac.uk/amst

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time

UCAS codes
• American Studies (T702) three-year degree
• American Studies (History) (T701) four-year degree
• American Studies (Latin America) (T703) four-year degree
• American Studies (Literature) (T700) four-year degree

Offer levels
ABB at A level
IB Diploma 34 points (including 16 at Higher)

Required subjects
T701: A level History grade B;
IB History 5 at HL or 6 at SL
T700: A level English Literature grade B or English Language and Literature grade B; IB English A1/A2/B 5/6/6 at HL

Year abroad
The third year of four-year degree programmes is spent at a university in the USA, Canada or Latin America, taking specialised courses. American Studies students do not have to pay American universities’ tuition fees; you pay accommodation, travel and living costs.

On the three-year programme, there is the option of spending one semester (term) in the USA. See www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest information see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

This brochure was produced in June 2017. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and for full details of our terms and conditions, see www.kent.ac.uk/termssandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit