AMERICAN STUDIES AT KENT

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? You can choose to spend a year or a term studying in the US, experiencing the culture first hand.
### WHY CHOOSE AMERICAN STUDIES AT KENT?

#### Flexible programme

You can take our four-year American Studies programmes choosing a history, literature or Latin American pathway and spend a year studying in the US. It’s also possible to take a three-year degree, where you can choose to spend a term studying in the US.

#### Inspirational teaching

Great teachers inspire and challenge. Whether they are lecturing on the American west or sparking discussion on US environmental policies, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and welcome your opinions and ideas.

#### Academic support

University is different from school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help you by assigning you an academic adviser, running a peer mentoring programme and offering help with academic skills such as essay writing.

#### Excellent resources

Access more than a million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the Templeman Library. Our expert subject librarians can help you to get the most from our specialist collections, which include materials on slavery and indigenous American culture.

#### World-leading research

The Centre for American Studies is an interdisciplinary centre with a reputation for innovative research in areas such as slavery, crime fiction, and the Cuban revolution. Our staff contribute to journal articles and books and provide expert comment to the media.

#### Student community

Kent Union is run by students, for students, to help you make the most of university life. As well as running clubs, societies and social events, the student union is there to support you with advice on a wide range of issues and to ensure your voice is heard.

#### Lively campus

Kent is a campus university, so everything you need is within walking distance. You can watch a play or a film at the Gulbenkian arts centre, dance at The Venue nightclub, keep fit at our sports centre and meet friends at one of many campus cafés and restaurants.

#### Enhanced experience

Our Employability Points scheme rewards you for getting involved in extra-curricular activities. Why not learn a new language, or become a student rep? You exchange your points for work experience and other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

#### Career success

Employability is a priority at the University of Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and developing an argument. We help you to develop a great CV and present yourself effectively to potential employers.
American Studies at Kent is an interdisciplinary programme that gives you the chance to discover America for yourself. Taught by specialists in American history, politics, literature and the arts, these programmes give you an understanding of America’s place in the world and help you to develop your own view of how that might change in the 21st century. Studying in the US, you immerse yourself in American society and discover how Americans see their country and view the rest of the world.

Independent rankings

The Complete University Guide 2020
• American Studies at Kent ranked 5th overall

National Student Survey 2018
• Over 97% of final-year American Studies students who completed the survey, were satisfied with the teaching on their course

Research Excellence Framework
• 97% of research at Kent was found to be of international quality

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
• Over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months (DLHE, 2017)

Teaching Excellence Framework
• Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*

*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
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 spent at Kent allows you to study the USA and Latin America from afar. It’s also possible to spend a year studying in Berlin at the Freie Universität, where you are taught in English.

American Studies students do not have to pay American universities’ tuition fees. You pay a greatly reduced tuition fee to the University of Kent if you spend a full academic year abroad (if you spend a term abroad you pay the normal annual tuition fee). Other costs include accommodation, living expenses and travel costs, including the cost of documentation 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
- **Iowa** University of Iowa
• Kansas University of Kansas, Lawrence
• Maryland University of Maryland, College Park; Towson University
• Massachusetts Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley; University of Massachusetts, Amherst
• New Mexico New Mexico State University
• New York State University of Buffalo, Buffalo
• North Carolina University of North Carolina, Charlotte
• South Carolina University of South Carolina, Columbia
• Tennessee Rhodes College; University of Tennessee, Knoxville
• Virginia George Mason University; University of Virginia; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; West Virginia University
• Wisconsin Marquette University, Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Canada
• Alberta University of Calgary
• Quebec Concordia University, Montreal
• New Brunswick Mount Allison University, Sackville
• 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*

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
Tell us about your year abroad. I wanted to study African-American history while I was there, so I looked at places that offered courses in that area. I also wanted to go to somewhere I’d never been to, so I chose West Virginia University. It’s huge, maybe five times the size of Kent. I lived on Evansdale, about ten minutes from where my lectures took place, and there was a little tram you could take which went between campuses, it was really cool going on that. Our lectures were a combination of a lecture and a seminar, with opportunities to ask questions and discuss things as a class.

Did you get to travel? I did a lot of travelling, I met people at West Virginia who came from Kent and we were part of a group of international students, who went on trips together. I visited 15 states, as well as Canada and Mexico.

What’s next for you? I hope to do something with an international focus and use what I’ve learnt on my course, perhaps work for the UN. I think that’s the great thing about the course, it’s opened my mind, and made me see so many different things.

Any advice for prospective students? Definitely do it. I absolutely love Kent, the great thing is, no matter what sort of interest you have, you’ll find someone else who shares it. At Kent everyone has a place and fits in, which is amazing.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

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.

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

You may also be able to choose elective modules from a wide range of degree courses offered by the University.

American Studies
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/11

On this three-year degree you have the option to spend one term at a US university in your final year, or you can choose to remain at Kent for the duration of your degree. Alongside your compulsory modules, you select optional modules from an extensive list of 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.

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 US or Canada. In addition to your compulsory modules, which include modules focusing on American history, you choose optional modules, where you can further your understanding of American history across a range of time periods or choose American-related modules from other areas such as literature, film, politics or history.

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 your compulsory modules, which include Spanish language modules and others focusing on Latin American culture and history, you choose optional modules, where you can further your understanding of countries in Latin America, their history, their literature and their relationships with each other and the rest of the world.

Teaching and assessment

At Stage 1, modules are usually taught by lectures and seminars. Assessment varies from 100% coursework (essays and 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.

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 all American Studies degree programmes. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
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.

Module information
Please note: these module lists are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details below are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). 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 elective modules available, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module codes.

American Studies
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/11
Compulsory modules
Stage 1
• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)

Stage 2
• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

Optional modules
In addition to the compulsory modules listed above, you also take optional modules from a wide range available. Depending on your interests, these may include:
• American Crime Fiction (EN658)
• Contemporary Politics and Government in the United States (PO617)
• The Emergence of America: From European Settlement to 1880 (HI390)
• Hollywood Studios (FI314)
• The Rise of the United States Since 1880 (HI391)
• Understanding US Foreign Policy: Power, Tradition and Transformation (PO634).

American Studies (History)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/8
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)

Optional modules
In addition to the compulsory modules listed above, you also take optional modules from a wide range available. Depending on your interests, these may include:
• The American Revolution (HI5072)
• California: The Golden State (HI6063)
• Civil War America, 1848–1877 (HI502)
• The International History of the Vietnam Wars (HI7002)
• Inviting Doomsday: US Environmental Problems in the 20th Century (HI795)
• Making History: Theory and Practice (HI426).

In addition to the history modules, you may also have the opportunity to choose modules with a different focus (eg, literature).

American Studies (Latin America)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/9
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:
• Spanish Beginners A1-A2 (Intensive) (LS302)

If you have attained the equivalent of an A level pass in Spanish, you take:
• Spanish Lower Intermediate B1 (LS300).

Stage 2
• American Studies: Reputations (EN665)
• Spanish Intermediate B1-B2 (LS504) or Spanish Upper Intermediate B2 (LS505), depending on level of proficiency

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)
• Spanish Advanced C1 (LS506)

Optional modules
In addition to the compulsory modules listed above, you also take optional modules from a wide range available. Depending on your interests, these may include:
• 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).

In addition to the Latin American modules, you may also have the opportunity to choose modules with a different focus (eg, politics).

American Studies (Literature)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/10
Compulsory modules
Stage 1
• Introduction to American Studies (EN303)
• Literary Forms (EN336)

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

Stage 3
• American Studies Extended Essay (HI560)

Optional modules
In addition to the compulsory modules listed above, you also take optional modules from a wide range available. Depending on your interests, these may include:
• American Crime Fiction (EN658)
• American Modernities: US Literature in the 20th Century (EN721)
• Harlem to Hogan's Alley: Black Writing in North America (EN667)
• Innovation and Experiment in New York (EN588)
• Reading and Writing the Everyday (EN340).

In addition to the literature modules, you may also have the opportunity to choose modules with a different focus (eg, history).

“The course is challenging but rewarding. I love history and one of my first modules looked at the emergence of America from the 1700s using prime resources and texts, I really felt that I was part of a specialist history class. I enjoy the seminars, talking with others – some like-minded, some with different opinions, but all really interested in the subject.”

Iago Thomas
American Studies (History) BA (Hons)
SUPERB STUDY SUPPORT

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module choices and essay topics with you.

You are assigned an academic adviser in your first year, and they help you get the most from your degree programme. They meet with you regularly to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments. They are able to assist you in developing academic skills and can refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer support

The best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our Academic Peer Mentoring scheme, first-year students can request to be matched with second- or third-year students on a similar degree programme.

Peer mentors help you settle in to university life and find your feet. They can help you to discuss ideas and improve your study skills as you progress through your first year.

Study skills advice

Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you to increase your competence and confidence and fulfil your potential. You can request a one-to-one appointment or attend workshops on a diverse range of topics, from making the most of lectures to writing well and avoiding plagiarism.

Student support and wellbeing

You might need extra help to get the most from university. If you have a medical condition, specific learning difficulty, mental health condition or disability, the Student Support and Wellbeing team is there to support you.

The team is committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:
- arranging note-takers, signers and other support workers for you
- discussing exam access arrangements
- helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
- applying for relevant funding to support you.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

“Peer mentoring is open to absolutely everyone. We’ve signed up to be peer mentors and we really do want to help, so take advantage of it.”

Evangeline Agyeman
Peer mentor
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind or haven’t thought much beyond university, we can help you to achieve success in the future.

Build your CV
Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as analysing information, thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems, and working independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are widely valued by employers in all sectors.

At Kent, you have lots of other great opportunities to enhance your skills. For instance, you could:
- join a society or sports club (even better – get involved in running it)
- volunteer in the community
- work in a part-time job or take up a summer internship
- represent your fellow students as a student rep, or become a student ambassador
- learn a new language or skill with Study Plus.

Getting involved like this means that you can earn Employability Points, which you can exchange for employability rewards. The more points you earn, the more valuable the rewards. We work with local, national and international employers to offer internships, work experience and a range of other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

Experience work
Taken as part of your degree programme, the Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering Platinum Award allows you to develop transferable skills in leadership, mentoring, project management and working within teams and organisations.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of rewarding career paths. For instance, our graduates have gone on to work in advertising and design, journalism, broadcasting, arts and arts management, public relations, the leisure industry and local government, or on to further study.

We support you with tailored employability events, from exploring career options to presenting your skills and experience to employers.

Visit our careers fair to talk to potential employers and use our award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice on preparing your CV. Our track record speaks for itself: over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months (DLHE, 2017).
India Bottomley graduated from her American Studies degree in 2016. Here, she describes life at Kent and how the skills she gained help her in her work as a writer.

Why American Studies?
I chose American Studies at Kent because of the diverse range of modules. I was able to explore so many aspects of American culture, from history and politics to literature and film. It’s a course that you can adapt to suit your interests and your future career plans, which was really exciting.

How were your studies?
I enjoyed every module. I particularly liked learning about US environmental history, but also had my perceptions challenged by the politics modules. I was able to take elective modules in linguistics, including a module that taught us how to write for modern media, which has helped me so much with practical skills for my career.

What about the teaching at Kent?
Excellent. One of the best things about American Studies is that you experience teaching from tutors in a wide variety of subjects who have very different teaching styles. The tutors were supportive and happy to discuss any questions. I really enjoyed writing my extended essay. I was able to research jazz culture and had two brilliant supervisors who helped me whittle down my ideas to a workable project. It was stressful, but I enjoyed the process and still feel fortunate that I was able to write about something I am so interested in.

How would you describe your fellow students?
My fellow students were diverse and eager to learn. American Studies is a relatively small course, so you get to know your colleagues well. It was a lovely feeling to be surrounded by the people I’d first met at the introductory lecture on my graduation day. Everyone on the course was passionate about the subject, which made for a great learning environment.

Do you think your degree changed you?
It definitely changed my perception of the world and made me a far stronger critical thinker. Being at university is an amazing opportunity to challenge your thoughts and beliefs and explore new ideas in a supportive environment. I was able to unpack things I was passionate about and gain a well-rounded understanding of them. I also gained good research skills, which are invaluable in the work I do today.

How did you enjoy your time at Kent in general?
I absolutely loved my time at Kent! To this day my friends and I say how much we miss being on campus, and I even miss spending endless hours in the library. Life at Kent is like living in a small town where you can’t cross campus without seeing people you know and stopping for a chat. In my first year, I joined the Music Society and was on the committee in my second and third years, which was another chance to meet people and also gave me skills that I use in my work life. There are so many opportunities and there’s a brilliant volunteering scheme too.

Does your degree help you in your current role?
I work as a freelance writer and editor, and I can safely say that most of the skills I use on a daily basis were gained during my time at Kent. I’m fortunate enough to be able to write about the topics that led me to choosing to study American Studies including US politics and sociology, which is one of my favourite things about my job. I don’t have a typical work day – which I love! I’m going to be spending spring in California to delve deeper into some of the topics that I write about which is really exciting, and comes as a direct result of my degree choice.

What advice would you give to prospective students?
If you’re looking for a versatile degree that allows you to really understand the inner workings of the US then American Studies is for you. The staff are all supportive, which creates a nice learning environment. It’s a degree that you can adapt to your interests, which makes learning enjoyable – so important when it comes to stressful deadline weeks! Life at Kent on the whole is really diverse and offers the opportunity to get involved in so many extra-curricular activities, which really strengthens the collegiate feel of the University.
Choosing a university is a big step, so it’s important to find out as much as you can before you make your decision. Come and visit us to see what we can offer you.

Open Days
Open Days are a great way to find out what life as a student at Kent is like. For instance, you can:

- learn more about the course you are interested in at a subject presentation
- ask questions – talk to the academic teams at the information stands
- experience our teaching at a taster lecture*
- find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extra-curricular activities such as those run by Kent Sport.

Explore the campus at your own pace on the self-guided walking tour. You can visit different types of accommodation, chat to current students and enjoy the stunning views over the city of Canterbury.

Open Days are held in the summer and autumn. Book your place at www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to Kent and we offer you a place (or ask you to come for an interview), you will usually be invited to an Applicant Day. Applicant Days run in the autumn and spring terms and are an opportunity to find out about the course in more detail. You spend time with your academic school meeting staff and current students, and take part in activities that give you a flavour of your prospective course and university life.

Informal visits
If you can’t make it to an Open Day or Applicant Day, you can still visit us. We run tours of the campus throughout the year. If you live outside Europe, we appreciate that you might find it difficult to attend our scheduled events, so we can arrange a personal campus tour for you and your family.

Let us know you’re coming
Scheduled tours and personal campus tours (for international students) need to be booked in advance – you can do this via www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Meet us in your country
Our staff regularly travel overseas to meet with students who are interested in coming to Kent. We also have strong links with

*Programme of events varies according to subject.
agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent. To find out more, visit www.kent.ac.uk/courses/international

Self-guided tours
If you prefer to explore on your own, you can download a self-guided walking tour at: www.kent.ac.uk/informal or pick up a copy from us.

A self-guided audio tour is available too, which allows you to learn about Kent without even leaving home. See www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html

Explore online
If you can't come and see us, you can find out more about the academic team, the course and events in the School online at: www.kent.ac.uk/amst

Keep in touch with us via social media:
• www.facebook.com/KentAMST
• www.twitter.com/@kent_amst

Contact us
If you would like more information on Kent's courses, facilities or services, please contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 768896
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time

Degree programme
Single honours
• American Studies (T702) three-year degree
• American Studies (History) (T701)
• American Studies (Latin America) (T703)
• American Studies (Literature) (T700)

Offer levels
BBB at A level; DDM in BTEC Extended Diploma; IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 15 points at HL

Required subjects
T701: A level History grade B; IB History 5 at HL or 6 at SL; BTEC Extended Diploma, a typical offer would be DM plus A-level History at B.

T700: A level English Literature grade B or English Language and Literature grade B; IB English A1/A2/B 5/6/6 at HL; BTEC Extended Diploma, a typical offer would be DM plus A-level English Literature or English Language and Literature at B.

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

Entry requirements and offer levels are subject to change. For the latest information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

This brochure was produced in June 2019. 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/termsandconditions

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