

2014-15 Humanities Undergraduate Stage 2 & 3 Module Handbook

06 Centre for American Studies

EN665 American Studies: Topics in the 20th Century						
Version	Campus	Term(s)	Level	Credit (ECTS)	Assessment	Convenor
1	Canterbury	Autumn	I	30 (15)	70% Coursework, 30% Exam	Conyne Dr G

Contact Hours

10 x 2 hour weekly seminars and 10 x 1 hour weekly lectures with with optional film screenings.

Restrictions

Compulsory For American Studies Second Year Students Only

Method of Assessment

100% coursework - 2 essays and seminar performance

Synopsis

This module is designed to introduce students to a range of key themes of American culture during the middle years of the 20th century, with an additional emphasis on aspects of Latin American culture and the transnational. Taught via the traditional 2-hour seminar/1-hour lecture format, with additional film screenings, the module will build on the first year 'Introduction to American Studies' module in order to develop students' understanding of twentieth-century American culture, give them a firm grounding in the interdisciplinary nature of American Studies, and begin the preparation for their final year interdisciplinary long essay. 'Topics in American Studies' draws on expertise from a range of areas of American Studies, addressing specific historical events through various cultural lenses. Topics to be considered on a week-by-week basis include:

The 'Twenties.
 Interwar Black culture
 Mexico and modernism
 Changing representations of the Agrarian South
 World War II
 Culture in the '50s
 The New West
 Castro and the intellectuals
 Environmentalism
 The '60s

Many of the above topics will pick up and expand on questions, themes, and problems considered on EN303, placing greater emphasis on cross-disciplinary methods and a deepening awareness of transnational and transcultural relationships.

Presented here as a decade-by-decade lecture series the module will nevertheless challenge students to assimilate and navigate recurring comparisons and tensions across the middle portion of the twentieth century.

Preliminary Reading

Bellow Adventures of Augie March
 Bolano The Savage Detectives
 Carson Silent Spring
 Ellison Invisible Man
 Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby
 Fuentes The Death of Artemio Cruz
 Heller Catch-22
 Hofstadter The Age of Reform
 Hurston Their Eyes Were Watching God
 Lawrence The Plumed Serpent
 Lee To Kill a Mockingbird
 Leuchtenberg FDR and the New Deal
 Lowry Under the Volcano
 Mailer Naked and the Dead
 Matusow The Unravelling of America
 Steinbeck Grapes of Wrath
 Warren All the King's Men
 Wright Native Son

HI560 Interdisciplinary (Extended Essay)						
Version	Campus	Term(s)	Level	Credit (ECTS)	Assessment	Convenor
1	Canterbury	Autumn and Spring	H	30 (15)	100% Project	
2	Canterbury	Autumn and Spring	H	30 (15)	100% Project	Stirrup Dr D

Restrictions

Available only to American Studies students

Synopsis

For details please see the Centre for American Studies course booklet.

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HI665 The American Century: 1970 to the present						
Version	Campus	Term(s)	Level	Credit (ECTS)	Assessment	Convenor
1	Canterbury	Spring	H	30 (15)	50% Coursework, 50% Exam	

Contact Hours

5/6 hours per week

Restrictions

This module is only available to American Studies, Single Honours English and American Literature, Single Honours History and Joint Honours English & History Students

Synopsis

At the start of the twenty-first century the United States is the world's only superpower. Its culture is becoming our global culture; its society excites both fear and fascination. This bridge module examines America from the late 'sixties' to the present in terms of historical and political development, and also in terms of the major literary works and visual culture which reflect the times. As well as general themes which show how the country developed internally and vis-à-vis the rest of the world, topics such as the changing South, urban America, American women and the position of minorities will be examined. The module will use an exciting variety of materials from cultural and historical sources to create an interdisciplinary analysis of the era.

Preliminary Reading

J UPDIKE - 'Rabbit is Rich' and 'Rabbit at Rest'

A TAN - 'The Joy Luck Club'

T WOLFE - 'A Man in Full'

WH CHAFE & H SITKOFF (eds.) - 'A History of Our Time'

JE WIDEMAN - 'Fatheralong'