

2020-21 Humanities Undergraduate Stage 2 & 3 Module Handbook

06 Centre for American Studies

EN665		American Studies: Reputations				
Version	Campus	Term(s)	Level	Credit (ECTS)	Assessment	Convenor
2	Canterbury	Spring	I	30 (15)	75% Coursework, 25% Exam	
2	Canterbury	Autumn	I	30 (15)	75% Coursework, 25% Exam	Mathisen Dr E

Contact Hours

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

Method of Assessment

75% coursework - 2 x 1000 word essays, 1 x 4000 word essay and seminar performance
25% Exam

Preliminary Reading

Cubbit, G and Warren, A. eds., 2000. *Heroic Reputations and Exemplary Lives*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Fine, G.A., 2001. *Difficult Reputations: Collective Memories of the Evil, Inept and controversial*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Pre-requisites

EN303 Introduction to American Studies

Synopsis *

This module will focus upon the historical and cultural reputations of a number of important figures and concepts in American Studies, from Columbian encounter to the twenty-first century. As well as locating these figures (or alternative subjects such as places or ideas) in the context of their own times, the module will also assess the subsequent significance and meaning attached to their lives through the differing interpretations of scholars, writers, artists, filmmakers and the public. The module's focus is on the construction of reputations, using individual subjects as a prism for isolating distinctive moments in the evolution of American identities and discourses. It will deploy a variety of documentary sources, visual representations (including artwork and film), and electronic resources to convey a sense of past individual, national and cultural identities. It will expose tensions between regional, national, and transnational understandings of reputation, and the subjects match up with themes explored in EN303.

HI560		American Studies Extended Essay				
Version	Campus	Term(s)	Level	Credit (ECTS)	Assessment	Convenor
2	Canterbury	Whole Year	H	30 (15)	100% Project	TBA - American Studies

Method of Assessment

100% Project - 7,000 word extended essay

Restrictions

Available only to American Studies final year students

Synopsis *

This module is aimed at all students who have, throughout their first two or three years at Kent, developed academic interests in specific areas or case studies, that may, or may not, have been covered by the range of module options offered by the Centre. In the final year some of you have had the benefit of a semester/year's education in the United States or Canada. You will now be in a position to weave together the different disciplines that make up American Studies. The project must be clearly distinct from work submitted for previous modules. Students will be expected to demonstrate a wide-ranging knowledge of the chosen topic and to situate their own argument in relation to relevant critical debates.

The Extended Essay module is a 'self-study' research-based module in which all students work independently on a research question based on primary source materials and under the supervision of a staff member in the Centre for American Studies. It is conceived as a specialist and in-depth piece of documentary work, which will culminate in a scholarly dissertation and is not tethered to a taught module.

Students will be expected to identify a cogent research question and assemble relevant materials for consultation, interrogate a range of sources and produce an extended piece of work (7,000 words of text, excluding footnotes, bibliography and appendices) that is grounded in interpretative analysis and based on primary research. Furthermore, the emphasis is on a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach. You should bring together at least 2 different methodologies which focus on your chosen topic.