

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	American Studies
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Senior Seminar in American Studies 2
Course Code:	AMS 6297
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	25
Independent Learning Hours:	95
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Senior Seminar in American Studies 2 is the second half of the two-semester sequence of courses taken by American Studies majors in their Senior year, culminating in the submission of a dissertation 8,000 to 10,000 words in length. Students are guided through the various stages of drafting and revising their final dissertation, and orally present their research according to conference standards as part of the formative process.

Prerequisites:

AMS 6296 Senior Seminar in American Studies I

Aims and Objectives:

- To help students develop self-directed and more advanced research and writing strategies that reflect a systematic engagement with a key issue related to their specific interests in American Studies
- To enable students to achieve the submission of a final dissertation, and an oral presentation of their research
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of American Studies
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of interdisciplinary and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in American Studies
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

AMS: 6A(iv); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(ii); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D (i); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Students should demonstrate the ability to carry through their research design that was begun in Senior Seminar in American Studies 1 by using evidence, data and information from a range of primary and secondary sources. Students should present their research findings in an analytical way, revealing their scholarly activities using wide ranging and multiple sources.
- Students should demonstrate their analytical and interpretive skills through this dissertation which is expected to show the development of rational and logical progression of ideas, arguments, and evidence. Students should critically assess the information gathered, extend their ability for critical appraisal, and consolidate their knowledge of their subject based on work from previous courses.
- Students should demonstrate an understanding of theories that are relevant to their topic as well as utilise explicit and identifiable methodological and/or historiographical approaches.
- Student should demonstrate an ability to actively engage in the feedback/editing process in a timely and systematic manner and take responsibility for their own learning and development.
- Students demonstrate the ability to make a coherent and engaging 10-minute oral presentation to their peers in a formal conference-style setting.

Indicative Content:

- Extending research sources
- Developing a clear thesis and inter-disciplinary approach
- Multiple draft writing
- Editing and proofreading
- Oral presentation of research

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Course meetings consist of a few interactive group discussions and oral presentations, but weekly meetings primarily revolve around individual tutorial supervision. The course is student-centred, and students are responsible for time and research self-management as well as for their own engagement with their project. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improve student approach to learning and achieve better results.

Indicative Text:

Greetham, B. (2019) *How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation*. 3rd ed. London: Palgrave.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

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