



BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

Programme Specification

2022-23

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond University, the American International University in London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme.

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically, students take the programme over 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Each undergraduate credit is equivalent, approximately, to 1 classroom contact hour per 15-week semester. On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of the courses in the programme, half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course’s learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at RQF Level 3). US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies
Teaching Institution	Richmond, the American International University in London
Awarding Institution	Richmond, the American International University in London
Date of last validation	30 March 2022
Next revalidation	Spring 2027
Credit points for the award	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
UCAS Code	University Code: R20 American Studies: T700
Programme start date	Fall 2022
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	QAA Benchmark Statement: Area Studies 2019 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-area-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=1ee2cb81_5
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996, 2006, 2016.) QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
Date of production/revision of this specification	July 2022 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** programme at Richmond the American International University in London is a four year programme where the discipline is studied along side a range of other subjects. Progression through the American Studies programme is set out down each of the four columns of the Programme Outcome grid – with level-specific programme outcomes at each of the FHEQ Levels. The programme outcomes are then applied in each course on the American Studies programme through assessed, courses-specific learning outcomes. On successful completion of **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies**, a student is expected to be able to demonstrate all of the Programme Outcomes.

4. MISSION

The **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** is both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary and is directly related to Richmond’s identity as an American International Liberal Arts system university. The major aims to graduate students with a strong grasp of the culture, history and politics of the Americas within a broad context of globalisation. While the primary focus of the major is on North America, this is framed within the context of global interconnections and with reference to the Americas as a whole. The required courses in the major provide a thorough grounding in American culture, history, politics, cultural theory and research methodology. Optional courses allow students to develop and refine their own interests culminating in an extended independent research project. While not a requirement of the degree, opportunities for a Junior year semester abroad are available in the USA, Canada or Argentina. Senior year students achieving the required GPA are encouraged to participate in the university’s Internship Programme. The programme provides a background both for postgraduate study and, via the Internship Programme, for eventual careers.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Liberal Arts programme offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Liberal Arts requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied.

Black = Major requirements

Blue = General Education Liberal Arts Core requirements

Green = Electives/Gen Ed Electives

Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
RQF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AMS 3100	Discovering America: Foundations of American Studies	3	12
PLT 3102	Government, State, Politics	3	12
SCL 3100	Foundations of Sociology	3	12
GEP 3105	Tools for Change	3	12
GEP 3180	Research and Writing I	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 3150	Visual Thinking		
GEP 3170	Narratives of Change		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 3XXX	Any RQF Level 3 ENV course		
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at FHEQ Level 4)		
Plus:			
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
XXX 3XXX	RQF Level 3 Elective	3	12
QCF Level 3 Credit Totals		30	120
FHEQ Level 4		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AVC 4205	Introduction to Visual Culture	3	12
FLM 4205	Film in the Americas	3	12
HST 4101	The Atlantic Slave Trade and Memory	3	12
HST 4102	Versailles to Vietnam: Social History of the USA	3	12
INR 4101	Global Politics in the C21st	3	12
GEP 4180	Research and Writing II	3	12
GEP 4105	Social Change in Practice	3	12
DGT 4120	Data Analysis for Social Change	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
ENV 4XXX	Any FHEQ Level 4 ENV course		
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective (only if satisfying ENV requirement at RQF Level 3)		
Plus:			
XXX 4XXX	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 4 Credit Totals		30	120

Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
FHEQ Level 5		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AMS 5100	Politics and Elections in the USA	3	12
AMS 5400	American Television Drama	3	12
COM 5205	Cultural Theory	3	12
FLM 5200	Mainstream Cinema: Studies in Genre	3	12
Plus one of the following:		3	12
AMS 5101	US and UK Comparative History		
COM 5102	Celebrity, Fan Cultures, and the Media		
FLM 5410	Gender in Film		
FLM 5415	Superhero Cinema		
INR 5104	Globalization and Anti-Globalization		
INR 5101	Conflict & Conflict Resolution		
INR 5105	International Human Rights		
INR 5103	Global Energy Politics		
PLT 5102	Democracy and its Enemies		
PLT 5103	Politics of Environmentalism		
Plus one of the following depending on disciplinary interest:		3	12
HST 5210	Of Myths and Monsters: History of History		
PLT 5201	Research Methods: Social Sciences		
SCL 5200	Social Research		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
GEP 5101	Service Learning: Digital Collaboration		
GEP 5102	Service Learning: Leadership in a Changing World		
GEP 5103	Service Learning: Environment and Society		
GEP 5104	Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration		
Plus:			
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5XXX	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 6	US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
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Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

AMS 6101	The American Presidency	4	16
AMS 6102	American Culture Wars	4	16
AMS 6103	Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary US Art	4	16
HST 6101	Culture, Power and Empire	4	16
AMS 6296	Senior Seminar in American Studies 1	3	12
AMS 6297	Senior Seminar in American Studies 2	3	12
Plus one of the following:		4	16
AMS 6901	World Internship in American Studies		
AMS 6902	Internship in American Studies		
AVC 6102	Non-Western Visual Cultures		
COM 6101	New Media		
INR 6103	Diplomatic Studies		
PLT 6104	Sustainable Development		
PLT 6103	Political Sociology		
Plus:			
XXX 6XXX	FHEQ Level 6 Elective	4	16
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals		30	120

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

7. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completing the **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** students should have:

- A. A THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Acquired a multidisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts, and analytical tools used in American Studies.
- B. A PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Placed the dynamics of social change in the Americas, within a world context, at the centre of analysis.
- C. COGNITIVE SKILLS: Demonstrated multidisciplinary knowledge and understanding of key methods of American Studies, including critical evaluation upon a range of primary and secondary sources.
- D. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Developed a range of communication and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

Theoretical Knowledge Base (A)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of theories, methods and concepts appropriate for the study of the Americas.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of approaches to history and politics in relation to American Studies
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of cultural theory as it relates to American Studies.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of concepts and ideas used in the study of American history and politics.
- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of cultural theory.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers, writers and intellectual paradigms relevant to the study of the Americas.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in various approaches to the study of the Americas
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of how cultural, political and historical processes can be conceptualised at the global level, and the relevance of these to understanding contemporary social, cultural and political debates in USA and the Americas.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic and interdisciplinary understanding of key texts and debates in American Studies.

A Practical Knowledge Base (B)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of social, political, cultural and historical processes relevant to the study of the Americas.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the social, political and economic history and of the USA from the 18th to 21st centuries in an international setting.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of contemporary culture as it pertains to American Studies.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of and critical engagement with US history and politics
- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding and critical engagement with contemporary cultural analysis in the field of American Studies.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of contemporary US history, politics and culture and their significance at the domestic, regional and global levels
- ii. Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, environmental, historical, international, political and social dimensions of American Studies, and of the significance of these for the subject area.
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in the subject area, along with sophisticated application of key theories, concepts and research methods.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in a chosen American Studies related subject area.

Cognitive Skills (C)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communication arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.
- iii. Demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods.
- ii. Delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach.
- iii. Exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts.

- iv. Demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise.

Personal Development (D)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs.

LEVEL 4

- i. Acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas.
- ii. Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- ii. Delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT).

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.
- ii. Demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, including awareness of ethical issues in research activities, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication.
- iii. Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy.

8. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms such as PowerCAMPUS (or Blackboard) in many courses.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course by Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Courses will follow the University Assessment Norms, details of which are listed in each CSD. See [Assessment Norm Policy](#) for full details.

Each senior will end their programme with a dissertation which will normally have 8,000-10,000 words.

9. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admissions

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/>

Transfer Credit

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

10. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US)

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a

major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Certificate of Higher Education in American Studies (UK)

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at RQF Level 3. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the RQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Diploma of Higher Education in American Studies (UK)

The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 15 US/60 UK Level 4 credits and 15 US/60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

11. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services which positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their academic adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each advisee at least once per semester. Advisers assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on postgraduate and career opportunities, and also provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with particular needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counseling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students’ educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

12. PLACEMENT

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

13. STUDY ABROAD

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 40 partnerships spread over five continents, students are able to select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

14. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The **BA (Hons) Degree in American Studies with Combined Studies** is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond the American International University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). *The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education*. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). *Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England*.
- SEEC (2016). *Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education*. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. *Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation*. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners

- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

AMS CORE COURSES
CORE COURSES FROM OTHER AREAS
AMS OPTIONAL COURSES
OPTIONAL COURSES FROM OTHER AREAS

LEVEL 3	AMS 3100 Discovering America: Foundations of American Studies	PLT 3102 Government, State, Politics	SCL 3100 Foundations of Sociology
A3(i)	X		X
B3(i)	X	X	X
C3(i)	X	X	X
D3(i)	X	X	X

LEVEL 4	AVC 4205 Intro to Visual Culture	DGT 4120 Data Analysis for Social Change	FLM 4205 Film in the Americas	HST 4101 The Atlantic Slave Trade and Memory	HST 4102 Versailles to Vietnam: Social History of the USA	INR 4101 Global Politics in the C21st
A4(i)				X	X	X
A4(ii)	X		X			
B4(i)				X	X	X
B4(ii)	X		X			
C4(i)	X	X	X	X	X	X
C4(ii)				X	X	
C4(iii)	X	X	X	X	X	X
D4(i)	X	X	X	X	X	
D4(ii)					X	X
D4(iii)		X		X	X	X

					CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE BELOW:			
Level 5	AMS 5100 Politics and Elections in the USA	AMS 5400 American Television Drama	COM 5205 Cultural Theory	FLM 5200 Mainstream Cinema	PLT 5201 Research Methods: Social Sciences	HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters: History of History	SCL 5200 Social Research	AMS 5101 US and UK Comparative History
A5(i)	X							X
A5(ii)		X	X					
B5(i)	X							X
B5(ii)		X		X				
C5(i)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C5(ii)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
C5(iii)	X	X			X	X	X	X
D5(i)	X	X			X	X	X	X
D5(ii)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
D5(iii)	X	X			X	X	X	

LEVEL 5	COM 5102 Celebrity, Fan Cultures and the Media	FLM 5410 Gender in Film	FLM 5415 Superhero Cinema	INR 5104 Globalization and Anti- Globalization	INR 5101 Conflict and Conflict Resolution	INR 5105 International Human Rights	INR 5103 Global Energy Politics	PLT 5102 Democracy and its Enemies	PLT 5103 Politics of Environmentalism
A5(i)				X				X	X
A5(ii)	X	X	X						
B5(i)				X	X	X	X	X	X
B5(ii)	X	X	X	X					
C5(i)	X		X						
C5(ii)				X	X	X		X	X
C5(iii)		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
D5(i)		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
D5(ii)	X		X	X	X		X	X	
D5(iii)	X								X

Level 6	AMS 6101 The American Presidency	AMS 6102 American Culture Wars	AMS 6296 Senior Seminar 1	AMS 6297 Senior Seminar 2	AMS 6103 Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary US Art	HST 6101 Culture, Power and Empire	AMS 6902/6901 Internship/ World Internship
A6(i)		X			X	X	
A6(ii)	X	X			X		
A6(iii)	X	X				X	
A6(iv)			X	X			
B6(i)	X	X			X	X	
B6(ii)	X	X			X	X	
B6(iii)			X	X			
B6(iv)			X	X			
C6(i)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C6(ii)			X	X			
C6(iii)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C6(iv)	X	X	X	X	X		
D6(i)			X	X			X
D6(ii)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D6(iii)				X		X	X
D6(iv)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

LEVEL 6	AVC 6XXX Non- Western Visual Cultures	COM 6XXX New Media	INR 6XXX Diplomatic Studies	PLT 6XXX Sustainable Development	PLT 6XXX Political Sociology
Ai					
Aii	X				X
Aiii		X	X		
Aiv					X
Bi			X		X
Bii	X	X		X	X
Biii				X	
Biv					
Ci	X		X		X
Cii	X			X	X
Ciii	X		X		X
Civ	X	X		X	
Di	X			X	
Dii	X	X	X	X	X
Diii	X	X		X	X
Div				X	X

APPENDIX 2: KILO KPO OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT MAPPING BA AMERICAN STUDIES WITH COMBINED STUDIES

KILO KPO OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT MAPPING BA AMERICAN STUDIES WITH COMBINED STUDIES						
Key Institutional Learning Outcome (Standard V) Assessment Requirement)	MSCHE Standard III Design Requirement	Key Programme Outcomes BA International Relations	Programme Outcomes	How will it be assessed (grades without a rubric do not count, please list courses that will be included)?	When will it be assessed	Changes stemming from assessment results
KILO 1: Critical Thinking: Demonstrate the ability to use appropriate methods to gather and organise ideas and information to ask, explore, and answer questions.	Critical Analysis and Reasoning	Engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the subject area	A4(i), B4(i), C4(i), (ii), (iii), D4(i), (ii), (iii) A5(i), B5(i), C5(i), (ii), (iii), D5(i), (ii), (iii) A6(i), (iii), B6(i), (ii), C6(i), (iii), (iv), D6(ii), (iv)	HST 4102 Versailles to Vietnam: Social History of the USA (Assessed through <i>ESSAY</i>) AMS 5100 Politics and Elections in the USA (Assessed through <i>EXTENDED BOOK REVIEW 1</i>) AMS 6102 American Culture Wars (Assessed through <i>BOOK REVIEW</i>)	22/23	

<p>KILO 3: Research and Writing: Demonstrate the ability to work independently and use appropriate research skills and methodologies.</p>	<p>Oral and Written Communication</p>	<p>The ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>A6(ii), (iii), B6(i), (ii), C6(i), (iii), (iv), D6(ii), (iv)</p> <p>A6(iv), B6(iii), (iv), C6(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), D6(i), (ii), (iv)</p>	<p>GEP 4180 Research and Writing II (Assessed through <i>FINAL ASSIGNMENT</i>)</p> <p>AMS 6101 The American Presidency (Assessed through <i>TERM PAPER 1</i>)</p> <p>AMS 6296 Senior Seminar 1 (Assessed through <i>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</i>)</p>		
<p>KILO 4: Sustainability: Demonstrate an understanding of environmental, community, and individual sustainability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future.</p>	<p>Scientific Reasoning</p>	<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability in theory and practice.</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>ENV 4100 Endangered Species, Ecology and Conservation (Assessed through <i>FINAL EXAM</i>)</p>		
<p>KILO 5: Quantitative: Interpret, analyse, and communicate quantitative information using mathematical, statistical, or symbolic reasoning.</p>	<p>Quantitative Reasoning</p>	<p>Interpret, analyse, and communicate quantitative information using a range of tools and strategies.</p>	<p>C4(i), C4(iii), D4(i), D4(iii)</p>	<p>DGT 4120 Data Analysis for Social Change (Assessed through <i>TBD</i>)</p>		
<p>KILO 6: Creative Thinking: Approach challenges with intellectual curiosity to make connections and find hidden relationships</p>	<p>Creative Thinking</p>	<p>A creative, interdisciplinary approach to linking theories and practices</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>GEP 3170 Narratives of Change (Assessed through <i>SHORT PAPER</i>)</p>		

between seemingly unrelated fields.			TBC A6(i), (ii), B6(i), (ii), C6(i), (iii), (iv), D6(ii), (iv)	GEP 5104 Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration (Assessed through <i>TBD</i>) AMS 6103 Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary US Art (Assessed by <i>RESEARCH ESSAY</i>)		
KILO 7: Ethics and Diversity: Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of ethical judgment and use ethical judgment to inform decisions	Cultural and Global Sensitivity	Ability to engage in ethical judgement and consideration of diversity and inclusiveness both in their own work and in reflection to courses,	A4(i), B4(i), C4(i), (ii), (iii), D4(i), (iii) A6(iv), B6(iii), (iv), C6(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), D6(i), (ii), (iv)	HST 4101 The Atlantic Slave Trade and Memory (Assessed through <i>PRIMARY DOCUMENT EXERCISE</i>) AMS 6296 Senior Seminar 1 (Assessed though <i>RESEARCH PROPOSAL</i>)		
KILO 8: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Education: Creatively solve problems, act with autonomy and be a skillful contributor, planner and/or manager		Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternative, and plan and implement actions.	TBC TBC	GEP 5104 Service Learning: Global Citizenship and Migration (Assessed through <i>TBD</i>) AMS 6902/6901 Internship / World Internship in International Relations (Assessed through <i>TBD</i>)		

Programme Specification Publication Dates

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