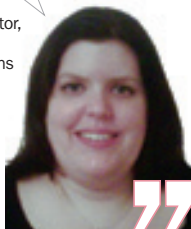


American studies

Lesley's career perspective

'My time at Sussex was not only personally rewarding and hugely enjoyable, it also armed me with a set of skills that have proved invaluable during my career as a PR consultant. I originally applied to Sussex because of the outstanding reputation of the degree programme, and found that the interdisciplinary approach opened up even more perspectives on the American experience. The skills I developed along the way – such as learning to manage my time effectively, independent, lateral and creative thinking, and presentation skills – are brought into play every day of my working life.'

Lesley Land
Account Director,
Taylor Herring
Public Relations



Oliver's perspective

'I chose American Studies at Sussex to learn from academics who have made groundbreaking contributions to their fields.'

'I particularly enjoy the seminars – the tutors are very passionate about their subject matter, and some topics can create heated debates! My passion is for African-American history, politics and culture, an area I've been encouraged to research further.'

'I've also had the opportunity to study abroad at one of the many prestigious institutions offered in the US, submerging myself in American college life and making a great network of contacts in my field – definitely a highlight of the degree.'

Oliver Hypolite-Bishop
BA in American
Studies



Essentials

What American studies degrees are there?

American Studies
American Studies and English
American Studies and Film Studies
American Studies and History
American Studies and Politics

What degrees can I take with American studies as a minor?

Law with American Studies (3 years) (p89)
Law with American Studies (4 years) (p89)
Psychology with American Studies (p117)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: AAB-ABB

For American Studies and English, A levels (or equivalent) must include English, English Literature or the combined A level in English Language and Literature, grade A

Typical IB diploma offer range: 34-36 points

For American Studies and English, 34-36 points including 6 in Higher Level English

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the subject coordinator:
E ug.admissions@americanstudies.sussex.ac.uk

T +44 (0)1273 678841
F +44 (0)1273 678434

American studies, Arts A7, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/americanstudies

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787



Why American studies?

The United States is the sole superpower in the 21st century and its political, economic and cultural influence is increasingly pervasive and important to us all, wherever we may live. Studying American history, culture and society in the context of the Americas provides much needed understanding of how an increasingly interconnected world has come to be the way it is.

Why American studies at Sussex?

- Sussex is ranked among the top 5 universities in the UK for American studies: 3rd in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*, 4th in *The Times Good University Guide 2011*, and 5th in *The Guardian University Guide 2011*.
- American studies at Sussex was rated 1st in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 95 per cent of our research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and one-third rated as world leading.
- We are among the UK's leading research centres in the study of American literature and history.
- International faculty, including both American and European scholars, provide you with a range of critical perspectives.
- We offer you the opportunity to specialise in your preferred field: literature and culture or history and politics.
- We have the most extensive Year Abroad scheme of any American studies programme in the UK.
- The experience of studying on the Year Abroad scheme gives our graduates a competitive advantage in the job market.

What sort of career could I have?

- broadcast and print media journalism
- teaching
- television and film production
- finance and industry
- public relations
- political administration.

How will I learn?

Initially, courses are taught by lectures and classes, giving you a structured approach to the topic. As you progress, more teaching is conducted in seminars, so you have scope to demonstrate your oral and presentation skills, as well as your ability to work in groups. You spend your third year at a university in the Americas, where a variety of teaching methods and tests are used. Back at Sussex in your final year you are taught in small seminar groups and through individual supervision.

Assessment includes coursework, short essays, take-away papers, unseen exams and in-class tests in Years 1 and 2, with longer essays and dissertations in your final year to reflect your increasing ability to work independently and to design your own projects.

As you become more experienced, your marks will carry more weight: you have to pass your first year to progress into the second, but only the work done in Years 2, 3 and 4 will count towards your final degree. Marks in the final year are more heavily weighted than in Years 2 and 3.

Graffiti on a mail box in Brooklyn, New York

Core courses

If you take American studies as part of a joint degree, you spend half your time taking American studies courses and half taking courses from your joint subject. If American studies is your minor subject, you take American studies interdisciplinary courses plus the lecture series in the first two years, so that you are well prepared for your year abroad. You do not specialise in a particular track.

Courses currently include:

Year 1

You take survey courses covering America's beginnings until the late 19th century, focusing on either literature and culture or history and politics.

Alongside, you take a course that considers American visual culture, and American Humour, which opens up a host of issues – political, historical, psychological and philosophical – in the study of American culture.

A lecture series entitled Foundations of America serves as a comprehensive introduction to American studies for both major and minor students.

Year 2

As in Year 1, you take survey courses in your specialist track, now covering the period from the mid 19th century until the present.

You also choose two courses combining the study of literature, history, culture and politics in various ways. For example, the African-American freedom struggle, the American West, or issues of gender.

The lecture series America in the 20th Century follows on from your lectures in Year 1.

Year 3

Individual study programme on the year abroad.

Year 4

An important part of your work in your final year is writing a dissertation on a topic of your choice with individual supervision. You also choose options from a range of specialist courses.

What will I achieve?

- knowledge of the US in the context of the Americas across a range of topics and historical periods
- an appreciation and understanding of the ways in which different fields of study combine to give a deeper understanding of American culture, history, literature and society
- the educational, cultural and social experience of a year abroad
- the ability to recognise, represent and reflect on ideas and concepts from other cultures and periods, and to analyse texts within their historical, social and cultural context
- the skills you need to learn independently and to communicate clearly what you have learned.

If you choose to specialise in literature and culture, you will learn to analyse and reflect critically on a range of forms and genres, from poetry and the novel to film and other forms of popular culture. You will understand the contexts in which literary texts and other forms of cultural expression are produced and received, as well as different theories and critical methods that you can use in your reading.

If you choose to specialise in history and politics, you will gain knowledge of American history from colonial times through to the present day. You will learn to use different historical methods and develop awareness of historical specialisms (ie social, political, economic, gender, oral, and intellectual history). Most of all, you will understand America's past, but will also be able to analyse historical processes that have given rise to the major political and social challenges facing today's global society.

Degrees

American Studies BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: T700

This is our most popular American Studies degree, in which you can develop your knowledge of the US in the context of the Americas to the fullest extent. You specialise from the beginning in literature and culture or history and politics, but in order to enable you to work across subjects as well, you also take interdisciplinary courses on American topics throughout your degree programme.

Lectures and classes in Years 1 and 2 cover American history and politics, literature and culture right up to contemporary events. Within the course structure described in the core courses list, you also have options in Years 1 and 2 in complementary subjects such as cultural studies, English, film studies and media, politics, or history. These, together with the interdisciplinary courses, broaden your knowledge and increase your choices.

You spend Year 3 abroad, where you choose your own programme of study in consultation with your Sussex tutors. Returning to Sussex for your final year, you take specialist options in your chosen track, as well as interdisciplinary courses, and you write a dissertation on a topic of your choice.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for more details.

American Studies and English BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: TQ73

This degree gives you the opportunity to study a range of literature in English from different periods. You learn to appreciate literary genres and forms – including poetry, drama, the novel and the short story – and understand the contexts within which literary texts are produced and read, as well as the ways in which they interact with other media. You complement this with a specialised knowledge of the literature and culture of the US in the context of the Americas.

First-year courses introduce you to the systematic study of English and American literature, with courses on modern English literature and American culture in Year 2. After your year abroad you take in-depth special options in your final year.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of American studies courses; refer to the English subject entry on page 67 for more information on these courses.



Martin Luther King was a prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. He established himself as one of the greatest orators in US history when he delivered his *I Have a Dream* speech in Washington in 1963.

American Studies and Film Studies BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: TP73

In this programme you gain insight into the history, literature and culture of the US in the context of the Americas and, in addition, you learn to read visual images on film and study the cinematic experience. The film studies elements of the programme offer a firm foundation in visual literacy, film genres and film theory, by introducing you to a diverse range of film-making and viewing across the globe.

In Year 1, you focus on the technical aspects of film analysis, and you study aspects of the history of film and of cinema from different cultures. In Year 2, you look at issues of film theory and genre in greater depth, before moving on to explore a range of cinematic practices. Alongside this, you select American studies courses from options that include modern American history, culture and literature. During your final year, you have the opportunity to work on a dissertation on a topic agreed with your supervisor, and you choose from a range of film options.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of American studies courses; refer to the film studies entry on page 73 for more information on these courses.

American Studies and History BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: TV71

This degree aims to give you a knowledge and understanding of the human past, and awareness and understanding of historical processes that have a bearing on the present. You learn to reflect on differing interpretations of the medium and distant past and come to appreciate the rich diversity of historical specialisms including social, economic, cultural, political, intellectual, gender, oral and environmental history. You combine the study of British, European and comparative history with a specialised knowledge of the US in the context of the Americas across a range of disciplines and historical periods.

First-year courses introduce you to the systematic study of British, American and European history, with courses on modern American history and American culture in Year 2. After your year in a North American university you take in-depth special options in your final year, including a document-based special subject in history.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of American studies courses; refer to the history subject entry on page 78 for more information on these courses.

American Studies and Politics BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: TL7F

This degree focuses on the importance of politics and places its study in a wider context of American historical and political development. You gain an understanding of modern political thought and of key developments in modern British and American political history. You also learn to analyse events, ideas, institutions and practices in the political world.

Refer to the core courses list on the left for details of American studies courses; refer to the politics subject entry on page 111 for more information on these courses.