

**CDA4 Programme Design Template
Module specification (with KIS)**



University of the
West of England

CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Contemporary American Narrative				
Module Code	UPGPPA-30-3	Level	3	Version	7
Owning Faculty	ACE	Field	English		
Contributes towards	BA Hons English BA Hons English and History BA Hons English and Journalism BA Hons English and English Language BA Hons English and Philosophy BA Hons Drama and English				
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	Module Type	Standard
Pre-requisites	UGPPQ-60-1 Literature, Creativity and Critique UGPPT-30-1 Creativity, Critique and Literature UGPPU-30-3 Literature and Ideas UGPPH-30-2 Forms of Reading/Reading Forms	Co- requisites			
Excluded Combinations		Module Entry requirements			
Valid From	September 2014	Valid to			

CAP Approval Date	18 March 2014
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Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a critical understanding of the social, economic and aesthetic issues that have shaped American literature since 1975 (Components A and B); 2. an engagement with the key debates concerning the nature and purpose of

	<p>American fiction in the period, involving an examination of selected critical essays and reviews of the literature under consideration (Components A and B);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. a knowledge of the major writers on the module, and the relevant texts, in relation to their historical context (Components A and B); 4. an ability to read fiction critically and self-consciously, and to discuss and write about the challenge of handling interpretative difficulties within a framework of competing theoretical views on the nature and purpose of reading fiction at an academic level (Components A and B); 5. an ability to critically reflect on cultural mediums including film, when discussing literary texts (Component A and B); 6. research skills appropriate to a level 3 module (Components A and B); 7. an ability to engage actively with peers in group work (Component A); 8. excellent presentation skills, including the oral delivery of critical and independent readings of primary and secondary sources (Component A); 9. in the writing of assignments: the judicious use of primary and secondary material; organisational skills; sustained relevance; and a capacity for handling assignment questions with critical scepticism (Component B).
Syllabus Outline	<p>Through literary analysis the module will examine the social and cultural shifts in America from the post-Vietnam era to the present, particularly in relation to the move from "Full" to "Flexible Fordism, or the generalisation of consumption as an available way of life. The course will develop a theoretical understanding of narrative structure, focusing on the changing representation of war and its aftermath; the effects of commodification on everyday life; the city as a spectacle and location of commodity aesthetics; the acknowledgment of, and resistance to, regional change, and the reaction of marginalised voices to increased consumerism. Students will explore these issues through a variety of mediums, including filmic adaptations of literary texts and visual representations of the contemporary American scene.</p>
Contact Hours	<p>There will be a total of 72 contact hours for each student over the course of the module.</p> <p>Teaching will take place in rooms designed for interactive activities including group work.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>Scheduled learning will take place through lectures, workshops and seminars.</p> <p>The delivery will include technical training in tools such as Adobe Desktop Publishing and the Photoshop suite</p>
Key Information Sets Information	<p>Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.</p>

Key Information Set - Module data

Number of credits for this module

20

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
300	72	228	0	300



The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

Written Exam: Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test

Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project

Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Total assessment of the module:

Written exam assessment percentage

0%

Coursework assessment percentage

75%

Practical exam assessment percentage

25%

100%

Reading Strategy

The limited number of essential texts that students must purchase will be made available to students in advance of the module's start date.

Students will also be encouraged to use electronic sources (such as LION, JSTOR, Project MUSE) – detailed references for which can be found in the module handbook as well as on UWEOnline. Students will also be advised to make full use of the library search engine and other searches (i.e. MLA) to find relevant further secondary material for assignment purposes.

Indicative Reading List

Annesley, James. (1998) *Blank Fictions: Consumerism, Culture and the Contemporary American Novel*. London: Pluto Press.

Aronson, Ronald. 1983. *The Dialectics of Disaster: A Preface to Hope*. London: Verso.

Bilton, Alan. 2002. *An Introduction to Contemporary American Fiction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Bradbury, Malcolm. 1987. *Contemporary American Fiction*. Stratford: Hodder Arnold.

Grice, Helena, Candida Hepworth, Maria Lauret and Martin Padget, eds. 2001. *Beginning Ethnic American Literatures*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Harvey, David. 1997. *The Condition of Postmodernity*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Lee, A. Robert. 2003. *Multicultural American Literature*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Millard, Kenneth. 2000. *Contemporary American Fiction: An Introduction to American Fiction since 1970*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Vickroy, Laurie. 2002. *Trauma and Survival in Contemporary Fiction*. Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press.

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	<p><u>Component A</u></p> <p>This assessed group presentation tests students' ability to work in teams, to develop critically nuanced arguments, and to demonstrate excellent presentation skills. Students also practice their multimedia skills through the use of tools such as PowerPoint and Prezzi.</p> <p><u>Component B</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critical Intervention: this assignment offers students the opportunity to test their critical, analytical skills. They complete either a 2000 word close reading essay or they design a book jacket in conjunction with a 1000 word critical rationale. 2. The Independent Study requires students to develop their own essay question with staff guidance. Students have to write on three texts, one of which may be a film. This final assignment allows students to develop their own independent, critical approach to the module texts and themes.
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Identify final assessment component and element		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A: 25%	B: 75%
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Group Seminar Presentation	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Critical Intervention (2000 word essay or Book Jacket Design and 1000 word rationale)	33%	
2. Independent Study (3000 words)	67%	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Examination (Unseen) (1.5 hours)	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Critical Intervention (2000 word essay or Book Jacket Design and 1000 word rationale)	33%	
2. Independent Study (3000 words)	67%	

If a student is permitted an **EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE** of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.