



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Contemporary American Narrative		
Module Code	UPGPPA-30-3	Level	Level 6
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education	Field	English
Department	Creative & Cultural Industries		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	Culture, Sustainability and Consumption 2020-21		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

Part 2: Description

Overview: 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.

Educational Aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline Syllabus: 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.

Teaching and Learning Methods: There will be a total of 72 contact hours for each student over the course of the module. Teaching will take place in rooms designed for interactive activities including group work.

Scheduled learning will take place through lectures, workshops and seminars.

The delivery will include technical training in tools such as Adobe Desktop Publishing and the Photoshop suite

Part 3: Assessment

Component A

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.

Component B

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.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B	✓	50 %	Independent Study (3000 words)
Written Assignment - Component B		25 %	Critical Intervention (2000 word essay or Book Jacket Design and 1000 word rationale)
Presentation - Component A		25 %	Group Seminar Presentation

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Written Assignment - Component B	✓	50 %	Independent study (3000 words)
Written Assignment - Component B		25 %	Critical Intervention (2000 word essay or Book Jacket Design and 1000 word rationale)
Written Assignment - Component A		25 %	Written assignment that tests students' understanding of critical and literary texts.

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Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods																					
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Module Learning Outcomes</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A critical understanding of the social, economic and aesthetic issues that have shaped American literature since 1975</td> <td>MO1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An engagement with the key debates concerning the nature and purpose of American fiction in the period, involving an examination of selected critical essays and reviews of the literature under consideration</td> <td>MO2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A knowledge of the major writers on the module, and the relevant texts, in relation to their historical context</td> <td>MO3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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</td> <td>MO4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An ability to critically reflect on cultural mediums including film, when discussing literary texts</td> <td>MO5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research skills appropriate to a level 3 module</td> <td>MO6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An ability to engage actively with peers in group work</td> <td>MO7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excellent presentation skills, including the oral delivery of critical and independent readings of primary and secondary sources</td> <td>MO8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>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</td> <td>MO9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference	A critical understanding of the social, economic and aesthetic issues that have shaped American literature since 1975	MO1	An engagement with the key debates concerning the nature and purpose of American fiction in the period, involving an examination of selected critical essays and reviews of the literature under consideration	MO2	A knowledge of the major writers on the module, and the relevant texts, in relation to their historical context	MO3	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	MO4	An ability to critically reflect on cultural mediums including film, when discussing literary texts	MO5	Research skills appropriate to a level 3 module	MO6	An ability to engage actively with peers in group work	MO7	Excellent presentation skills, including the oral delivery of critical and independent readings of primary and secondary sources	MO8	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	MO9
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Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgppa-30-3.html</p>																				

Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Language and Literature [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English and History [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

Liberal Arts [Sep][FT] [Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English and Philosophy [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2017-18

English and Journalism [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2017-18

Drama and English [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] - Not Running BA (Hons) 2017-18

English with Writing [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English and English Language [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19