



Module Specification

Contemporary American Literature

Version: 2027-28, v3.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary American Literature

Module code: UGPPA-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2027-28

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Arts

Partner institutions: None

Field: English

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Through literary analysis, the module will examine the social, political, and cultural shifts in the United States from the 1970s to today.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Students will develop an advanced understanding of theoretical approaches to literature and will read a range of texts by canonical and emerging authors to develop a critical understanding of contemporary revisions to the

American literary canon. The module covers a variety of topics including war, race, economics, culture, and politics.

Outline syllabus: The varied syllabus provides students with opportunities to theoretically explore a diverse range of contemporary American literature and, as a contemporary literature module, its authors and texts will always be under review to ensure the syllabus remains current and relevant to the most recent debates in the US.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching and learning will be delivered through a combination of lecture, workshop, seminar, and tutorial formats as appropriate. Student learning will be supported by the university's VLE, where reading lists, weekly preparation, teaching slides, and lecture recordings are hosted. Students can also access assessment briefs from the start of teaching and will be offered bespoke assessment advice during scheduled teaching time. In addition, students will be encouraged to discuss their teaching and learning with the module teaching team in person or online.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Apply knowledge of the development of contemporary American fiction.

MO2 Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of historical, cultural, and social contexts that inform contemporary American literature.

MO3 Critically evaluate existing theories, synthesise diverse perspectives, and generate insights that contribute to an understanding of the field of contemporary American fiction.

MO4 Confidently engage with relevant debates around the marketing and reception of contemporary American literature.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Staff-guided learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment is a portfolio. This is designed to test various learning outcomes and areas of the module curriculum.

The portfolio enables students to demonstrate critical understanding of the reception and/or the marketing of a text on the module and their advanced knowledge and research into contemporary American literature. The portfolio may include an essay, creative writing with critical commentary, book jacket design with rationale, poster with critical commentary, and/or podcast with critical commentary.

Formative assessment: In advance of the final deadlines, students will be offered assessment consultations to discuss their plans, and the opportunity to receive feedback on one page of their work.

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Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio comprising 2 elements. 5000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio comprising 2 elements. 5000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Literature [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26