



Module Specification

Contemporary American Narrative

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary American Narrative

Module code: UGPPA-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

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 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.

Features: Not applicable

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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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

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

MO1 A critical understanding of the social, economic and aesthetic issues that have shaped American literature since 1975

MO2 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

MO3 A knowledge of the major writers on the module, and the relevant texts, in relation to their historical context

MO4 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

MO5 An ability to critically reflect on cultural mediums including film, when discussing literary texts

MO6 Research skills appropriate to a level 3 module

MO7 An ability to engage actively with peers in group work

MO8 Excellent presentation skills, including the oral delivery of critical and independent readings of primary and secondary sources

MO9 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

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgppa-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upgppa-30-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The 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. The use of these tools and nature of collaboration will make it difficult to plagiarise.

The Critical Intervention offers students the opportunity to test their critical, analytical skills. They complete either a 2000-word close reading essay or an equivalent option: options may include book jacket design with a rationale, and a product pitch.

The Independent Study offers students a selection of options to display their own

independent, critical approach to their chosen texts and themes. Indicative options might include a 3000-word essay, a 3000-word creative writing with rationale, and a Book Club Podcast with rationale. The level of independence and skills which need to be demonstrate on both the written assignments will reduce the risk of plagiarism.

Assessment tasks:**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Independent Study (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO9

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Critical Intervention (2000 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO9

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Group seminar presentation (5 minutes)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Group seminar presentation (5 minutes)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Independent study (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO9

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Critical Intervention (2000 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO9

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English and History [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English Literature with Writing [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English Language and Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English and History [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English and History {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Literature with Writing [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Literature with Writing {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons)
2020-21

English Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Literature {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Language and Literature [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Language and Literature {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons)
2020-21

English and History [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2021-22

English and History {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons)
2021-22

English Literature {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Language and Literature [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn BA (Hons)
2021-22

English Language and Literature {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn
BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

English Literature with Writing {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons)
2021-22

English Literature with Writing [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

English Literature [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23