

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**Bachelor of Arts Programme in American Studies****CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

American Studies consists of six types of courses. American Studies courses are mainly 6-credits, though there is also a 12-credit course. A range of 120-180 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Students must complete 240-360 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for a 12-credit course.

The teaching/learning mode of the majority of courses is lecture and seminar, tutorial if required, supplemented by directed activities and private study. 6-credit courses normally have 24-36 hours of contact, except for the field trip course that has around 6-12 hours of contact as students conduct independent research and preparatory activities. Contact hours are normally in a range of 6-24 hours for 12-credit courses, because students do independent research work under the guidance of a supervisor. All American Studies courses without exception are assessed with 100% continuous assessment, with the bulk, especially in second and third years, consisting of research papers. As a general guide, regardless of the teaching method used, the total output should be not more than 7,000 words for a 6-credit course and not more than 15,000 words for a 12-credit course. The relevant six course categories are:

1. *Survey courses* (6 credits)

These introductory courses focus on fostering detailed historical and cultural knowledge of the United States within the framework established by foundational surveys. Teaching usually consists of lectures, tutorials/screenings. Assessment varies from in-class tests to short assignments to essays with an output of not more than 5,000 words.

2. *Seminar courses* (6 credits)

These specialist courses focus on a more research-intensive methodology and more independent work on part of the students. Teaching usually consists of lectures and tutorials/screenings. Assessment usually includes oral presentations, short writing assignments, in-class participation, and a research paper with a total output of not more than 7,000 words.

3. *Field Trip course* (6 credits)

This non-compulsory course aims to combine cultural exposure in the classroom with an opportunity to take a 2-week trip to the United States. Teaching usually consists of lectures, seminars, site visits, and tutorials/screenings. Assessment typically combines research work, student presentations and post-trip write-up, with a total output of not more than 7,000 words.

4. *Dissertation course* (12 credits)

This independent-study course allows a given student to pursue a supervised year-long program of study and research. Assessment is by proposal and bibliography, and by an extensive research project of not more than 15,000 words.

5. *Internship* (6 credits)

During the semester prior to the internship (internship duration must be at least three weeks full time or include a minimum of 120 hours part-time), students will pursue individualized

research related to the industry of their hosting organization under the supervision of a mentor, typically (though not necessarily) an American Studies Programme instructor or board member. Through readings students will study theoretical frameworks from American Studies disciplines that are suited to analyzing the industry in question. Students will present their preparatory research in a short essay, which includes their expectations for the internship. During the internship, students will write a journal in which they reflect critically on their day-to-day experiences. To conclude, students write a second essay after the internship in which they summarize their experiences and compare them to their expectations as stated in the first essay with a total combined output of no more than 7,000 words. The host institution's evaluation of the intern's performance will be included in the assessment.

6. *Research course: capstone* (6 credits)

This is the programme's capstone course, which is designed to cap students' university careers with a rigorous, interdisciplinary and theme-based program of study. Students will deepen their research and writing skills, conduct discussion sessions, participate in intensive group work, participate in a mentoring program and continue to hone the critical thinking skills nurtured during their education in American Studies. Assessment ranges from oral presentations and regular assignments to research papers with a total output of not more than 7,000 words.

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