

Undergraduate & Postgraduate Handbook

American Studies Programme

2011 – 2012

The University of Hong Kong
School of Modern Languages and Cultures
American Studies Programme
Room 706, 7/F, KK Leung Building
Pokfulam Road
Hong Kong SAR

General Enquiries:

Tel. (+852) 2859-2000

Fax (+852) 2548-0487

www.hku.hk/amstudy/

Programme Director:

Dr Kendall Johnson

kjohnson@hku.hk



SCHOOL OF
MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
FACULTY OF ARTS, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Handbook 2011 – 2012



Table of Contents

Foreword	3
Links to North America	4
Academic Staff Profiles	5
Requirements for the Major in American Studies	7
Requirements for the Minor in American Studies	9
American Studies Course Descriptions	10
Departmental Elective Courses	19
Postgraduate Studies	20

Cover photographs:

The Golden Gate Bridge by night: Copyright © 2004 Daniel Schwen

San Francisco, Calif., Mar. 1942: Copyright © 1942 Dorothea Lange – Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-23602

Charging Bull: Copyright © 2006 David Prior

Sunset on Hollywood: Copyright © 2009 Scott Catron

The information in this handbook is correct at time of going to print but is subject to change without notice. Students should check the official syllabus to confirm requirements and options in effect for any given academic year.

Foreword

Unique in Hong Kong, the American Studies Programme provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American culture and society that is inspired by liberal arts commitments to intellectual rigor and creativity. With a focus on such facets of American life and culture as literature, history, film, art, popular culture, geography, politics and business, the Programme seeks to develop a variety of perspectives on and critiques of American culture and its role in international affairs.

Our first-year course AMER1050 lays a foundation for the study of American culture, beginning centuries ago with the first encounters between Native Americans and Europeans and moving to consider the political landscape of the twenty-first century. In our courses, we explore contemporary American issues and events using a variety of approaches, media and disciplines. Instruction is always friendly, interactive and at the introductory level does not presuppose expertise in the subject. Our courses rely on students' everyday familiarity with many aspects of American literature, film, politics and material culture, typically focusing on contemporary issues in cinema, consumer culture, youth culture, business and immigrant experience.

Second and third year courses continue to build toward a major in American Studies. They also rely on interdisciplinary and comparative approaches, often mediated through team-teaching and guest lectures. In the second year, AMER2050 continues to lay the groundwork for defining American culture both historically and theoretically, moving from the United States Civil War to the present. With a foundation in place, the third-year Senior Seminar AMER3050 narrows the focus to powerful cultural themes that enable students to draw on what they have learned in order to delve deeply into the texts and contexts of American life.

In the years it is offered, students in the American Studies Programme may also take a study-travel field course. As part of the course, we will travel together to various parts of the United States during the summer semester and gain through immersion valuable firsthand experience of North American culture, history, and urban life. With small classes, personal instruction, high intellectual standards and a friendly atmosphere, American Studies imparts a multi-disciplinary understanding of cultural life while equipping students with critical thinking abilities that are crucial to success both in future graduate studies and most professional careers.

I wish you all a successful 2011 – 2012 academic year and look forward to meeting you in my classes.

Dr Kendall Johnson
Programme Director

Links to North America

American Studies students are encouraged to take advantage of the many links that exist between the University of Hong Kong and various institutions in North America. Opportunities for study and student exchange in Canada and the United States are available through the Office of International Student Exchange, the Faculty of Arts and through a number of individual departments within the Faculty. For a full list of partner institutions, please visit: <http://www3.hku.hk/oise/eng/intro.php>.

During the summer semesters, we conduct the American Studies Field Trip under the theme of "Colonial and Modern American Cities: Philadelphia, New York and Boston". During the study tour, University of Hong Kong students visit three of America's most historic and culturally vibrant cities.

The American Studies Programme benefits from the support of the U.S. Government and the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong through their granting of an annual lecturing/research Fulbright award to the Programme. The Fulbright Visiting Scholar for the American Studies Programme 2011-2012 is Dr. Monica Chiu of the University of New Hampshire.

Locally, aspects of the Fulbright Program are administered by the Hong Kong–America Center. Working closely with the U.S. Consulate and Hong Kong government, the Center promotes mutual understanding between Hong Kong and American societies and conducts educational and cultural exchange programmes across the disciplines involving its eight member universities in Hong Kong; it also assists Fulbright activities in China. The Center is located on the campus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and its Executive Director is Dr. Glenn Shive. For more information, please visit: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkac/>.

The American Studies Programme participates in the U.S. Consulate's Speaker Program which invites U.S. speakers who are acknowledged experts in their respective fields to give talks at various venues in Hong Kong. In 2009-2010, the American Studies Programme welcomed a number of distinguished guest speakers, including Hugh Williams, Consular Section Chief in Hong Kong, and the leading political analysts David Frum and Ruy Teixeira. Several Fulbright Scholars hosted by other tertiary institutions in Hong Kong also spoke at the University of Hong Kong under the auspices of the American Studies Seminar Series in 2010-11.

The University's Main Library (<http://lib.hku.hk/>) comprises a comprehensive collection of materials related to the field of American Studies, and the School's self-access learning facilities located in Meng Wah Complex include a selection of contemporary American films and television series (<http://www.hku.hk/smlctech>). The American Studies Programme owns copies of a small number of rare films which can be used for screenings.

Staff Profiles



Dr Kendall Johnson

Head of School
Programme Director
Associate Professor

Room 706, 7/F, KK Leung Building, Tel. (+852) 2857-8567
kjohnson@hku.hk

- **Academic Profile**

Dr Johnson has degrees from Michigan (BA Hons) and Pennsylvania (MA and PhD) Universities. He is affiliated with the American Studies Association (ASA) and the Modern Language Association (MLA).

- **Previous Posts**

Prior to joining the University of Hong Kong, Dr Johnson was an Associate Professor of Early American Literature at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania. He has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania and was Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor in American Studies at the University of Hong Kong for the 2008-2009 academic year.

- **Research Interests**

American literature and studies, colonial through early-twentieth centuries; Native American literatures; race studies; law and U.S. literature; anthropology and literature; visual aesthetics; postcolonial theory; urban studies; history of the novel.

- **Publications**

His most recent single-authored book *Henry James and the Visual* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2007. He is also the contributing editor of *Narratives of Free Trade: The Commercial Cultures of Early US-Chinese Relations* (Hong Kong University Press, 2011). Other publications include the *Critical Companion to Henry James* (FactsOnFile 2009, with Eric L. Haralson) and several essays on Native American literature, among them "Imagining Self and Community in Native American Autobiography" which was published in *The Columbia Guide to American Indian Literatures of the United States Since 1945* (Columbia University Press 2006, ed. Eric Cheyfitz). He is currently conducting research on early United States trade and diplomacy in Canton for his next book.

Staff Profiles



Dr Monica Chiu

Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor
Associate Professor of English, Director of the University
Honors Program, University of New Hampshire

Room 818A, 8/F, KK Leung Building, Tel. (+852) 2219 4252
chium@hku.hk

- PhD (Emory) , MA (Binghamton, New York), BA (College of St. Catherine)
- Research Interests: Asian American literature, criticism, film, popular culture, and 20th century American literature



Dr Tim Gruenewald

Part-time Lecturer

Room 706, 7/F, KK Leung Building, Tel. (+852) 2859 2000
tgruene@hku.hk

- PhD (Washington), MA (Emory)
- Research Interests: American and German film, television, and literature of the 20th century; race and nationality; genocide studies

Honorary Associate Professor

Dr. Stacilee Ford

PhD (Hong Kong), EdD (Columbia), EdM (Harvard), BA (Brigham Young)

Honorary Lecturer

Mr. John Young

JD (Stanford Law School), BA (California at Berkeley)

Requirements for the Major in American Studies

The American Studies Programme provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of American culture and civilization.

Students who have completed a BA programme in American Studies should be able to:

- Research, analyse and think critically through the study of the United States
- Engage creatively with facts and interpretations
- Address problems critically and creatively
- Familiarise themselves with cross-cultural issues and topics
- Demonstrate a broad historical and cultural understanding of the United States internally as well as in its relation to the world
- Demonstrate a multicultural perspective and greater sensitivity to past and present cultural differences
- Communicate their ideas clearly and effectively
- Demonstrate skills of argument, debate and oral and written presentation
- Demonstrate a humanistic vision of the disparate elements of the American geography, history, culture, literature, art, business and science

First-year Prerequisites

Students intending to declare a major in American Studies in their second and third years must complete the following course in their first year of study:

AMER1050 Foundations of American Studies, I: The origins of the nation (6 credits)

Although students should make every effort to take these courses in their first year, they may take them in the second year as overload if they have not registered for them before.

Requirements for the Major in American Studies (cont.)

Second- and Third-Year

A major in American Studies consists of 54 credits taken in the second and third years of the programme, consisting of 18 credits of core courses:

- AMER2021** On the road again: Field trip in American Studies (6 credits)
- AMER2050** Foundations of American Studies, II: Reconstructing the nation (6 credits)
- AMER3050** Foundations of American Studies, III: Capstone (6 credits)

and a further 36 credits from an approved list of American Studies and departmental elective courses (please see page 19). The American Studies elective courses are highly recommended:

- AMER2014 A dream in the heart: varieties of Asian American culture (6 credits)
- AMER2018 Show me the money: doing business with Americans (6 credits)
- AMER2022 What's on TV? Television and American culture (6 credits)
- AMER2029 Current perspectives on the U.S. (6 credits)
- AMER2033 Asia on America's screen (6 credits)
- AMER2035 Addicted to war? The US at home and abroad (6 credits)
- AMER2038 American film, from Golden-Age Hollywood to New Hollywood and beyond (6 credits)
- AMER2046 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits)
- AMER3007 Dissertation in American Studies (12 credits)

In exceptional cases, a particular requirement may be waived. Not all elective courses are offered in a given semester; students should check with individual units on course availability; students should also check on course prerequisites and other enrollment restrictions. Other courses, offered from time to time by the component departments and approved by the Board of Studies in American Studies in conjunction with the department concerned, may be used to fulfill programme requirements.

This information is subject to change, and students should check the official 2011 – 2012 B.A. syllabus to confirm requirements and options that are in effect for this academic year.

Requirements for the Minor in American Studies

First-year Prerequisites

Students intending to declare a minor in American Studies in their second and third years must complete the following course in their first year study:

AMER1050 Foundations of American Studies, I: The origins of the nation (6 credits)

Second- and Third-Year

A minor in American Studies consists of 30 credits taken in the second and third years of the programme, consisting of 12 credits selected from the American Studies core courses:

AMER2050 Foundations of American Studies, II: Reconstruction the nation (6 credits)

AMER3050 Foundations of American Studies, III: Capstone (6 credits)

and a further 18 credits selected from the American Studies elective courses:

AMER2014 A dream in the heart: varieties of Asian American culture (6 credits)

AMER2018 Show me the money: doing business with Americans (6 credits)

AMER2022 What's on TV? Television and American culture (6 credits)

AMER2029 Current perspectives on the U.S. (6 credits)

AMER2033 Asia on America's screen (6 credits)

AMER2035 Addicted to war? The US at home and abroad (6 credits)

AMER2038 American film, from Golden-Age Hollywood to New Hollywood and beyond (6 credits)

AMER2046 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits)

AMER3007 Dissertation in American Studies (12 credits)

Courses taken to fulfil the requirements of the student's major may not be counted towards a minor in American Studies.

Not all courses are offered in a given semester. This information is subject to change, and students should check the official 2011 – 2012 B.A. syllabus to confirm requirements and options that are in effect for this academic year.

American Studies Course Descriptions

The American Studies Programme offers core courses and elective courses. American Studies majors can also take elective courses from outside the American Studies Programme and the School of Modern Language and Cultures. For a list of departmental elective courses, please see page 19.

First Year Courses	
AMER1050 Foundations of American Studies, I: The origins of the nation	
Second and Third Year Courses	
Core Courses	Electives
Year 2 AMER2050 Foundations of American Studies, II: Reconstructing the nation AMER2021 On the road again: Field trip in American Studies Year 3 AMER3050 Foundations of American Studies, III: Capstone	AMER2014 A dream in the heart: Varieties of Asian American culture
	AMER2018 Show me the money: Doing business with Americans
	AMER2022 What's on TV? Television and American culture
	AMER2029 Current perspectives on the U.S.
	AMER2033 Asia on America's screen
	AMER2035 Addicted to war? The US at home and abroad
	AMER2038 American film, from Golden-Age Hollywood to New Hollywood and beyond
	AMER2046 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America
	AMER3007 Dissertation in American Studies

Year 1 American Studies Core Course

- **AMER1050 Foundations of American Studies, I:
The origins of the nation**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

This is the first of three Foundation courses in American Studies (including AMER2050 and AMER3050). It focuses on the historical period beginning with Columbus's voyage and concluding with the Civil War. Our goal will be to develop a definition and understanding of American Culture by reading, viewing and discussing documents and images that are central to the theory and reality of the United States as a nation. Texts will include political and legal documents, novels, poems, an autobiography, a slave narrative, speeches, visual art and contemporary films. We will consider the ways in which the story of the United States has changed over time as we look for consistent ideas in what it means to be American. We will identify the authors' various claims of American distinctiveness and evaluate these claims in relation to the legacies of slavery and Manifest Destiny in an international context. As we study the past, we will see how important it is to understand the present and thereby enrich our skills of interpreting contemporary literature, film and current political events. The course will also introduce theories of nationalism and print culture that students will find extremely useful in other courses and in interpreting the world today.



Year 2 American Studies Core Courses

- **AMER2021 On the road again:
Field trip in American Studies**

- This course is **required for the major**
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

Concentrating on North American points of interest from cities to landscape to cultural sites—this course will explore the variety and complexity of American life. Throughout the semester students will conduct group research and deliver presentations on the cities and locations to be visited in the summer, which will typically vary in the years the course is offered.

- **AMER2050 Foundations of American Studies, II:
Reconstructing the nation**

- This course is **required for the major**
- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

This is the second of three Foundation courses in American Studies (including AMER1050 and AMER3050). In this course, we will focus on period from after the Civil War to the twenty-first century and on the internal problems and international conflicts that shape the face of the United States today. Among the topics for study and discussion may be the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era, the changing terms of civil rights, policies of racial segregation and desegregation, the Gilded Age, immigration at the turn of the 20th century, the gangster-friendly Jazz Age, the Great Depression, World War II, the worldwide Cold War and the conformist '50s, the struggle for civil rights, the psychedelic flower-power '60s, and the Vietnam War and its aftermath, the wars on terror, and the influence of multinational corporations on United States electoral politics. Through lectures and class debates we will attempt to compare our popular knowledge of America with the sometimes different historical reality behind it. From documentary sources and literary nonfiction, through film, novels, comic books and rap music, we will lay foundations for a better understanding of the United States and its changing relation to the world.

Year 3 American Studies Core Course

- **AMER3050 Foundations of American Studies, III: Capstone**

- This course is **required for the major**
- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

This course is the third of three foundation courses in American Studies (including AMER1050 and AMER2050). It required of all majors in the American Studies Programme and is designed to cap students' university careers with a rigorous, interdisciplinary and theme-based program of study. The specific area of study may vary from year to year depending on students' background, interests and the expertise of the instructor. Students will deepen their research and writing skills, conduct discussion sessions, participate in intensive group work, get involved in a mentoring program and continue to hone the critical thinking skills nurtured during their education in American Studies. The seminar will seek ways to prepare students to make the transition from the university setting to a variety of employment settings.



Year 2 and 3 American Studies Elective Courses

• **AMER2014 A dream in the heart: Varieties of Asian American culture**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

Like so many other immigrants to the United States, Asians – Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Koreans, etc. – were also drawn by the dream of Golden Mountain. Yet once in America, they would confront not only promise and possibility but the dream's betrayal: hostility, rejection and exclusion. This course will explore the varieties of Asian American cultures that emerge out of the painful, disruptive struggles between expectation and reality faced by these immigrants and their children, and the representation of their experiences in the arts, media, politics and popular culture. Asian Americans are frequently stereotyped as model minorities for striving after the American dream of education, wealth and political representation. We will examine and challenge this "model minority" idea in American life and politics, especially as it relates to inter-minority conflict and cooperation, as individual American minority groups attempt to achieve their own version of American success.

• **AMER2018 Show me the money: Doing business with Americans**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

This course is designed to familiarize students with business practice in the United States and in American corporations operating in Hong Kong, laying foundations for a better understanding of the individuals and institutions driving the economy. Weekly sessions will include lectures and, whenever possible, discussions with members of the American business community in the Asia-Pacific region. Topics may include: U.S. business history and economic cycles, American entrepreneurs, the ethics and etiquette of U.S. corporate culture, government/business relationships, gender and business, glass ceilings and opportunities for advancement, and business and technological change.

- **AMER2022 What's on TV?**
Television and American culture

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

Television has been a powerful force in US history and culture. American TV shows and programming styles have been exported globally, and are modified to suit diverse cultural settings, including Hong Kong. The United States exerts significant global influence, in part because of its success in marketing itself, both domestically and abroad, through media and entertainment. While many contest the content or perspective of American media, few are exempt from its impact. This course offers students a chance to consider the impact of television inside and outside of the US and explore how the American media-machine reaches into every facet of the nation's life as well as into the lives of people around the world. Topics to be discussed in the course may include the history of television, strategies for critical viewing, war and TV, educational television, television's domination of politics, youth culture and TV, the technology behind television programming, and finally TV programming in Hong Kong.

- **AMER2029 Current perspectives on the U.S.**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

Students in this course will be discussing current and past events as reported in newspapers, magazines, television, literature, films and on the internet. The course will focus on domestic issues facing Americans at home as well as on political, economic and cultural links between the United States and other nations. Pedagogy will be student-centered and require students to participate regularly in (and at times lead) discussions. Typical topics may include the analysis of the American political system and the presidency, the relationship between business and politics, the role of sports in American life, the fallout from September 11, the rise of rap and hip-hop, manufacturing media, regionalism, stand-up comedy and social satire, and the US university system. These and other issues will form the basis of the course taught, on occasion, with the help of representatives of various disciplines across the spectrum of the arts, humanities and social sciences.

• **AMER2033 Asia on America's screen**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

"The Orient" has always held a dual attraction of romance and danger outside Asia, and this tradition has since been reinforced by Hollywood. The allure of wealth, trade and exoticism that brought millions of Americans across the Pacific provided rich material for movie drama. This combination of geographical attraction and cultural appeal was further reinforced during the wars the United States fought in Asia. War, violence and romance fill America's movie screens, pulling in vast crowds and in the process shaping and mis-shaping America's view of Asia. Asking what is Asia and how far it extends, this course will explore cinematic representations of the continent and its people as constructed by Hollywood during more than a century of selling romantic myths to a public that often has no first-hand experience of Asian culture and no firm grasp of its history.

• **AMER2035 Addicted to war? The US at home and abroad**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

The Vietnam War was the first war in the age of the television and the first war that America lost. The emotions aroused by the loss of American lives and the images of violence and brutality made TV and Hollywood important actors in the war for hearts and minds. This course will examine the multiple wars, police actions, military invasions, armed "liberations," coups d'état, political assassinations, "regime changes" and other euphemisms for military aggression and intervention on an international scale. Among other issues discussed may be international weapons trade, the Cold War, the two World Wars, international peace keeping, "wars" on drugs and/or terrorism, and the state of civil liberties in the US. In the process we will also examine the role of movies, television and journalistic reportage in shaping public opinion and thus indirectly the American perception and misperception of the rest of the world.

- **AMER2038 American film, from Golden-Age Hollywood to New Hollywood and beyond**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

Hollywood is known to spin dreams, visions and illusions but, caught-up in the big-screen experience, viewers often forget that these dreams and illusions are spun within particular social and cultural contexts. Films are woven into national myths, myths are woven into the society that builds them, and society is woven into the people that create and recreate America everyday as they live, work and go to the movies. This course will look at many of the biggest, most famous and most representative Hollywood blockbusters—films and their movie-star icons—that in many ways define American culture. We will consider films from the so-called Golden Age of Hollywood when the studios ruled the theater to the era of New Hollywood when directors drew increasing inspiration from European films. Students will be introduced to various genres that have become synonymous with Hollywood, among them the action thriller, classic and revisionist western, MGM musical, film noir and police story, science fiction, romantic comedy, Disney animation, and others. The experience of these films and their contexts will broaden our knowledge of American cultural values and help us critique these values, so that the reality of American life is explored alongside its ideals. The course will also aim to enhance critical and creative thinking as well as speaking and writing skills.

- **AMER2046 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America**

- This course is also offered to non-BA students for inter-Faculty broadening purposes
- **6 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

In 1776, the idea of self-evidence grounded the philosophical assertion that “all men are created equal.” And yet, political, economic and social equality in the democratic republic of the United States has often proven less of a guarantee and more of a promise. Beginning with Thomas Jefferson’s writing of the “Declaration of Independence,” the recognition of a person as fully human in the United States has depended on assumptions regarding race, class and gender. The course examines the changing definition of United States citizenship by putting legal texts (the U.S. Constitution, federal and state laws, Executive Orders, Supreme Court decisions) in dialogue with literary writings and film. In this course we will read stories by people whom federal and or state law barred from full citizenship. Through autobiographies, fiction, poetry and speeches, we will examine the cultural legacy of legal terms such as “domestic dependent nation,” “illegal alien” and “unlawful enemy combatant.” The course themes may include: property and democracy, slavery, westward expansion and Indian Removal, immigration (with particular focus on China and Asia), the right of women to vote, and the wartime powers of the Executive Office. Our goal will be to pay careful attention to the language and genres of the American legislative and judicial system, and conversely to contextualize literature in relation to the legal history through which the U.S. Constitution has been reinterpreted and amended to broaden its terms of equality. We will read writers who used words to protest against and revise the historical circumstances in which they had to fight for legal standing. We will also consider how different kinds of writing -- legal, scientific, autobiographical and fictional -- employ different rhetorical strategies to reach audiences, affect readers and influence the world.

• **AMER3007 Dissertation in American Studies**

- **12 credits**
- Assessment: 100 % coursework

This is a directed reading course aimed at top students in American Studies who would like to pursue an individualized program of research under the supervision of a mentor, typically (though not necessarily) an American Studies Programme instructor or an American Studies Board member. The student is responsible for approaching the instructor in advance and obtaining consent for supervision. The coursework will normally consist of designing the project around a topic relevant to the Programme, compiling a bibliography, research and reading, and finally writing the dissertation. A project proposal consisting of a thesis statement, preliminary outline of research (typically 3-5 pages), timetable for completion, and working bibliography will be filed with the Programme Coordinator no later than November 30. The full dissertation (approximately 40-80 pages) shall be completed and presented for examination by April 30 of the academic year in which the course is taken.

Year 2 and 3 Departmental Elective Courses

The following list includes all the departmental elective courses that are currently accepted towards an American Studies major but **not** an American Studies minor.

Not all elective courses are offered in a given semester; students should check with individual units on course availability; students should also check on course prerequisites and other enrollment restrictions. Other courses, offered from time to time by the component departments and approved by the Board of Studies in American Studies in conjunction with the department concerned, may be used to fulfill programme requirements.

Comparative Literature

- CLIT2076 Fashioning femininities (6 credits)
CLIT2092 Modern American poetry: Politics and aesthetics (6 credits)

English

- ENGL2055 American gothic: Haunted homes (6 credits)
ENGL2089 Making Americans: Literature as ritual and renewal (6 credits)
ENGL2099 Language, identity, and Asian Americans (6 credits)
ENGL2104 Language in the USA (6 credits)

Fine Arts

- FINE2020 American art (6 credits)
FINE2031 The rise of modern architecture in Western culture (6 credits)

History

- HIST2015 The United States before 1900 (6 credits)
HIST2016 The United States in the twentieth century (6 credits)
HIST2031 History through film (6 credits)
HIST2053 The Cold War (6 credits)
HIST2069 The history of American popular culture (6 credits)
HIST2092 The United States and Asia (6 credits)
HIST2107 The Second World War in Asia and the Pacific, 1931-1952 (6 credits)
HIST2113 New worlds: Exploring the history of Latin America (6 credits)
HIST2118 Chinese and Americans: A cultural and international history (6 credits)
HIST2126 The American family: Histories, myths, and realities (6 credits)
HIST2131 Growing up 'Girl': Histories, novels and American culture (6 credits)

Music

- MUSI2031 American music (6 credits)

Politics and Public Administration

- POLI0044 American democracy (6 credits)
POLI0047 United States foreign policy (6 credits)
POLI0087 Globalization and world order (6 credits)

Sociology

- SOCI0011 Gender and Crime (6 credits)

Postgraduate Studies

The American Studies Programme offers MPhil and Ph.D. degrees. Interested students should contact Dr Kendall Johnson at kjohnson@hku.hk for further information.

For general information on postgraduate study at the University of Hong Kong, students should contact the Graduate School of the University of Hong Kong at <http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/>. Students seeking to be admitted to the MPhil and PhD programmes in American Studies need to apply via the Graduate School. Given that admission to the postgraduate programmes is highly selective and competitive, students are advised to carefully prepare a strong research proposal outlining their research topic, research question, methodology and sources to be used / examined.

Supervision will be arranged according to the area of expertise of the respective academic members of staff. Research students will take part in regular supervision meetings to discuss their research and the progress they make. It is sometimes possible to arrange for joint supervision with a teacher in a second department or school.

The following areas of research supervision are currently available:

- American literature and studies, colonial through early-twentieth centuries
- Native American literatures
- Race studies
- Law and U.S. literature
- Anthropology and literature
- Visual aesthetics
- Postcolonial theory
- Urban studies
- History of the novel

