

Module Code:	HUM635
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Module Title:	American Frontiers in the Nineteenth Century
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Level:	6	Credit Value:	20
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Cost Centre(s):	GAHN	JACS3 code:	V230
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Faculty:	Arts, Science And Technology	Module Leader:	Dr Kathryn Ellis
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Social & Cultural History	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
BA (Hons) Social & Cultural History & English	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
BA (Hons) Social & Cultural History & Creative Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓

Pre-requisites
N/A

Office use only

Initial approval: 25/09/2018

Version no:1

With effect from: 01/09/2021

Date and details of revision:

Version no:

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Introduce students to the principal social, economic, political and cultural trends of American life during this period
- Create an awareness of the nature and implications of geographical expansion
- Explore the relationship between identity, freedom and culture in a frontier environment

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
 KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
 KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
 KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
 KS5 Information management skills
 KS6 Research skills
 KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
 KS8 Career management skills
 KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
 KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to

Key Skills

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Explain the rationale and nature of 19th century American territorial expansion.	KS1	
		KS5	
		KS6	
2	Comment critically on the myths and realities of the frontier experience.	KS1	KS6
		KS3	
		KS4	
3	Explore the development of freedom and individualism in the context of the 'moving frontier'.	KS1	
		KS7	
		KS10	
4	Determine the social, economic, political and ideological impact of war on the American Frontier.	KS1	
		KS3	
		KS6	
5	Analyse the historiographical debates relating to the creation of the American nation.	KS1	
		KS3	
		KS4	

Transferable skills and other attributes

Students will be able to develop and demonstrate:

- Intellectual integrity and maturity
- Empathy and imaginative insight
- Structure, coherence and clarity of written expression
- Self-discipline and self-direction
- Communication skills, both in written and verbal forms

Derogations

N/A

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment one will be an essay from a choice of questions which examine the major economic, political and racial aspects of American expansion.

Assessment Two is a project based on the interpretation of the American West through an investigation of film and digital archives.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,3,4	Essay	50%		2000
2	2,5	Project	50%		2000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be delivered through lead lectures and seminars which incorporate the investigation of a wide range of digital sources: film, art and archival materials. Tutorials will be integrated in order to support student learning at the project stage of the module.

Syllabus outline:

- The Meaning of the Frontier & defining the Nation
- The significance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- The Planting of the West
- Patterns of Belief
- Significance of sectarianism
- The Native American Perspective
- 'The Peculiar Institution': Slavery
- The War between the States
- Myths, memories and reality of the Frontier
- 'The Wild West': myth and reality
- The Forging of a Nation: a land of freedom and opportunity?

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential reading

Brogan, H., *The Penguin History of the USA* (London: Penguin, 2001)

Tindal G I & Shi, D., *America, a Narrative History Vol 1* (London: Norton and Co, 2016)

Other indicative reading

Boyer, P., *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005)

Brown, D., *The American West* (London: Simon & Schuster, 2004)

Butler, A., *The American West, a Concise History* (Blackwell, 2008)

Hine, Robert V & J.M. Faragher, *The American West: A New Interpretive History, Second Edition* (Yale UP, 2017)

Hoffman, Edwards & Gjerde (eds.), *Major Problems in American History* (London: Wadsworth, 2012)

Holmes, K., *Best of Covered Wagon Women* (Oklahoma University Press, 2008)

Jones, M.A., *The Limits of Liberty: American History, 1607 – 1992* (OUP, 1998)

McLynn, F., *Wagons West* (London: Pimlico, 2003)

McPherson, J., *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction* (McGraw, 2010)

Madsen, D., *Visions of America* (Leicester UP, 1994)

Milner, O'Connor & Sandweiss (eds.), *The Oxford History of the American West* (Oxford, OUP, 1994)

Reynolds, D., *America: Empire of Liberty* (London, Penguin, 2010)

Zinn, H., *A People's History of the United States* (Harper Collins, 2003)

Electronic & Other Sources

Burns, Ken, *The West* (BBC, 1996)

US National Archive: <https://www.archives.gov>

Stagecoach (Universal, 1939)

The Assassination of Jesse James by The Coward Robert Ford (Warner Brothers, 2007)