

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>American Frontiers in the Nineteenth Century</b>	<b>Level:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Credit Value:</b>	<b>20</b>
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<b>Module code:</b> (if known)	<b>HUM608</b>	<b>Semester(s) in which to be offered:</b>	<b>1 - 2</b>	<b>With effect from:</b>	<b>Sept 2009</b>
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<b>Existing/New:</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Title of module being replaced (if any):</b>	
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<b>Originating Subject:</b>	<b>Humanities</b>	<b>Module Leader:</b>	<b>Dr Kathryn Ellis</b>
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<b>Module duration</b> (contact hours/directed private study):	<b>200 Hours (60 hours contact, 140 directed self study)</b>	<b>Status:</b>	<b>Core within History to be offered as elective within University</b>
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<b>Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects):</b>	<b>None</b>
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<b>Programme(s) in which to be offered:</b>	<b>Undergraduate Humanities Provision</b>
<b>Pre-requisites per programme (between levels):</b>	
<b>Co-requisites per programme (within a level):</b>	

<b>Module Aims:</b>
<p>This module aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce students to the principal social, economic, political and cultural trends of American life during this period</li> <li>• create an awareness of the nature and implications of geographical expansion</li> <li>• explore the relationship between identity, freedom and culture in a frontier environment</li> </ul>

## Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, students should be able to:

1. explain the rationale and nature of 19th century American territorial expansion
2. comment critically on the myths and realities of the settlement experience
3. assess the significance of slavery in the context of Southern society and economy
4. analyse the historiographical debates relating to the War between the States
5. determine the social, economic, political and ideological impact of war on the North and the South
6. evaluate the development of concepts of freedom and individualism in the context of nineteenth century America

### Transferable/Key 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

## Assessment

Assessment Number	Learning Outcomes to be met.	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count or equivalent
Assessment One:	1,2	Essay	50%	N/A	2,500
Assessment Two:	1,2,3,4,5,6.	Examination	50%	2 hours	
For 20-21 only:					
Assessment One:	1,2.	Essay	50%	N/A	2,500
Assessment Two:	4,5,6.	Essay	50%	N/A	2000

## Details of indicative assessment

Assessment one will be an academic essay from a choice of four topics which examine the major economic, political and racial aspects of American expansion. Assessment Two is a two hour unseen examination in which students are required to answer three questions.

### Post Covid-19 Temporary modification valid for 20/21 only:

Assessment one will be an essay which examines the major economic, political and racial aspects of American expansion. Assessment Two will be an essay which considers the ideological changes of the mid to late C19, based on a review of documentary and historiographical sources.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The module will be delivered through lead lectures and seminars. Students will be encouraged to share ideas and research of primary source material in oral presentations and group discussions. Tutorial support will be an integral part of the module as a means of offering students guidance and feed-back on course work.

### **Syllabus outline:**

#### Independence and Nation Building

The making of a Constitution

The significance of the frontier: economic and psychological considerations

#### Expansion and Confrontation

The reasons for settlement: resources

Early pioneers: frontier culture, role of women, family life

Andrew Jackson's Indian policy

The clash of culture: Indian removal and the 'Trail of Tears'

Expansion southward: the Alamo and the Texan War of Independence

#### 'The Peculiar Institution': Slavery in the Division of America

Southern society and culture

The role of cotton

Ideologies of freedom: the abolitionists

#### The War between the States

Causes: the historiographical debate

Nature of war: the first modern war?

A question of leadership

The benefits of geography: North and South and the extent of unity

Events of the War: memory, myth and reality

#### Reconstruction

Effects of the war on society, politics and the economy

Ideological debates and disputes: the war as a watershed

The problems and possibilities of Reconstruction in the North and the South

#### The Winning of the West

Economic realities: farming, cattle and cowboys

Mineral exploitation: the gold rushes

Significance of the railroads

From the romance to the reality: outlaws of the West

Indian Wars and the establishment of the Reservations

#### Conclusion and Overview

Entering the global economy

'The melting pot': immigration and the meaning of nationhood

'America - a land of freedom and opportunity'?

## Bibliography

### Essential reading:

Madsen, D., Visions of America (Leicester, U.P., 1994)

Watts, N. & Martin, D., The American West, 1840 – 1895: The Struggle for the Plains (Hodder Murray, 2005)

### Other indicative reading:

Brogan, H. The Penguin History of the United States, 2nd Edition (Penguin, 2001)

Foner, E., Reconstruction (Harper Collins, 2001)

Foote, S., The Civil War: A Narrative (Random House, 3 vols., 1958-74)

Higham, J., Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925 (Rutgers U.P., 1980)

McMurty, L., Winning the Wild West: The Epic Saga of the American Frontier, 1800 – 1899 (Simon & Schuster, 2003)

McPherson, J., Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (McGraw, 2000)

Milner, C.A., O'Connor, C.A., Sandweiss, M.A., The Oxford History of the American West, new edition (Oxford, 1996)

Morrison, M., Slavery and the American West: Eclipse of Manifest Destiny and the Coming of the Civil War (University North Carolina Press, 1999)

Smith, A.I.P., The American Civil War (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)

Stamp, K.M., The Causes of the Civil War (Simon & Schuster, 1994)

Stamp, K.M., The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Antebellum South (Vintage, 1989)