



# America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades



## The United States Studies Centre

Established by the University of Sydney and the American Australian Association with support from the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments, the United States Studies Centre aims to be the world's premier centre for the study of the United States. The Centre offers a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses including in US Politics and American Studies. Students have unprecedented access to academic and professional networks with distinguished scholars, policy makers, media personalities and business leaders through our high-profile events and research. Recent American visitors have included: multiple Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, US Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Nides, US Ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich, Nobel Prize Laureate for Economics Professor Daniel Kahneman, Former Mayor of New Orleans Ray Nagin, Pulitzer Prize winners Eric Foner, Annette Gordon-Reed and Jack Miles, journalists Peter Beinart, Mark Danner, Marty Kaplan and James Fallows, Princeton University Professors Daniel Kurtzer, Anne-Marie Slaughter and Thomas Romer and Harvard Law School Professor Mark Tushnet.

## Start university in Year 11

America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades is a Board of Studies endorsed HSC course that offers Year 11 students the opportunity to develop university standard writing and critical thinking skills and earn credit towards a tertiary degree. Offered by the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades covers new and exciting ground outside the HSC curriculum to enrich the study of the United States in the humanities and political sciences.

## About the course

The course views historical and contemporary America through the lens of its influential rebels, heroes, and renegades: female and male, ordinary and extraordinary, political and cultural, known and unsung. By studying these people, students learn about the complexity and diversity of the US and gain insight into how it has become such a powerful global force.

## Benefits

- Knowledge and understanding of the United States and its impact on the world.
- Skills in oral and written expression of conceptually difficult ideas and independent critical thinking. These skills will prove useful for other essay-based HSC subjects and debating.
- After successful completion of the course, students will gain one subject (a six credit point semester-length unit of study) towards a degree in Arts or other combined degree programs at the University of Sydney.
- The course fee is approximately one-third of the full fee rate for one subject (a six credit point Arts unit of study) at the University of Sydney. Students who gain admission to a degree - which this subject can be credited toward - will not incur a HECS debt or be liable for the full fee for this subject.

## How is this course recognised?

America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades is endorsed as a one-unit option. The course is recognised by the Board of Studies as a Year 11 preliminary unit and forms part of a student's final HSC record. Board Endorsed Courses are designed for high-achieving students to supplement and extend the HSC curriculum, though the results in these courses are not included in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). The result for America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades will appear on a student's Record of Achievement and is worth one subject toward an undergraduate degree at the University.

## Session times

9–13 January 2012, 10am–2pm  
16–20 January 2012, 10am–2pm  
4 and 11 February 2012, 10am–2pm

Each session includes a one hour lunch break.

## Course outline

*Who are the most significant heroes and rebels in recent American history?*

*Do these people fight for individual freedom or social justice?*

*What do American heroes, rebels and renegades reveal to us about the domestic United States and its global power?*

By examining American heroes and rebels this course explores how these individuals reflect and shape the United States, with an emphasis on developing a student's ability to think critically and develop evidence-based, well-reasoned arguments.

The course consists of the following four core sections:

### **Understanding the hero, the rebel & the renegade**

Who is a hero or renegade? Who defines heroes and rebels? What role does the American media play in the attribution of these labels? Can a hero be a typical citizen? How are heroes and rebels portrayed?

### **Heroic journeys & the US in the world**

Is every hero or rebel connected with adventure or a journey? Is there a pattern to the heroic journey? Is the journey of each American hero or rebel equivalent to the journey experienced by the US as a nation in a hostile world?

### **Politicians & celebrities**

The political landscape includes politicians, presidents, policy makers, journalists, television commentators and military heroes. Are these people celebrities? Can a celebrity be a hero? Is fame a necessary part of heroism? What part do American values and beliefs play in the formation of political heroes?

### **Obstacles to heroism in the US**

Why are some people denied hero status? Are heroic women and people of colour ignored or forgotten? Does heroic action need to be individual or can it be collective? How does the structure of American society both block and fuel heroism?

### **Assessment**

Assessment consists of journal entries (1500 words worth 25%); a character profile on a chosen person (1000 words worth 25%); a research essay (2000 words worth 40%); and class participation (10%).



## Who should apply?

Any student who has an interest in the topics covered and the ability and aptitude to undertake university-level study is encouraged to apply. The course will be particularly useful for those completing Modern History. Please note only students commencing Year 11 or Year 12 in 2012, are eligible to apply for the course.

## How to apply

The application (use the attached form or download from our website) must be given to the student's school Principal for approval and submission to the United States Studies Centre. Students must also attach a copy of their most recent school report.

Completed applications (including all necessary attached documents) should be sent by the school Principal to the following address:

United States Studies Centre  
Institute Building (H03)  
The University of Sydney NSW 2006.

*Applications are due by 25 November 2011.*

## Selection

Applicants will be selected by the course convener on the basis of their past academic record and school Principal's recommendation of their capacity to meet the demands of the course. This takes into account a candidate's potential to work at a university-level and their ability to work both in a team and independently.

## Offers

Summer School 2012 offers will be sent out to successful applicants with fee payment details by 5 December 2011. Students will need to accept and finalise payment by 16 December 2011.

## Cost

The cost of America: Heroes, Rebels & Renegades is \$775. The fee is payable once you are accepted into the course. See information about available scholarships below.

## Enquiries

Amelia Trial  
Student Affairs Officer  
T (02) 9036 5086  
E [amelia.trial@sydney.edu.au](mailto:amelia.trial@sydney.edu.au)  
[ussc.edu.au/study/high-school](http://ussc.edu.au/study/high-school)

## Scholarships

The United States Studies Centre is offering two merit scholarships to students with an outstanding academic record and one equity scholarship to a student who can demonstrate financial hardship and/or educational disadvantage.



## Student declaration

I declare that the information provided in this application and attachments are correct and complete.

I understand that the United States Studies Centre and the University of Sydney will retain my name and address details on a database and will send me information about courses and events for students in the upcoming year and if I wish to be removed from the database I can contact the US Studies Centre on (02) 9036 5086 or the University on 1300 362 006.

Signed

Date

Day

Month

Year

## Parent or guardian declaration

*This section is to be completed by your parent or guardian.*

I give permission for the United States Studies Centre and the University of Sydney to contact the Principal or teachers in respect of the applicant's marks and achievements.

I give permission for the above signed student to apply for America: Rebels, Heroes & Renegades and agree to pay the necessary fees.

Name

Signed

Date

Day

Month

Year

## Principal's report

*This section is to be completed by your school Principal or designated officer.*

Please rank how well the applicant demonstrates the following qualities

(please circle the appropriate number, with 1 representing "not at all", and 5 representing "exceptional")

	<i>not at all</i>			<i>exceptional</i>	
	1	2	3	4	5
Maturity in an adult learning environment	1	2	3	4	5
Suitability to an adult learning environment	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to work independently	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to work in teams	1	2	3	4	5
Capacity to meet the demands of the course	1	2	3	4	5

Please comment on the applicant's capacity to undertake this course:

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Name and signature of Principal or designated officer

Name

Signed

Date

Day

Month

Year