05 Postgraduate
13 Undergraduate
21 International
26 High School
In the short period since its founding in 2007, the Centre has established itself as an internationally recognised authority on American Studies outside of the United States, spanning the study of politics and policy, economics and business, and culture and society.

Based at the University of Sydney, the Centre offers world-class postgraduate, undergraduate, and high-school level educational opportunities, hosts over 100 events annually, and produces top quality research, policy analysis, and media commentary.

As a student here, you will gain an international and objective perspective on the past, present, and future direction of the United States. Our students learn to critically analyse American foreign policy, business, law, media, culture, and society and our strong connections with the United States give you unprecedented access to experts across a broad range of topics.

Our exciting range of innovative study abroad and internship programs also allow you to gain invaluable experience overseas, make lifelong connections and advance your practical knowledge of the United States.

Studying at the United States Studies Centre gives you access to an academic community that, with the establishment of the Perth USAsia Centre at the University of Western Australia in 2013, crosses the country and straddles the Pacific.

Best of luck with your studies. We look forward to welcoming you to the Centre.

Bates Gill
Chief Executive Officer
POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

THE MASTER OF UNITED STATES STUDIES
Developing a deep understanding of the United States and its role in the world is essential to pursuing any career on the international stage. Whether your background is in the humanities, business, education, or law, the Master of United States Studies will propel your career through international experience and education.

OVERVIEW
The Master of US Studies is more than just a degree. It gives you unprecedented access to the academic and professional networks that the United States Studies Centre fosters in Australia and the United States. The program also offers internship opportunities in congressional offices in Capitol Hill among its experiential pathways to global professionalism.

You will gain:
- a deeper knowledge and understanding of US politics, culture, and society
- an understanding of America’s influence on the world and the world’s reaction to America
- high-level analytical research and writing skills
- a specialist understanding of current events in the United States and the best sources for information and analysis.

The degree is jointly offered by the United States Studies Centre and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.

The Centre is a leading educational and think tank institution for the study of the United States in Australia. By joining the program, you will have access to the Centre’s high-calibre networks, which include distinguished scholars, policy makers, and business leaders.

The Centre also offers an array of capstone experiences: internships, advanced research supervision, or international opportunities.
“INTELLECTUALLY I FEEL PREPARED AND EQUIPPED TO DO ANYTHING WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY COMES.”

MARK CROSS
MASTER OF UNITED STATES STUDIES

When Mark was looking to change his career, he made sure to do his homework. Moving from the US state of Texas and seeking a new challenge after working in a law firm, he said the Centre was a perfect fit. “I wanted to find a strong program that would offer a wide variety of subjects and provide a well-rounded balance to transition into a range of professional fields. The Centre offered that.”

Mark says one of the greatest advantages of studying a Master in US Studies is the small class sizes and accessibility to professors. “Even at the best schools in the US, classes tend to be large and it’s difficult to get one-on-one time with professors. At the Centre, all my professors are extremely helpful and accessible to the students.”

Mark is now exploring his career options and is interested in working in the non-profit sector. He says that his Master of US Studies has given him an edge in pursuing his dream job.
COURSE STRUCTURE

After completing core units, the program will allow you to choose from a wide range of electives. Starting in 2015, the degree can be completed in two years of full-time study, or three to four years of part-time study. It consists of 16 units of study (96 credit points), comprising:

- one compulsory core unit
- at least three core units
- maximum of eight additional units from either core or elective
- a capstone experience such as an internship, research thesis, or international program (this consists of four units of study)

CORE UNITS

Students must complete the compulsory core unit Fundamentals of US Studies and choose three additional core units from the following list:

- **USSC6902**  
  US Politics: Presidency and Congress  
  Providing a comprehensive understanding of American domestic politics, this unit explores the US system of government in detail and the ideas that underlie it. It will also examine the relationship between the President and the Congress, as well as presidential elections, and domestic issues such as race, inequality, law and order, and immigration policy.

- **USSC6903**  
  US Foreign & National Security Policy  
  How is US foreign and security policy formulated and implemented? This unit also considers a range of US foreign policy challenges, such as alliance management, terrorism, global warming, relations with rivals and international organisations, and when the US should intervene into the affairs of other states.

- **USSC6905**  
  US Economic Policy & Regulation  
  Economic and regulatory policies play a huge role in determining business conditions and social relations in the United States. This unit will explore how economic policies impact on issues such as innovation, employment, gender equality, education, productivity, competition, and social mobility.

- **USSC6906**  
  US Constitution  
  Focusing on a document that remains an important part of contemporary life, this unit will take a detailed look at the US Constitution and features debates about its meaning, its limits, and its contemporary interpretations.

- **USSC6907**  
  American Exceptionalism  
  The American belief in the nation’s exceptionalism has influenced many aspects of society, politics, and foreign policy in the United States since the arrival of the first European colonists. To what extent, if any, is the United States of America an exceptional nation?

- **USSC6914**  
  Key Issues in American Culture  
  Week-by-week, students will be asked to examine defining moments in US cultural history and look at its impact on the American psyche. Blending written texts with works of visual art and elements of high and ‘low’ culture, the unit explores conflict and innovation in US culture.

- **USSC 6920**  
  US Media: Politics, Culture, Technology  
  Focusing on media coverage of political campaigns and politics in America, the unit gives insight into the role of media in shaping American society. The unit also examines contemporary debates about the changing nature of American journalism and the future of the media industry in the US.
ELECTIVE UNITS
Electives offered by the United States Studies Centre:

**GOVT6359**  
US-China Relations  
*New in 2015*

Taught jointly with the Department of Government & International Relations.

Regarded by many as the most significant bilateral relationship in the world, this unit will introduce students to the dynamics of United States–China relations. Students will be given an overview of the history of US–China relations to deepen their understanding of the strategic thinking and policymaking of both China and the United States.

**USSC6915**  
Contemporary American Media  
*New in 2015*

Covering the diversity of forms, texts, and practises that define contemporary American media, this unit examines the press, advertising, television, music, gaming, internet culture, and more to engage with the pressing cultural and political issues facing the US and the world.

**USSC6916**  
Research Essay in US Studies  

Students undertake a research essay of 6000 words on an approved topic under the guidance of a supervisor from the Centre. The essay involves deeper study of a previously covered subject and offers an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge and research skills in an area about which they are passionate.

**USSC6919**  
American Film & Hollywood

This unit explores the aesthetic, political, and cultural formation of the Hollywood studio system and its aftermath. From the 1920s to today, the unit explores the complex history of American cinema and charts the rise of artistic independence and political radicalism in film.

Electives offered by other faculties at the University of Sydney:

- ARTS7000 Academic Communication for Postgraduates (designed for international students)
- CISS6001 New Security Challenges
- CISS6008 Population & Security
- EDPK5003 Developing a Research Project
- FINC6013 International Business Finance
- IBUS6001 International Business Strategy
- IBUS6002 Cross-Cultural Management
- IBUS6016 Social Entrepreneurship
- MECO6906 Literary Journalism: History and Theory
- MKTG6013 International & Global Marketing
- WMST6903 Gender, Media & Consumer Societies

OTHER PROGRAMS
Students who do not want to commit to a full master’s program but want to gain a solid grounding in US Studies can enrol in the Graduate Diploma (48 Credits) or Graduate Certificate (24 Credits) programs. Cross-institutional and non-award applicants are also welcome to enrol in individual units of study and must apply directly to the University of Sydney. Upon completion of the Master of US Studies with a minimum distinction average, students who started the degree before 2015 can apply to the advanced Master of Letters program.

DEGREES BY RESEARCH
Students may wish to pursue a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) through the US Studies Centre. More information can be found on the US Studies Centre website. Prospective candidates should consult the postgraduate coordinator at the Centre in order to formulate a suitable research project.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The US Studies Centre offers a wide range of merit-based coursework scholarships to outstanding local and international students. The following scholarships, which honour the historic contributions by significant Americans, are available:

- The Rosa Parks Scholarship worth $5000–$10,000
- The Susan B. Anthony Scholarship worth $2500–$5000
- The Rachel Carson Scholarship worth $1000–$2000
- The Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship worth $1000–$2000
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A completed bachelor’s degree from a recognised tertiary institution with a minimum 65 per cent credit average (or equivalent) is required for entry to the Master of US Studies.

Students without a credit average may be admitted to the Graduate Diploma or Certificate. Applicants without a bachelor’s degree may be considered for the Graduate Certificate with three years full-time employment in a relevant field.

Upon satisfactory completion of the Graduate Diploma or Certificate, students may matriculate into the master’s program.

International students must also satisfy the following English language requirements for entry:
IELTS 7.0 (with a minimum of 6.5 in Reading and Writing and a minimum 6.0 in Listening and Speaking) or IBT 100 (minimum of 24 in Writing and 22 in all other bands).

MORE INFORMATION
For more information on the US Studies Centre and our postgraduate programs, visit:
ussc.edu.au/postgraduate

THOMAS ADAMS
LECTURER IN HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES

When Thomas Adams got to university, he had no idea of what career he wanted to pursue. Part way through his first degree he dropped out to explore the United States, only deciding to follow his passion for US history after a chance meeting with a former professor in a café.

“Studying US history gave me the best lens to understand the contemporary political issues I was into as a student,” he says. “Over time I realised that really understanding how the world works requires attention to multiple social temporalities, contingencies, and contexts; American history is perfect for this. As a reporter character in my favorite TV show, The Wire, says, ‘I think you need a lot of context to understand anything.’”

Even though he is often critical of America’s politics and social life, he admits a love-hate relationship with his country and he has visited every one of the lower 48 states. “I’ve spent a lot of time in each region and in small towns and big cities alike and I love the diversity of the country: its people, cultures, and geographies.”

Maybe by virtue of the country he studies and his broad interest in it, his research has been diverse, spanning the history of political economy, labour, cities, gender, race, social movements, and postwar American culture. His most recent research centres around his home town of New Orleans.

Thomas teaches units at both a postgraduate and undergraduate level and described his style as conversational and with tutorials that are big on discussion and analysis. As with everything Thomas does, the focus is on depth and diversity.

POSTGRADUATE COORDINATOR
Dr Aaron Nyerges
t +61 2 8627 0170
e aaron.nyerges@sydney.edu.au

HOW TO APPLY
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Both domestic and international students must apply through the University of Sydney. For more information, visit: sydney.edu.au/courses/master-of-us-studies

CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL AND NON-AWARD
Cross-institutional and non-award applicants must also apply through the University of Sydney. For more information, visit: sydney.edu.au/courses/arts-postgraduate-cross-institutional
MASTER OF UNITED STATES STUDIES ALUMNI

As a graduate of the Master of United States Studies you will become a part of a growing alumni network of accomplished professionals around the world. Our graduates have established successful careers in government, journalism, law, economics, business, and more across the United States and Australia.

As well as providing a professional grounding in US issues, our courses are characterised by academic rigour and intellectual detail. From helping recent graduates find a job to assisting each other through a career change, the Master of US Studies community is a valuable resource for life.

MY POSTGRAD STUDY PUT ME ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Master of US Studies graduate Patrick Batchelor became a key player in President Barack Obama’s re-election bid. As regional field director in the US state of Texas, Patrick says it all felt like an episode of the West Wing. Patrick’s postgraduate study at the United States Studies Centre equipped him with the expertise to propel his career on to the international stage.

MY POSTGRAD STUDY LED ME TO MY DREAM JOB

Looking for a career change after ten years in business, Justin Burke signed up for the Master of US Studies. A self-confessed “American politics junkie,” Justin was able to use his study to pursue his passion for writing and blogging. Upon graduating, Justin secured a position as a journalist at The Australian, and says that his postgraduate study gave him the competitive edge to land his dream job.

MY POSTGRAD STUDY PUT ME TO WORK ON CAPITOL HILL

As part of her Master of US Studies, Rebecca Armitage put study into practice working as an intern on Capitol Hill. From US congressional briefings about foreign journalists in Russia to the plight of Roma people, Rebecca experienced firsthand the inner workings of US politics. A producer with ABC Radio’s International Desk, Rebecca says her postgraduate study gave her career in journalism an international edge.
HANNAH BLYTHE
MASTER OF UNITED STATES STUDIES ALUMNI

Hannah made the switch to the Master of US Studies program after taking the US Foreign Policy unit. “I found the quality of academic teaching and course subject matter so engaging that I decided to make the transition.”

As part of her postgraduate degree she was accepted into the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme where she had the chance to work in Congress with Representative Joe Courtney. “It was one of the most unique and exciting experiences I’ve ever had. To work on Capitol Hill and be immersed in the chaotic legislative melting pot of Congress was fantastic.” Hannah took part in discussions around emerging global issues in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, domestic challenges in the aftermath of the budget shut down, and received a dedication in the Congressional Record from Congressman Courtney.

Benefiting from the insight gained from her master’s degree and Congress, Hannah now works at the Parliament of New South Wales. She says it’s an important step towards building a vibrant, international career.

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP) offers Australian students the opportunity to intern in a range of US congressional offices for eight weeks during January to March each year.

Students enrolled in the master’s or Master of Letters program with the United States Studies Centre are eligible to apply.

UCWIP interns gain a unique perspective and unrivalled access to the US political system and its institutions. Placements are offered in both Democratic and Republican personal offices and committee staffs in the House and the Senate.
The United States Studies Centre teaches some of the most innovative and interesting undergraduate units in Australia. These unique units cover a wide range of subject areas from US politics to American comedy or anti-Americanism to contemporary music. The units are available to all University of Sydney undergraduate students as an elective or can be completed as part of the American Studies major, which is administered by the Centre.

Some units can also be completed as part of a major in Government and International Relations, Gender and Cultural Studies, International Business, Music, English, or History. Students may also choose to apply for cross-institutional or non-award study.
**AMERICAN STUDIES**

The United States Studies Centre coordinates the American Studies program for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. American Studies is an interdisciplinary major incorporating units of study from the US Studies Centre and from the departments of Art History and Film Studies, English, Government and International Relations, History, and Music.

The major draws on the combined expertise of the United States Studies Centre and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to offer Australia’s widest range of undergraduate units focused on the United States.

The American Studies major consists of compulsory first-year units, two core senior units, and other approved units of your choice, which enable you to develop a critical, multi-faceted understanding of the United States and its global influence.

**CAREER PATHS**

The interdisciplinary nature of the American Studies major prepares students for a wide range of career options after graduation. American Studies students graduate with high-level analytical, research, and writing skills, and an exceptional ability to think critically. Potential opportunities include careers in government, NGOs, media, teaching, law, business, and academia.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Students who enrol in 2015 intending to major in American Studies must complete both AMST1001 Global America (offered in semester two) and either HSTY1076 American History from Lincoln to Clinton or HSTY1023 Emerging Giant: The Making of America*. After completing those units, students must complete AMST2601 American Foundations (preferably in semester one of their second year) and AMST3601 American Perspectives, along with four senior units of study offered by participating departments, no more than three of which may come from a single department.

Students who enrolled prior to 2014 should contact the American Studies coordinator to find out the units of study required to qualify for the major.

**HOW TO APPLY**

For more information on the US Studies Centre and how to apply for undergraduate study visit:

[ussc.edu.au/undergraduate](ussc.edu.au/undergraduate)

*Note: both HSTY1076 and HSTY1023 are taught in semester one; only one of these units is offered each year.*

---

**UNITS OF STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMST 1001</td>
<td>Global America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 2601</td>
<td>American Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 2602</td>
<td>Regionalism and American Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 2606</td>
<td>Stand Up USA: American Comedy and Humour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST 3601</td>
<td>American Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARHT 2614</td>
<td>Expand your Mind: Pollock to Psychodelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARHT 2657</td>
<td>Contemporary Hollywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARHT 2658</td>
<td>American Independent Cinema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2603</td>
<td>American Literature: Imagining America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2617</td>
<td>Postmodernism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2627</td>
<td>Screening Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2635</td>
<td>Contemporary American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2664</td>
<td>Transpacific American Literature 1838-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2604</td>
<td>Cinematic Modernism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2656</td>
<td>Rethinking the Thirties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCST 2603</td>
<td>Consuming Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCST 2607</td>
<td>Bodies, Sexuality, and Identities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCST 2605</td>
<td>Race and Representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCST 2606</td>
<td>Genres in Cultural Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCST 2612</td>
<td>Youth and Youth Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 2445</td>
<td>American Politics and Foreign Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2611</td>
<td>America in World Affairs: A History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2656</td>
<td>A House Divided: The American Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2662</td>
<td>Atlantic World in the Age of Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2663</td>
<td>American Indian Holocaust?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2666</td>
<td>American Revolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2667</td>
<td>Politics and Culture of US Imperialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2670</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2671</td>
<td>Law and Order in Modern America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSTY 2687</td>
<td>Alliance: Australia–US Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSC 2666</td>
<td>A Global Sound: African American Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 3615</td>
<td>Pragmatism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSC 2601</td>
<td>US in the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSC 2602</td>
<td>US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSC 2603</td>
<td>Americanism &amp; Anti-Americanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSC 2604</td>
<td>Sex, Race, and Rock in the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSC 3601</td>
<td>Public Opinion and Voting in the US</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**AMERICAN STUDIES COORDINATOR**

Associate Professor
Brendon O’Connor

| t | +61 2 9036 9206 |
| e | brendon.oconnor@sydney.edu.au |
Honours in American Studies has been offered since 2012. The fourth year Honours program consists of an American Studies seminar, one other seminar chosen from the American-focused fourth year units taught in English, Film Studies, Government and International Relations, or History, and an 18–20,000 word thesis.

For more information, visit: ussc.edu.au/honours

“I’VE ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT AMERICA AND EXPLORING ITS ROLE IN THE WORLD AND AN AMERICAN STUDIES HONOURS YEAR ALLOWED ME TO DELVE EVEN DEEPER. AT THE US STUDIES CENTRE, I KNOW I CAN PURSUE MY INTEREST SURROUNDED BY A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS.”

Jay Ng
Sam Johnson
Bachelor of Arts
Majoring in American Studies and Government and International Relations

Sam was hooked on US Studies after taking the Global America course in his first year. “The lectures were engaging and I enjoyed the unique approach the Centre took to studying US politics and culture.”

From there, Sam dived into the Centre’s full offerings, attending events, participating in roundtable discussions with leading academics and applying for our Study Abroad programs. In 2014, he was one of three winners in the Centre’s essay competition and travelled to Canberra to attend an Alliance 21 event. “I had the chance to make connections, hear directly from the major players in the US–Australia alliance and really engage directly with my study interests in the US.”

After his second year he was accepted to the Shanghai program. “The trip was probably the most valuable experience I have had at university. It combined academic study of US–Sino relations with actual engagement with the diplomatic and commercial bodies shaping the relationship today.”

Back in Australia, Sam says he loves the diversity and practicality of the courses offered by the Centre.

“THE UNITS ARE RELEVANT TO MY INTERESTS AND THE ASSESSMENTS ARE RESPONSIVE TO MY NEEDS. RATHER THAN WRITE TYPICAL ESSAYS, WE PARTICIPATED IN DEBATES, WROTE OPINION PIECES, AND DRAFTED A GOVERNMENT POLICY MEMO.”
UNITS TAUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE

**AMST1001**
Global America

*Semester 2, 2015*

This unit examines why, and how, American politics, culture, economics, and ideas have such a significant impact around the world. Exploring the tension between global and insular America by focusing primarily on the 21st century, we take a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the nature of global America. To effectively analyse how America captures and shapes international relations and imaginations across the globe, we examine a series of topics (imperialism, freedom, race, the environment, and sexuality) from both political and cultural/literary perspectives. Students intending to study American Studies at senior level are also required to complete either HSTY1076 American History from Lincoln to Clinton or HSTY1023 Emerging Giant: The Making of America.

This unit of study is cross-listed with American Studies, Government and International Relations, and English.

**AMST2601**
American Foundations

*Semester 1, 2015*

From a multidisciplinary standpoint, this unit introduces students to the contradictory richness of “Americanness” and prepares them for the Major in American Studies. Divided into five historically grounded modules — race, religion, gender, politics, region — the unit approaches each from a variety of angles: the historiographical, the literary, the cultural, and, where relevant, the cinematic. It will open lines of interrelation between historical, political, and imaginary forms in the construction and ongoing redefinition of the United States.

In order to enrol in this unit students who began their degrees in 2011 or later must complete AMST1001 Global America and either HSTY1076 American History from Lincoln to Clinton or HSTY1023 Emerging Giant: The Making of America. It is recommended that students take this core unit in their second year.

**AMST3601**
American Perspectives

*Semester 2, 2015*

This unit will discuss key texts from politics, history, English, film studies, and music to critically examine the United States from multiple angles including race and racism, gender, political culture, regionalism, and religion.

Students will study works ranging from de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* to the film *Birth of a Nation* with the aim of developing a critical appreciation of both classic and contemporary debates about American society.

The unit will conclude with a discussion of the ways American Studies as a field deals with these longstanding debates in innovative and challenging ways. Students will have the chance to develop a substantial primary source–driven research project.

“SOME OF THE MOST UNIQUE, CREATIVE, AND RESPECTED UNITS YOU WILL UNDERTAKE DURING YOUR STUDY. BASICALLY — GET ON IT!”

*University of Sydney Union’s Counter Course Handbook 2014*
**USSC2601**

**US in the World**

**Semester 2, 2015**

US in the World explores the dramatic political and economic changes taking place today in America that will shape lives in Australia and around the world for years to come. This dynamic unit focuses on US foreign policy in the 21st century and explores the policy challenges posed by the new diffusion of global power, the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression, and the expanding struggle against violent Islamic extremism.

This highly interactive unit features guest lectures and conversations with leading American and Australian experts. In the past these included multiple Pulitzer Prize–winning author and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, former Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, US Ambassador to Australia Jeffrey Bleich, and influential China-watcher at The Atlantic James Fallows.

This unit of study is cross-listed with American Studies, Government and International Relations, and International Business.

**USSC2602**

**US Politics: Elections, Presidents, Laws**

**Semester 1, 2015**

This unit offers a comprehensive understanding of US political institutions and political culture. The American electoral system and recent presidential elections are examined, as are the careers of American presidents from the 1960s onwards. US public policies in the areas of race, welfare, and criminal justice are also analysed.

The unit addresses key questions such as: Why do Americans have such a strong sense of exceptionalism? How much can presidents really achieve? Is the Congress more powerful than the president? Is the Congress dysfunctional? Is the American electoral system a strength or a weakness? Is America still living under the shadow of the 2008 financial crisis?

This unit of study is cross-listed with American Studies and Government and International Relations.

**USSC2603**

**Americanism and Anti-Americanism**

**Semester 1, 2015**

America has often been described as exceptional but has also been derided as an unsophisticated nation, with populist and anti-intellectual politics. This unit will explore the origins and development of these conflicting views of the United States and how these stereotypes impact on America’s foreign relations.

The unit will provide students with a strong understanding of the beliefs and values that have shaped American political culture from the colonial period to the present. Students will examine how Americans perceive themselves as well as looking at positive and negative foreign interpretations, giving them a comprehensive view of the complexity of, and contradictions within, American society.

This unit of study is cross-listed with American Studies and Government & International Relations.

**USSC2604**

**Sex, Race and Rock in the USA**

**Semester 2, 2015**

This innovative unit explores the cultural history of sexuality, race, and rock music in the United States from Elvis to Beyoncé. Through subjects including black women, glam rock, disco, and grunge, students will learn that rock music challenged existing norms of family, sex, and gender and provided a vital realm for rebellion, profit, and community.

Through this unit, you will develop a body of knowledge about the cultural history of American rock music and the transformative role it played in American society.

Special guest speakers in previous years have included editor of Rolling Stone magazine Rod Yates and frontwoman of ARIA-winning Australian band The Jezabels Hayley Mary.

This unit is cross-listed with American Studies, Gender & Cultural Studies, Music, and History.

**AMST2606**

**Stand Up USA: American Comedy and Humour**

**Semester 2, 2015**

From Mark Twain to Dave Chappelle, this unit charts American comedy’s discussions of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and of party and identity politics in the form of parody and satire. Influenced by ethnic, minority, and working-class cultures, comedy challenged and transformed the existing norms of social and political structures in the United States, as well as American identity, sex, and gender.

Through forms such as literature, television, stand-up, cinema, and new media, students will learn that comedy creates a space for agitation, exploitation, community, and freedom.

The unit will explore major styles of American comedy and humour, with students developing a broad body of knowledge about the culture and history of American comedy and humour. Recognising the interrelationships of American comedy and humour with ethnicity, politics, gender, and social institutions in 20th century and contemporary United States, the unit will allow students to enhance their understanding of the methods and evidence used to study culture at the university level. The unit will require students to develop research questions and synthesise diverse sources to build and defend a reasoned position in response to those questions.
**USSC3601**

Public Opinion and Voting in the US

*Semester 1, 2015*

How do ordinary Americans experience politics? This unit will examine what Americans know and believe about politics, how their attitudes are formed, and how and why they vote. Is the United States an angry, polarised society? Do people vote against their economic interests? Why does race remain such a potent issue in American politics? What is the role of religion in voting?

This unit will give you a thorough understanding of how to use and read opinion polls, surveys and voting data. Looking beyond the often careless use of this data in the “horse-race” journalism of daily political news, the unit will explore what political numbers actually mean.

This unit is cross-listed with American Studies and Government and International Relations.

---

**LOCAL INTERNSHIPS**

Through partnerships with the US Consulate General Sydney and the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham), the United States Studies Centre offers its students exclusive internship opportunities throughout the year. Our professional placement programs give students unprecedented access to the Consulate or AmCham to work on issues concerning Australia–US relations.

In addition to real-world experience, students also receive six elective credit points towards their degree by completing the USSC2605 US Studies Internship unit. The unit is designed to provide academic support for students to discuss and refine research approaches and questions about issues arising from the placement. Assessment includes a reflective journal, research essay, and an oral presentation.

[ussc.edu.au/internships](http://ussc.edu.au/internships)

---

**REBECCA SHEEHAN**

**LECTURER IN US HISTORY**

Music has always been a central part of Rebecca Sheehan’s life. After finishing an undergraduate degree in Australia, she travelled to New York to pursue a career in the music industry. Becoming disenchanted with how commercialisation stymied free speech in the music industry, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue a PhD. “I was living a kind of double life between university and the music world. I soon realised though that my passions didn’t have to be separate from my profession, that I could expand my musical and political interests into scholarship.”

For Rebecca, studying music history has always been about connecting personal experience to a broader social and political context. “For people who aren’t traditionally ‘political’, culture provides a way to engage with the issues that affect us. Music history helps build on the connection we all have with music to expand our knowledge of the past and present.”

Rebecca teaches the undergraduate unit Sex, Race and Rock in the USA and hosts a weekly music history segment on Sydney’s FBi Radio. Her ongoing connections to the music industry have led to guest lectures from *Rolling Stone* editor Rod Yates and lead singer of the ARIA Award-winning band The Jezabel’s Hayley Mary, among others.

Her broad musical tastes reflect the breadth of the course she teaches: everything from pop and rock to hip-hop, disco, and soul. “Music is at the heart of the intersection of sexuality, gender, class, and race in America and around the world. Making the connection between culture, politics, and history allows you to reflect on contemporary issues and change the world you live in.”

---

**ACADEMIC PROFILE**
CLAUDIA SKINNER
BACHELOR OF ARTS
Majoring in American Studies and Government and International Relations

Studying America has always been an avenue for Claudia to explore the wider world. “I like that whatever I learn in the American Studies major can be applied to countries outside of America. The major is like a magnifying glass where problems we encounter globally are brought into focus and intensified.”

The interdisciplinary nature of the major is also a big draw card for Claudia. “History, politics, and culture are all treated with equal regard, which is great. Sex, Race, and Rock in the USA, for example, has influenced my world view, advanced my thinking, and was also a lot of fun!”

Claudia travelled to Los Angeles in 2014 as part of the Centre’s UCLA Study Abroad program and says the experience gave her an invaluable perspective on America. “It was constantly exciting and fulfilling to discover the different cultures within Los Angeles, to explore the city, meet the people, and find hidden gems. The classes at UCLA were so interesting and to live with other students on campus gave it a ‘home away from home’ feel.”

Her American Studies major has inspired her to pursue a career in arts and culture. “Having international experience and being exposed to such great lecturers has given me a real head start.”
The United States Studies Centre provides a variety of innovative programs for undergraduate students to gain practical international experience and a better understanding of the United States. Students have the opportunity to live, study, and work in some of the most exciting cities in the world: Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Shanghai. All programs are offered during the summer or winter holiday break and are integrated into the curriculum at the University of Sydney. This unique setup allows students to accelerate their degree by earning 12 to 18 elective credit points outside of the regular semester.

Another feature of the programs is the group experience. Through a partnership between the US Studies Centre and the Perth USAsia Centre, each program includes students from both the University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia, providing a great opportunity to form friendships with students from across the country and the world.
SUMMER PLACEMENT PROGRAMS
JANUARY TO MARCH

During the Australian summer break, the United States Studies Centre runs nine-week placement programs in Los Angeles or Washington DC. Students are assigned professional placements across a wide range of industries and take evening classes at partner universities to earn a total of 18 elective credit points towards their degrees.

Summer placement programs are only open to the University of Sydney Business School students. Students travel with an academic who will provide program supervision and teach the compulsory placement program unit of study.

WASHINGTON DC PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Washington DC Placement Program was launched in 2011 by the United States Studies Centre in partnership with the University of California Washington Center (UCDC). The program provides students the unrivalled opportunity to live in the seat of American power and witness firsthand the interaction of government and business.

Students choose from a range of courses at UCDC such as International Policy, the Supreme Court, and Policy Making. To complement their studies, students complete professional placements in leading organisations, including in Congressional offices on Capitol Hill, think tanks, and local government.

ussc.edu.au/dc

“STUDYING AND INTERNING IN WASHINGTON DC GAVE ME ACCESS TO AN INVALUABLE NETWORK OF STUDENTS, ACADEMICS, AND ORGANISATIONS WITH CONNECTIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE EXPERIENCE WAS TRULY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME.”

Sam Tidswell
LOS ANGELES PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Developed in 2012, the Los Angeles Placement Program is run by the United States Studies Centre in partnership with the University of California Los Angeles Extension (UCLA Extension). Designed for aspiring business leaders, the Los Angeles Placement Program not only equips students with the leadership skills to give them a competitive advantage in the workforce but with an in-depth understanding of the complexities of American business.

Students enrol in the compulsory UCLA Extension courses Doing Business in the US and Leadership Communication and Strategies and complete professional placements in top finance, entertainment, law, marketing, and media firms, such as ROAR Asia Pacific, Cappello Capital, and M&C Saatchi.

ussc.edu.au/la

AM I ELIGIBLE?

- University of Sydney Business School student with a minimum WAM of 65 per cent
- Must have completed at least 48 credit points to apply for DC, 96 credit points for LA
- Prior completion of a US Studies Centre unit is highly regarded, see pages 17-19 for unit descriptions
WINTER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
JUNE TO AUGUST

The winter study abroad programs are designed for students to complete in the six-week break between semesters. Students enrol in two units of study at partner universities and can earn a total of 12 elective credit points towards their degrees.

The US Studies Centre provides full pre-departure support and a range of cultural and professional development activities on the ground throughout the program. The winter programs are available to the University of Sydney Business School and Faculty of Arts students.

SHANGHAI STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

The Shanghai Study Abroad Program was developed in 2014 by the United States Studies Centre in partnership with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University. This exclusive program combines study with a schedule of site visits to create a unique experience.

Students enrol in the compulsory Sino–US Relations course and choose a second course from options such as Chinese Civilisation or History of Diplomacy in Modern China. They also enrol in daily Chinese lessons ranging from beginner to advanced levels. In addition to the studies, the US Studies Centre prepares a schedule of site visits for students to experience firsthand the challenges and opportunities of American and Australian organisations doing business in China. Previous site visits have included eBay, Apple, the US and Australian consulates, Austrade, and more.

ussc.edu.au/shanghai

“In Shanghai, we studied the history of Sino–US relations in the morning and then in the afternoon met US foreign service officers working on the front lines of the relationship. The combination of study and site visits made it an incredibly valuable and unparalleled learning experience.”

Bella Timar
UCLA Study Abroad Program

The UCLA Study Abroad Program was launched in 2012 and provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to study at the University of California, Los Angeles, ranked 12th in the world in the 2013–14 Times Higher Education rankings.

Students choose from hundreds of courses offered by UCLA from a variety of disciplines. Popular courses in the past have included Entertainment Law; Celebrity, Fame and Social Media; and US Politics. To complement the studies, the US Studies Centre organises a range of cultural activities including welcome dinners, a trip to Disneyland, a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game, and a reception with the Australian Consul General.

ussc.edu.au/ucla

“Even in an increasingly globalised world, America remains at the heart of the conversation on everything from arts and culture to business and foreign policy. Studying in Los Angeles and experiencing the United States firsthand has helped me broaden my international career options and join the global discussion.”

Parth Gulati

Am I Eligible?

- University of Sydney Business School or Faculty of Arts student with a minimum WAM 65 per cent
- Must have completed at least 48 credit points to apply
- Prior completion of a US Studies Centre unit is highly regarded, see pages 17-19 for unit descriptions
America: Prophecy, Power, Politics is a Board of Studies–endorsed Higher School Certificate course that offers Year 11 and Year 12 students the opportunity to develop university-standard writing and critical thinking skills, and earn credit towards a tertiary degree. Offered in semester one by the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, the course covers new and exciting ground outside the HSC curriculum to enrich students’ understanding of the United States.

About the course

America: Prophecy, Power, Politics provides a conceptual overview of the major issues in contemporary and historical American society, politics, and culture. As the partisan divide in American politics demonstrates, the United States is a nation defined by disagreements over the role and size of government, religion, foreign policy, the nation’s role in the world, and the balance of individual liberties with collective justice.

The course is designed to give students the conceptual tools, research skills, and critical methodologies to understand contemporary political and policy debates in America, Australia, and the world. It will complement other HSC subjects in the humanities and political sciences, regardless of whether they have an American focus, and will provide excellent preparation for these subjects at the university level.

ussc.edu.au/highschool
DEBATE THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

The United States Studies Centre launched the Debate the Future of America competition in 2011 to encourage younger audiences to analyse important world issues pertaining to the United States. The competition allows students to debate contemporary topics and deepens their awareness of the relationship between the United States and Australia. The competition is open to all schools in the Sydney region, with elimination rounds taking place from late July through August, and the final debate being held during the University of Sydney’s Open Day.

Since the inaugural competition, dozens of high school teams from across Sydney have debated issues ranging from gay marriage to US foreign policy and American exceptionalism. The winning team each year takes home three iPads for their schools.

ussc.edu.au/debate

RODNEY TAVEIRA
Lecturer in American Studies

For Rodney Taveira, studying America has always been about light and shade. Inspired by the films of Terrence Malick and the works of Thomas Pynchon and Joan Didion, he was attracted to the promise but also the dark side of the United States. “American literature and film taught me that a shadow haunts every American Dream. American Studies provides a fittingly diverse means to explore, critique, and really understand the US. As the breadth of my study has broadened so has my enjoyment of interrogating America.”

Los Angeles embodies much of what draws Rodney to the US. “Hollywood mixed with independent cinema, film noir and crime fiction, its strong ethnic identities and their interactions, its susceptibility to the forces of nature. I love the city and much of my research focuses on its complexity.”

Rodney teaches the high school unit America: Power, Prophecy, Politics. “Seeing students engage with the US broadly and deeply is immensely rewarding. The collegiality that is built across the semester and the quality of work produced is impressive — I hope they join us at a university level.”

He also teaches postgraduate and undergraduate units, including a new course called Stand Up USA on humour in the United States, which will build on students’ knowledge of American comedy to delve into deeper issues of identity, community, and exploitation. “America has made the rest of the world laugh — and cry — for a long time. Laughter is politics and culture in action and I’m looking forward to offering a new perspective on some iconic comedies and comedians.”