



RICHMOND
THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
IN LONDON

BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies

Programme Specification

2020-21

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond University, the American International University in London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically students complete 40 separate courses over the programme which takes 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Normally, each course carries 3 US academic credits (equivalent, approximately, to 3 classroom contact hours per 15 week semester). On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of these 40 courses, roughly half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course’s learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at RQF Level 3). US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2. OVERVIEW

Programme/award title(s)	BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies
Teaching Institution	Richmond, the American International University in London
Awarding Institution	Richmond, the American International University in London
Date of last validation	March 2019 (for 5 years)
Next revalidation	2023-2024
Credit points for the award	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
UCAS Code	University Code: R20 American Studies: T700
Programme start date	September 2013
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	QAA Benchmark Statement: Area Studies2016 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-area-studies-16.pdf?sfvrsn=e9edf781_16
Professional/statutory recognition	N/A
Language of Study	English
Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)	FT
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996, 2006, 2016.) QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
Date of production/revision of this specification	May 2020 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies programme at Richmond the American International University in London is a four year programme where the discipline is studied along side a range of other subjects. Progression through the American Studies programme is set out down each of the four columns of the Programme Outcome grid – with level-specific programme outcomes at the 3000, 4000, 5000 and 6000 level. The programme outcomes are then applied in each course on the American Studies programme through assessed, courses-specific learning outcomes. On successful completion of **BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies**, a student is expected to be able to demonstrate all of the Programme Outcomes.

4. MISSION

The BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies is both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary and is directly related to Richmond's identity as an American International Liberal Arts system university. The major aims to graduate students with a strong grasp of the history, politics and culture of the Americas within a broad context of globalisation. While the primary focus of the major is on North America, this is framed within the context of global interconnections and with reference to the Americas as a whole. The required courses in the major provide a thorough grounding in American culture, history, politics, cultural theory and research methodology. Optional courses allow students to develop and refine their own interests culminating in an extended independent research project. While not a requirement of the degree, opportunities for a Junior year semester abroad are available in the USA, Canada or possibly Argentina. Senior year students achieving the required GPA are encouraged to participate in the university's Internship Programme. The programme provides a background both for postgraduate study and, via the Internship Programme, for eventual careers.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) Degree American Studies with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Liberal Arts programme offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Liberal Arts requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied. As long as a minimum 120 credits per level is achieved, Liberal Arts Options I and II will be automatically fulfilled.

Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
QCF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AMS 3100	Discovering America: Foundations of American Studies	3	12
PLT 3105	Comparative Political Systems	3	12
SCL 3100	Foundations of Sociology	3	12
GEP 3100	Transitions I	3	12
GEP 3101	Transitions II	3	12
GEP 3120	Quantitative Reasoning	3	12
GEP 3140	Scientific Reasoning	3	12
GEP 3160	Creative Expression	3	12
GEP 3180	Research and Writing I	3	12
XXX 3xxx	QCF Level 3 Elective (can be Gen Ed Hum SS requirement)	3	12
QCF Level 3 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 4		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AVC 4205	Introduction to Visual Culture	3	12
FLM 4205	Film in the Americas	3	12
HST 4100	When Worlds Collide: Race & Empire 1400-1888	3	12
HST 4105	Versailles to Vietnam: US and the World	3	12
INR 4100	Introduction to International Relations	3	12
And all of the following			
GEP 4180	Research and Writing II	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective (can be Gen Ed Hum SS requirement)	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
xxx 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 4 Credit Totals		30	120

Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements

UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
FHEQ Level 5		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AMS 5200	Power in the Americas	3	12
COM 5205	Cultural Theory	3	12
FLM 5200	Mainstream Cinema: Studies in Genre	3	12

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PLT 5400	Politics in the USA	3	12
Plus one of the following depending on the disciplinary interest:		3	12
DEV 5200	Research Methods: Social Sciences		
HST 5210	Of Myths and Monsters: History of History		
SCL 5200	Social Research		
Plus one of the following:		3	12
AMS 5400	American Television Drama		
COM 5105	Modern Popular Music		
COM 5115	Sociology of Culture and Subculture		
COM 5218	Celebrity and Fan Culture		
FLM 5400	Science Fiction Film: Cowboys and Aliens		
FLM 5410	Gender in Film		
HST 5405	US and UK Comparative History		
INR 5100	Critical Globalization Studies		
INR 5200	Global Governance		
INR 5400	US Grand Strategy		
INR 5405	Miracle to Meltdown		
LIT 5100	Travel Writing		
And all of the following			
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals		30	120

FHEQ Level 6		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
AMS 6200	Contemporary American Culture	3	12
AMS 6205	The American Presidency	3	12
AMS 6296	Senior Seminar in American Studies 1	3	12
AMS 6297	Senior Seminar in American Studies 2	3	12
HST 6220	US History Since 1972	3	12
AMS 6400	From Pop to Present: Themes in Contemporary American Art	3	12
Plus four of the following OR Internship and two of the following:		12	48
AMS 6210	The Caribbean: Creoles, Conflicts and Complexity		
AMS 6962	World Internship in American Studies (6 CREDITS)		
AMS 6972	Internship in American Studies (6 CREDITS)		
COM 6200	New Media		
DEV 6200	Sustainable Development		

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HST 6215	History on Film		
HST 6225	Culture, Power and Empire		
HST 6410	Migration and Diasporas		
INR 6400	Conflict And Peace Studies		
INR 6405	International Human Rights		
INR 6415	Foreign Policy Analysis		
INR 6420	Global Energy Politics		
PLT 6410	Politics of Environmentalism		
PLT 6415	Ethnicity and Identity		
PLT 6425	Religion, Identity And Power		
PLT 6430	Democracy and Democratization		
THR 6250	American Drama: The Beautiful and the Damned		
FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals		30	120

Black = Major requirements

Blue = General Education Liberal Arts Core requirements

Green = Electives/Gen Ed Electives,

One of these electives (at QCF L3 or FHEQ L4) must fulfil the Humanities/Social Sciences Gen Ed Elective requirement

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

7. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completing the BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies students should have:

- A. A THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Acquired a multidisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts, and analytical tools used in American Studies.
- B. A PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Placed the dynamics of social change in the Americas, within a world context, at the centre of analysis.
- C. COGNITIVE SKILLS: Demonstrated multidisciplinary knowledge and understanding of key methods of American Studies, including critical evaluation upon a range of primary and secondary sources.
- D. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Developed a range of communication and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

Theoretical Knowledge Base (A)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of theories, methods and concepts appropriate for the study of the Americas.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of approaches to the study of the history of the USA
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of theories of culture.
- iii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the main intellectual paradigms and debates in international relations.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of cultural theory.
- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of US politics.
- iii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of US foreign policy.
- iv. Demonstrates a detailed historically informed understanding of power in the Americas.
- v. Demonstrates a critical engagement with major thinkers and intellectual paradigms within the subject area and relevant cognate fields
- vi. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of social research methods.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers, writers and intellectual paradigms relevant to the study of the Americas.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in various approaches to the study of the Americas
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of how cultural, political and historical processes can be conceptualised at the global level, and the relevance of these to understanding contemporary social, cultural (including literary) and political debates in USA and the Americas.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic and interdisciplinary understanding of key texts and debates in the subject area.

A Practical Knowledge Base (B)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of social, political, cultural and historical processes relevant to the study of the Americas.

LEVEL 4

- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the history of the United States from the 18th to the late 20th centuries.
- iii. Demonstrates a broad insight into the role of the United States in the context of contemporary issues in International Relations/Development Studies.

- iv. Demonstrates a broad understanding of theoretical approaches to the study of contemporary culture.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of cultural theory and its relevance to contemporary cultural analysis.
- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of and critical engagement with the political system of the USA.
- iii. Demonstrates a detailed historical knowledge of and critical engagement with the foreign policy of the USA and its global influence.
- iv. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of social research methodologies.
- v. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of and critical engagement with a range of political, cultural and/or historical themes in American Studies.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of contemporary US history, politics and culture, including literature, and their significance at the domestic, regional and global levels.
- ii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the role of the USA and of US politics and culture in dynamics of contemporary globalization.
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, historical, international, political and social dimensions of American Studies, and of the significance of these for the subject area.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in the subject area, along with sophisticated application of key theories, concepts and research methods.
- v. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in a chosen American Studies – related subject area.

Cognitive Skills (C)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communicate arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods.

LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods.
- iii. Demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods.
- ii. Delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach.
- iii. Exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise.

Personal Development (D)

LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs.

LEVEL 4

- i. Acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas.
- ii. Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks.

LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- ii. Delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria.

- iii. Demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT).

LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.
- ii. Demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, including awareness of ethical issues in research activities, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication.
- iii. Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy.

8. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the BA (Hons) American Studies degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms such as PowerCAMPUS (or Blackboard) in many courses.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through

- Conducting research

- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our American Studies degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course by course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Most of the courses will follow the Standard Assessment Norms, however some many follow one of specialised norms or atypical assessment, as listed in each CSD.

Each senior will end their programme with a dissertation which will normally have 8,000-10,000 words.

9. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admissions

To be considered for admission, prospective students should review the Admissions Policy found on the University's website.

Transfer Credit

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

Prospective students who do not meet the academic and/or English language requirements may be permitted to enter this programme at the appropriate point after having first satisfactorily completed a Foundation Year and /or Academic English language programme at the University.

Further details may be found at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/admissions.aspx>

10. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US)

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Certificate of Higher Education in American Studies (UK)

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at RQF Level 3. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the RQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

Diploma of Higher Education in American Studies

The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 15 US/60 UK Level 4 credits and 15 US/60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

11. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services which positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their academic adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each advisee at least once per semester. Advisers assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on postgraduate and career opportunities, and also provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with particular needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counseling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students' educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

12. PLACEMENT

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

13. STUDY ABROAD

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 20 partnerships spread over five continents, students are able to select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

14. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The BA (Hons) Degree in American Studies with Combined Studies is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond the American International University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2010). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (www.seec.org.uk).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

BA (Hons) American Studies with Combined Studies is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017 (<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/admissions/about-richmond/american-british-accreditation.aspx>).

APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

Green Cells are required courses from within the American Studies Programme

Pink Cells are required courses from other Programmes. Their learning outcomes are derived from their relevant programme specifications. They have been fitted as well as possible into the American Studies Curriculum Map

Yellow Cells are optional courses within the American Studies Programme

Blue Cells are optional courses from other programmes, one of which must be taken at that level

LEVEL 3	Discovering America: Foundations of American Studies	PLT 3105 Comparative Political Systems	SCL 3100 Foundations of Sociology
A3(i)	X		X
B3(i)	X	X	X
C3(i)	X	X	X
D3(i)	X	X	X

LEVEL 4	AVC 4205 Intro to Visual Culture	INR 4100 Intro to IR	HST 4100 When Worlds Collide	HST 4105 Versailles to Vietnam	FLM 4205 Film in the Americas
A4(i)			X	X	X
A4(ii)	X		X		
A4(iii)		X		X	
B4(i)			X	X	X
B4(ii)		X		X	
B4(iii)	X				
C4(i)	X	X	X	X	X
C4(ii)				X	
C4(iii)	X	X	X	X	X
D4(i)	X	X	X	X	X

D4(ii)				X	
D4(iii)		X	X	X	

Level 5	AMS 5200 Power in the Americas	COM 5205 Cultural Theory	PLT 5400 Politics in the USA	FLM 5200 Mainstream Cinema	DEV 5200 Research Methods: Social Sciences	HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters: History of History	SCL 5200 Social Research	INR 5400 US Grand Strategy	AMS 5400 American Television Drama
A5(i)		X		X		X			X
A5(ii)			X			X		X	
A5(iii)			X		X	X		X	
A5(iv)	X		X					X	X
A5(v)		X							
A5(vi)							X		
B5(i)		X		X		X			X
B5(ii)			X		X	X		X	
B5(iii)			X	X	X			X	
B5 (iv)					X		X		
B5 (v)	X		X	X				X	X
C5(i)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
C5(ii)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
C5(iii)	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
D5(i)	X		X		X	X	X	X	
D5(ii)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
D5(iii)	X		X		X	X	X	X	

Level 6	AMS 6200 Contemporary American Culture	AMS 6205 American Presidency	AMS 6296 Senior Seminar 1	AMS 6297 Senior Seminar 2	AMS 6400 Pop to Present	HST 6220 US History Since 1972
A6(i)	X				X	X
A6(ii)	X				X	X
A6(iii)	X	X			X	X
A6(iv)	X		X	X	X	X
B6(i)	X	X			X	X
B6(ii)	X	X				X
B6(iii)	X		X	X	X	X
B6(iv)	X		X	X	X	
B6 (v)	X				X	
C6(i)	X	X	X	X	X	
C6(ii)	X		X	X	X	
C6(iii)	X		X	X	X	X
C6(iv)	X	X		X	X	X
D6(i)	X	X	X	X		X
D6(ii)	X	X	X	X	X	
D6(iii)				X		
D6(iv)	X		X	X	X	

Programme Specification Publication Dates

Document publication date	June 2013
Revision 1	January 2014
Revision 2	May 2014
Revision 3	May 2015
Revision 4	April 2016
Revision 5	May 2017
Revision 6	April 2018
Revision 7	May 2019
Revision 8	May 2020