

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Contemporary American Fiction
Status: Definitive
Code: **6038ENGLIS** (117975)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Joe Moran	Y
Joanna Price	

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24 **Total Delivered Hours:** 46
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 194

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Online	12
Seminar	22
Tutorial	1

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1,500-word commentary	25	
Essay	AS2	3,000-word extended essay with bibliography and abstract	75	

Aims

1. To explore a range of works of fiction from the United States from the 1980s to the present day;
2. To investigate some of the related themes of this fiction such as the construction

of individual and cultural memory; consumer culture and mass media; advanced technology; capitalism and globalization; international terrorism; post-9/11 anxieties.
3. *To apply critical and theoretical concepts in relation to both Contemporary American Fiction and these related themes, such as postmodernism and postmodernity, critical theory and post-theory.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review a body of specific texts produced in the United States from the 1980s to the present day;
- 2 Identify and critically evaluate some of the thematic, formal and cultural concerns of the fiction of the period;
- 3 Identify and critically evaluate a range of critical and theoretical concepts and contextual issues relevant to the fiction of the period.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1,500-word commentary	2	
3,000-word extended essay	1	3

Outline Syllabus

The key texts studied will vary from year to year and will be subject to availability and the expertise of staff teaching on the module, but an example of a syllabus of core texts would be:

Raymond Carver, Short Cuts (1994); Annie Proulx's The Shipping News (1993); Douglas Coupland's Generation X (1991); Jonathan Franzen's Freedom (2010); Don DeLillo's Mao II (1992); and Philip Roth's The Plot Against America (2004).

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, Blackboard activity, independent study.

Notes

Contemporary American Fiction will explore a range of works of fiction, from short stories to extended narratives, published in the US from the mid-1980s to the present day, and will discuss them with reference to their related themes and critical and theoretical concepts relevant to both the fiction and the period under consideration.