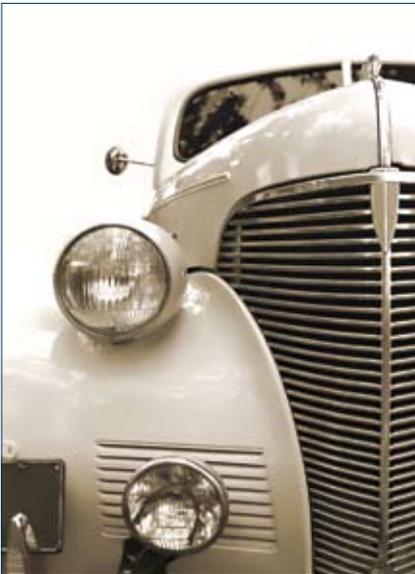




# Masters in American Studies





## Masters in American Studies

The MLitt in American Studies encourages interdisciplinary investigation of the United States. The programme draws upon a variety of academic fields such as literature, history, theology, music, history of art, politics, archaeology, anthropology and media studies.

### Core course A – Approaches to American Studies

You will spend the first semester studying on the degree's Core Course A. You will use perspectives from a variety of disciplines to explore key themes in American Studies as they are represented in a variety of different historical, cultural and literary 'texts'.

Topics covered have included:

- The world's Columbian exposition (the 'White City')
- Frederick Jackson Turner's frontier thesis
- American war writing
- Expatriate identities
- Elvis Presley
- Religion and American identities
- The Wizard of Oz
- Post-World War Two American art.

The programme is taught in a series of weekly lectures and seminars.

### Core course B – Reflections on American Studies

This course will enable you to think more critically about recent developments in, and directions taken by, American Studies. It embraces a variety of different approaches and topics in American Studies through a series of visiting speakers, who are all at the forefront of American Studies as a discipline. The aim of the course is to introduce the depth and breadth of topics and methods that fall under the umbrella of American Studies, using current debates in the field to understand its parameters. At the same time, the course reinforces the aim of interdisciplinarity as the core of all American Studies projects. This course should, therefore, help you to make clearer choices about the topic and methodology you will adopt for your dissertation. The course runs across two semesters and meets roughly once a fortnight.

## Optional courses

In the second semester, you will take two optional courses, selected from a wide range of American-themed courses led by experts across a range of fields. The courses are designed to introduce you to specialised research topics, source criticism and current debates.

In recent years these courses have included:

- The American counterculture
- African American literature from the Harlem renaissance to the present day
- Modern and postmodern war representation
- Modernist sexualities
- Popular music history
- American society and culture in the 1920s and 1930s
- The Vietnam war in American history and culture.

## Dissertation

The culmination of the MLitt in American Studies is a 12–15,000 word dissertation based on original primary source research. Students are supported in their research and writing up by an assigned supervisor with expertise in your field of inquiry.

## Entry requirements

Applicants will usually hold at least an upper second class undergraduate degree or the equivalent (3.0 GPA) in a relevant discipline. Candidates whose native language is not English must produce proof of proficiency in the English language: normally 7 in British Council IELTS (not less than band 7 in each component) or 600 in TOEFL (at least 250 in the computer-based test).

## Postgraduate funding opportunities

The Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies welcomes applications for partial or full fees-only Gordon Scholarships in American Studies, either for the taught MLitt or the PhD in American Studies. These scholarships are drawn from the Gordon Endowment, created through the generosity of Mr Albert Gordon and Mr Daniel Gordon.



## About the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies

From early in the 17th century, Glasgow has been a gateway for economic, social and cultural exchange between Scotland and North America. These connections formed the foundation of American Studies at the University of Glasgow, which has long been at the forefront of the study of American society and culture. Beginning with Professor John Nichol's groundbreaking *American Literature, An Historical Sketch, 1620-1880* (1882), the first major study of American literature to be published on either side of the Atlantic, American Studies at Glasgow continued in the 20th century with the work of such distinguished students and staff as DW Brogan, Esmond Wright, Peter Parish, William Brock and Andrew Hook.

Building upon this distinguished record, the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies was established in 1997 to foster a community of staff and postgraduate students from different fields and departments who share an interest in American society and culture. The centre promotes American studies by sponsoring seminars, colloquia, conferences, films and theatrical events, and by offering the taught MLitt in American Studies. The centre has featured seminars and public lectures by British and American scholars and such major figures as Toni Morrison and Ken Burns and has hosted the annual conferences of the British Association for American Studies, the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, and the Scottish Association for the Study of America, as well as more focused thematic conferences, and academic 'retreats' for postgraduate students and scholars.

## Core teaching staff and research interests

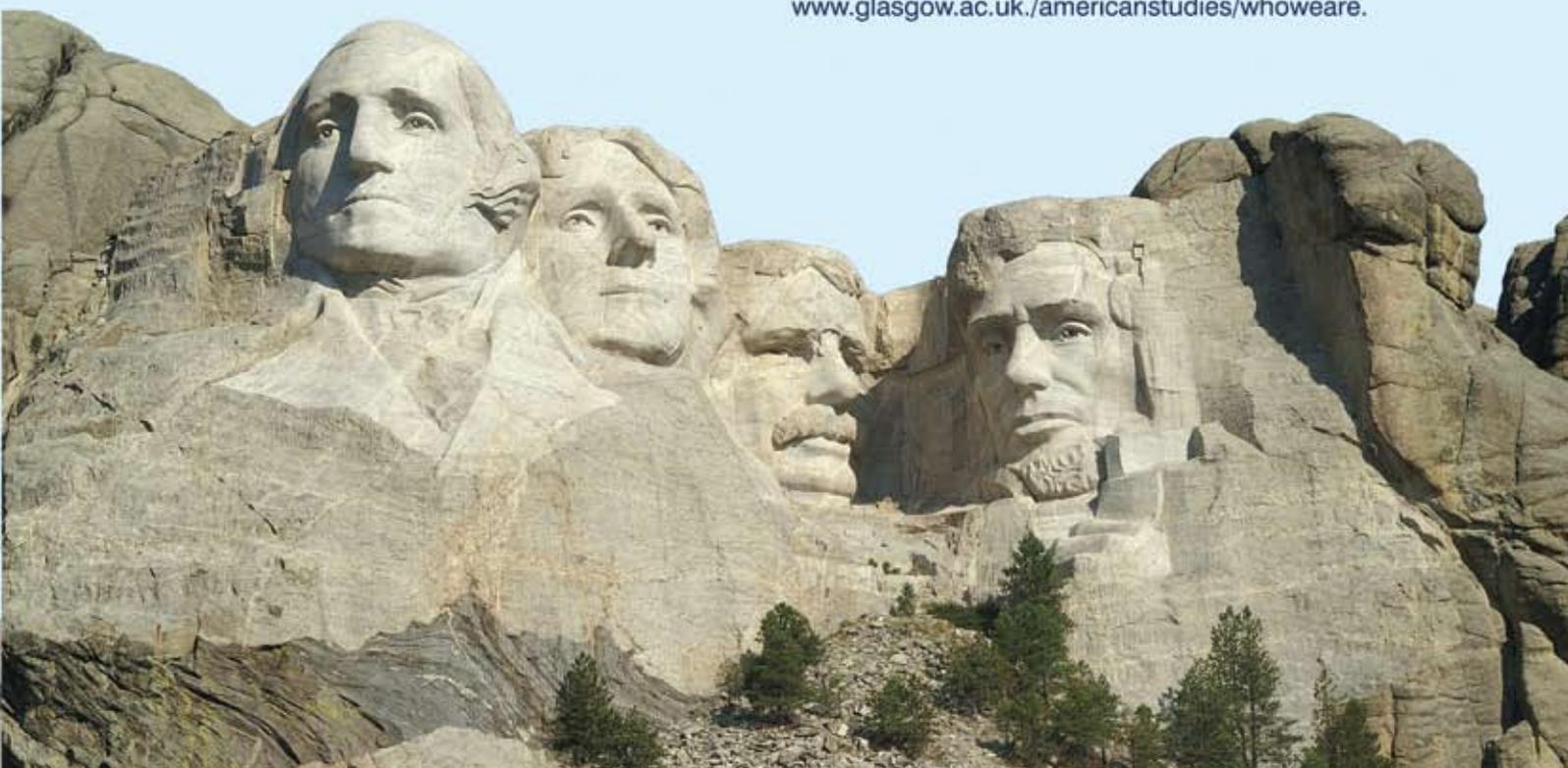
**Dr Chris Gair** is Associate Director of the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies, and Convenor of the MLitt in American Studies. He is a senior lecturer in the Department of English Literature. He has written numerous articles and books, mainly in his chief research areas, late 19th and early 20th century American literary and visual culture, the beat generation and the American counterculture. He is the editor of *Symbiosis: a journal of Anglo-American literary relations*.

**Dr Marina Moskowitz** is a reader in History and American Studies and Associate Director of the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies. Her general research area is the cultural history of the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries. She has particular interests in material and visual culture, architecture, and landscape; business history, market cultures, and the exchange of goods; and the history of the middle classes.

**Professor Simon Newman** is Sir Denis Brogan Professor of American History and Director of the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies. His research interests focus on the social and political history of early America, with particular reference to the American revolution; the early modern British Atlantic world; and historical and modern understandings of American history and society.

In addition, there are many staff in affiliated departments, such as English Literature, History, Theology & Religious Studies, History of Art, Music, and Theatre, Film & Television Studies who have Americanist interests and contribute to the MLitt in American Studies. For a complete listing, please see:

[www.glasgow.ac.uk/americanstudies/whoweare](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/americanstudies/whoweare).





## The University of Glasgow

Established in 1451, the University is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious higher education institutions.

We have been ranked in the top 1% of the world's universities by the Times Higher Education Supplement World University Rankings 2008.

We have a worldwide reputation for the quality of our research, with 96% of research staff working in areas independently assessed as producing work of international importance.

Our student community includes around 16,000 undergraduates and we welcome a diverse community of almost 5,000 postgraduate students a year, from more than 120 countries worldwide.

For more information about the University and our vibrant city, see: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/about](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/about).

For further details on the Andrew Hook Centre for American Studies, including taught and research postgraduate studies, please contact:

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[www.glasgow.ac.uk/americanstudies](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/americanstudies)

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