

WELCOME TO AMERICAN STUDIES, WELCOME TO SDU

Dear all new MA students in the American Studies Program,

On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the MA program in American Studies. We all look forward to getting to know you and hope that you will be as excited as we – students and staff at Center for American Studies – are about exploring the many and varied aspects of the United States and all things American in an academic context.

We look forward to seeing you on campus for a two-day introduction, starting **Thursday 27 August at 10.15 in room U144**. There are physical maps distributed generously all over campus that should help you locate the room, but alternatively download the SDU Maps app.

The intro program is as follows (subject to change):

Introduction to the MA program in American Studies at University of Southern Denmark

THURSDAY AUGUST 27 – Room U144

- 10.15 – 11.00: Welcome to American Studies and intro to the MA program
- 11.15 – 12.00: Meet your professors
- 12.00 – 13.15: Practical info about life at SDU + Tour of the university
- 13.15 – 14.00: Lunch (at your own expense)

FRIDAY AUGUST 28 – Room U144

- 10.00-11.30: Talk with 3rd semester graduate students
- 11.30-12.30: Lunch with BA students and Faculty
- 12.30 – 13.30: “Alpha Males and Wimps: Masculinities in U.S. Elections”, Associate Professor Thomas Ærvold Bjerre (NB! U51)
- 13.30 - 15.00: Jubilee Lecture, Professor Jørn Brøndal (NB! Room U51)

As you can see, not only will you have the opportunity to meet your fellow MA students, but also BA students and older MA students, who can share their experience of studying with us. You will also meet the professors who will be teaching you in the following semester, just as the rest of the faculty will welcome to join us.

The intro program also offers several lectures that will give you a taste of what is to come over the next two years.

Classes Taught and Study Commencement Test

This semester we have three (3) interesting and exciting courses for you:

- Theory, Method and Research Practice in American Studies, Tuesdays, 12-14 in U176 and Fridays 14-16 in U90
- Topics in American History and Society, Monday, 12-14 in U176
- Topics in American Literature and Culture, Friday, 11-13 in U8

Read more about the courses and the entire MA program here:
https://www.sdu.dk/en/uddannelse/kandidat/amerikanske_studier

Note that SDU has a so-called Study Commencement test, which means that you **need to come to class in order to prove that you are an active student**, AND take the e-learning MA introduction course on the platform Itslearning. You will learn more about this during the intro program.

We have chosen *Theory, Method and Research Practice in American Studies* for the Study Commencement test. This means that **you must participate in class for the first week of teaching. If you fail to do so, you must come the second week. If you do not, you will be no longer be enrolled as a student in American Studies.**

We strongly encourage you to come to all classes, and some courses will be very hard to pass without regular participation.

For planning purposes (room sizes, group sizes, plus we throw a free sandwich into the mix and do not want to waste too many or have anyone go hungry), it is important for us to know the following:

- Are you planning to join us on campus for the intro days (27 – 28 August)?

Please send an e-mail to nbp@sdu.dk as soon as possible regarding this.

I look forward to seeing you and should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at nbp@sdu.dk or the Graduate Student mentors if you have any questions. We will keep you updated about any changes!

Yours sincerely

Niels Bjerre-Poulsen
Associate professor, Head of Studies
nbp@sdu.dk