



'Contemporary Panel 3', Ellis Island National Monument, USA

**HIU12047**      **American Dreams: Culture in the US, 1840-present**

**Co-ordinator**      **Daniel Geary**

**Credits**      **5 ECTS**

**Semester**      **Michaelmas Term**

**Assessment**      A 1,000-1,500 word essay (40%), and an end-of-term take-home exam (60%).

**Module Description** This module provides an overview of some of the major developments in American culture since 1840. It will introduce students to the basic methods of cultural history and teach them how to place cultural developments within broader economic, political, and social contexts. Some of the themes that might be discussed in the module include: the way culture has shaped racial, gender, and class conflicts and identities; the role of popular music in American life; the growth of advertising and consumer culture; the role of culture in debates over immigration and multiculturalism; and how the conquest of the American West was registered in American culture.