

Sensorveiledning ENG4550, fall 2022

The portfolio consists of three assignments: two shorter and one longer (see below). The two shorter assignments have received feedback whereas individual meetings were offered to prepare students for the longer assignment. The commission should read the assignment with this in mind. The portfolio should be graded holistically with attention to language, content, and structure. Each assignment must be passable. The essays should be relevant for British or American Studies, broadly defined. Otherwise, the assessment will be based on [Felles karakterbeskrivelse for ILOS \(pdf\)](#).

Course convener Hilde Løvdal Stephens
Associate professor of American Studies

Assignment 1

In your first assignment, we ask you to look at how historians carry out their work of writing history. For this exercise, you choose **one** of the chapters and articles below to investigate. You should address the following **four questions** in your assignment:

1. Which *kind* of history would you say this chapter or article represents – political, social, cultural, or other – and why?
2. Explore the use of *evidence* in the article of your choice. What kind of evidence is used, and how is it presented?
3. Identify the *arguments* presented in the text. What is the overall, or main argument presented, and which arguments are put forward to build the case to support this overall argument?
4. Where was the piece *published* (i.e. what kind of journal or publisher)?

Formal requirements:

- Length: Three pages of about 2300 characters each.
- Page numbers should be included on every page.
- Use at least 1.5 line spacing, and font size 12.
- Include a bibliography at the end.
- Make sure to cite your sources, following the Chicago style (footnotes and bibliography).
- Note that the word count excludes references and bibliography.

Texts to choose from:

Trevor-Roper, Hugh. "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland." Chapter. In *The Invention of Tradition*, edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, 15–42. Canto Classics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
doi:10.1017/CBO9781107295636.002.

Swetnam, Susan H. "Look Wider Still: The Subversive Nature of Girl Scouting in the 1950s." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 37, no. 1 (2016): 90–114. <https://doi.org/10.5250/fronjwomestud.37.1.0090>.

Lee, Erika. "The 'Yellow Peril' and Asian Exclusion in the Americas." *Pacific Historical Review* 76, no. 4 (2007): 537–62. <https://doi.org/10.1525/phr.2007.76.4.537>.

Claeys, Anna. "Britannia's Children Grow Up: English Education at Empire's End." *History of Education* 47, no. 6 (2018): 823–39.

Dzanouni, Lamia and Hélène Le Dantec-Lowry and Claire Parfait, "From One Crisis to the Other: History and Literature in The Crisis from 1910 to the Early 1920s," *European Journal of American Studies*, 11:1, 2016. doi: <https://doi.org/10.4000/ejas.11432>

[Links to an external site.](#)

Assignment 2

Raymond Williams' concept of keywords have become important for cultural studies and adjacent fields such as history. In this essay, choose a keyword in British and/or American Studies (see links below) and find two scholarly articles that use this keyword. Compare how the authors define and apply the term. For instance: how do the authors define class? How and to what end do the authors use the term whiteness? What about disability? Or city? Or exceptionalism?

[Raymond Williams Keywords A Vocabulary Of Culture And Society : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

[American Cultural Studies | Keywords \(nyupress.org\)](#)

Formal requirements:

- Length: **Three pages** of about 2300 characters each.
- Page **numbers** should be included on every page.
- Use 1.5m or double line spacing, and font size 12.
- Include a **bibliography** at the end.
- Make sure to give **references** to consulted works, following the Chicago style (footnotes).
- Note that the word count **excludes** references and bibliography.

Assignment 3

The terms "Britain/British" and "America/American" are at the heart of this methods course. It is, after all, a course on theory and methods in British and American Studies. But what do they mean? In your essay, discuss how either Britain/British or America/American are used in the texts. Base your essay on three to five scholarly sources. You may choose texts from different decades to discuss historic developments of the meaning of the term or you may choose to compare and discuss texts that were contemporary.

Questions to help you start thinking: How do the authors imagine the terms? Who are included and excluded? What is the core of these concepts? What conversation are the texts parts of? What were the contexts of the conversations? What relevant keywords do they address?

Please upload the essay in Inspira for assessment.

Formal requirements:

- 8 pages (of 2300 characters), excluding bibliography.
- Page **numbers** should be included on every page.
- Use 1.5 or double line spacing, and font size 12.
- Include a **bibliography** at the end.
- Make sure to give **references** to consulted works, following the Chicago style (footnotes).
- Note that the word count **excludes** references and bibliography.