## Contents

List of plates	ix
Acknowledgements	X
The latest and and inclination of the latest to the	0 17
Introduction	1
An exceptional place or what is America?	1
Mast is American Studies?	4
Using the book	7
Critical approaches	8
A culture of many voices	11
Cultural politics/cultural studies	12
Power and position	14
Dialogism	15
	16
The continuous 'play' of culture, history and power	17
	17
References and further reading	17
New beginnings: American culture and identity	20
Reading Columbus	22
The American dream of identity: The Great Gatsby	23
Maybe this is Heaven: Field of Dreams (1989)	26
The surface of an identity': The past as presidential discourse	27
Counter-cultural dreams	30
Multiplicity, difference and re-vision	33
Age possibility: Grand Canyon (1992)	35
Conclusion: new interrogations – Gloria Anzaldua, Barry Lopez and	4100
Trinh T. Minh-ha	36
Notes and Jan Watthern Watthern Watthern	41
References and further reading	41
Follow-up work	43
	10

Act. Reinscribing the tribe uniting ethnicity

2	Ethnicity and immigration: between many worlds	44
	Ethnic America: 'A vast ingathering'	44
	Native Americans: assimilation and resistance	46
	Reinscribing the tribe: writing ethnicity	48
	Immigration and Americanisation	51
	The crucible of difference	56
	Immigrant stories: Jewish Americans	57
	The future belongs to the mixture: melting pot, mosaic or hybrid?	64
	Conclusion	67
	Notes	69
	References and further reading	69
	Follow-up work	72
3	African Americans: 'I don't sing other people's voices'	74
	Out of slavery	74
	New black histories	76
	Imaginative cultural retrieval	82
	Links in the chain: music and speech	86
	New black voices	92
	Conclusion	94
	Notes	95
	References and further reading	96
	Follow-up work	99
4	In God we trust?: religion in American life	100
	The eyes of all people shall be upon us	103
	Changing patterns in American religious life	105
	Contemporary evangelicalism	109
	African-American religion	116
	Conclusion	121
	References and further reading	121
	Follow-up work	122
5	Approaches to regionalism: the West and the South	124
1	Case study 1: revising the American West	125
	Imagined Wests	126
	Land and the West	128
	Masculinity and the land	131
113	Women and the West	134
(	A new feminine West: Willa Cather's O Pioneers	136
	Conclusion: the contested landscapes of the contemporary West	138
	Case study 2: the South – beyond comprehension?	140
	A diverse South	141
	Documentary reportage	146

	Writing the South	149
	Southern music	151
	Film and the South	153
	Conclusion Conclusion	156
	Notes and subministration common and the second sec	156
	References and further reading	157
	Follow-up work	161
6	The American city: 'the old knot of contrariety'	162
	Can we read the city?	162
	Competing versions of the city	164
	Theoretical city: the desire for control and order	166
	The undivulged city: Poe's 'The Man of the Crowd'	169
	The 'persuasive light': commerce and the city	171
	The spaces of the city: architecture, art and ambivalence	173
	Collage city	179
	Living with the city: rap music	183
	Conclusion, or no conclusion possible?	184
	Notes who were a supplied to the supplied to t	185
	References and further reading	186
	Follow-up work	187
7	Gender and sexuality: 'to break the old circuits'	189
	Nineteenth-century roots: cultural politics	190
	Nineteenth-century roots: literature and the 'First Wave' of feminism	193
	Gender and the 1950s' 'Second Wave'	197
	Out of the 1950s: Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar (1963)	202
	Sexuality and gender	205
	Conclusion	209
	Notes	211
	References and further reading	212
	Follow-up work	214
8	Representing youth: outside the sunken nursery	215
	Youth/history/representation	216
	Boundaries and youth spaces	219
	Housing the self	220
	A model youth text? – The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	223
	The dream of Eden	225
	The spaces of self-creation	228
	At the edge: the dark mood	232
	Conclusion: Generation X – an ironic, but enchanted space	236
	Notes	239
	References and further reading	239

	Follow-up work	240
9	Beyond American borders	242
	The will of Heaven: themes in the ideology of American foreign policy	243
	The Vietnam experience: understanding the war	252
	Remembering the war I: other voices	257
	Remembering the war II: the Vietnam Memorial	259
	Remembering the war III: the Vietnam syndrome	262
	The transmission of American culture	265
	Conclusion	268
	References and further reading	269
	Follow-up work	271
10	Technology and media cultures: 'the uncertain trajectory'	272
	Media power: the television family	273
	Sit-coms: 'models of appropriate domesticity'?	275
	From suburban home to global village	281
	American media imperialism	282
	The corporate voice – case study: Viacom	286
	Imagining the present: cyberpunk	288
	New alliances	290
	'Hello, you're talking to a machine': the Terminator films and	75
	cyborg culture	292
	Conclusion: 'a powerful infidel heteroglossia'	294
	Notes	295
	References and further reading	295
	Follow-up work	297
	Epilogue	298
	References	299
	Index	301