

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	American Studies International History
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	US and UK Comparative History
Course Code:	AMS 5101
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Focuses on shared themes from the 1880's to the present day, using a variety of approaches to enable students from different disciplines to participate in the course. Issues around popular culture, gender and ethnicity will be looked at, as well as peoples' responses to major political and economic events like the Depression and the two World Wars. The post-war decline of Britain as a world power and the parallel rise of the US will be studied in the context of social and cultural changes in these societies.

Pre-requisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To encourage critical and creative thinking with regard to the historical development of the US and the UK from the 1880s onwards
- To provide a framework for critical understanding of key comparative themes in social, political, and economic history, including culture, gender, and ethnicity
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of American Studies
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of inter-disciplinary and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in American Studies
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

American Studies: A5(I), B5(I), C5(I), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(I), D5(ii)

International History: A5(i), B5(i), C5(i), C5(ii), C5(iii), D5(i), D5(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Have a detailed understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of using comparative techniques in the study of US and UK history.
- Be comfortable analysing a wide range of primary and secondary sources about both the US and UK.
- Have a fundamental grasp of methods for reading and interpreting printed primary source material.
- Have developed historiographical skills applicable in an inter-disciplinary context.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Key shared events in US and UK History since 1880
- Comparative social history of the US and the UK
- Economic history and the economics of the US and UK
- Issues pertaining to demise/rise of world power status
- US and UK in the contemporary world order
- Comparative cultural developments in the US and the UK

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Lectures are primarily designed to give an overview of the issues and problems on a particular topic, and thereby provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminars will be used for debates and group/sub-group discussion, and are intended to provide an interactive and participatory learning environment. Students are expected to do the set readings for each week, and to be prepared to contribute to class discussion and discussion sub-groups. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

Indicative Texts:

Burk, K. 2009. *Old World, New World: The Story of Britain and America*. Little & Brown.

Rowbotham, S. 1997. *A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States*. Penguin

Englander, D. 1997. *Britain and America*. Open University

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Annual Update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	