

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	International History
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	From Versailles to Vietnam: Social History of the USA
Course Code:	HST 4102
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:

This course provides an understanding of some of the core issues and themes that underlie the cultural, economic political and social development of the United States from WWI to the end of the Nixon presidency. Particular attention is paid to the emergence of the United States as a global superpower, the interplay with domestic social developments, as well the consequences of such a rise to dominance. The course engages with the transformation of social and economic lived experiences in the US in this period in terms of gender, race and class in this international context.

Prerequisites:

None

Aims and Objectives:

- The study the social history of the United States 1919 to 1972 as a form of international history
- To introduce students to the study of social history and lived experience in terms of gender, race, and class
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- The foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of themes in international history
- 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:

INTHST: A4(i), A4(ii), B4(i), B4(ii), C4(i), C4(ii), C4(iii), D4(i), D4(ii), D4(iii)
AMS: A4(i), B4(i), C4(i), C4(ii), C4(iii), D4(i), D4(ii), D4(iii)

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:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of using different historiographical techniques in the study of US history.
- Demonstrate a broad grasp of methods for analysing and interpreting printed primary sources in US social history.
- Demonstrate broad knowledge concerning social transformation in the USA in the period covered in the context of international history.
- Demonstrates a grasp on historiographical methods for critical reading of different types of sources in US social history.
- Complete assigned work with a degree of autonomy, technical competence, clarity and evaluative skills appropriate for a 4000-level course.
- Demonstrates broad skills useful for productive teamwork

Indicative Content:

- US and world politics from 1912-1972
- cultural, economic political and social development
- The effects of foreign policy on domestic developments
- Gender, race and class transformations in the US
- The contested nature of primary textual analysis

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:

David Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, 11th ed. New York: Norton, 2019.

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States, 1492 to the present*, New York: Harper Perennial, 2005.

See syllabus for complete reading list

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

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Revised course description		
Major	Revised Learning outcomes		
Major	Revised Indicative Content		
Minor	Revised Indicative Texts		
	Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
	Revision – annual update	May 2023	
	Total Hours Updated	April 2024	