

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	International History American Studies
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Of Myths and Monsters: A History of History
Course Code:	HST 5210

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:

The aim of this course is to engage students directly in the study of historiography – how history is written, by whom, when – by studying key issues, ideas, practitioners, methodologies, theories and texts which have shaped the history of history, from its earliest origins in Antiquity through to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A chronological survey of this kind will enable students to read key historians while emphasizing a comparative approach which highlights both continuity and change.

Prerequisites:

GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:

- To study key issues, ideas, practitioners, methodologies, theories and texts in historiography
- To engage in a chronologic survey of historiography, enabling a comparative perspective
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular 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:

International History: A5(ii); A5(iii); B5(ii); C5(i); C5(ii); C5(iii); D5(i); D5(ii); D5(iii)
American Studies: C5i, C5ii, C5iii, D5i, D5ii, D5iii

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.

- Demonstrate an understanding of, and engagement with, the main issues, themes, and debates in historiography from the Greeks to the twentieth century.
- Demonstrate familiarity with key primary texts of ancient, early modern, and modern history writers, and through this a systematic understanding of the problems of constructing history
- Demonstrate ability to deploy methods for reading, interpreting, and assessing printed primary source material.
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner, demonstrating adaptability to different contexts, audiences, and levels of complexity.
- Demonstrate ability to take responsibility for their own learning; complete, with limited supervision, assigned work which is clear and contextualised, shows conceptual and analytical sophistication and the level of critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- History writing in antiquity
- History writing in the Middle Ages
- History writing in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment
- History writing in the nineteenth century
- Feminist historiography in the twentieth century
- Non-Western historiography.

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 seminars and group work. 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 the group discussions that form a key part of the learning environment. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of learning.

Indicative Texts:

John Tosh, *The Pursuit of History: Aims, Methods and New Directions in the Study of History*, 7th ed., London: Routledge, 2022.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

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	Level change from 6 to 5	LTPC 27 June 2013	1 July 2013
	Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
	Revision – annual update	May 2023	
	Total Hours Updated	April 2024	