

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	History
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	From Versailles to Vietnam: The United States and the World
Course Code:	HST 4105
Course Leader:	Professor Alex Seago
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Provides an understanding of some of the major issues and themes which underlie the development of the United States from WWI to the end of the Cold War. Particular attention is paid to the emergence of the United States as a global superpower, the consequences of such a rise to dominance, including the means by which America has projected its power globally: financially, diplomatically and militarily.

Pre-requisites: None.

Aims and Objectives:

- To foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in this period of American history
- To encourage the development of critical thinking.
- To develop research skills, close reading skills, formulating and presenting a coherent argument in seminars and in writing based upon a critical understanding of a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Programme Outcomes:

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

4A(i); 4A(ii); 4B(i); 4B(iii); 4C(i); 4C(ii); 4C(iii); 4D(i); 4D(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Have an 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
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, technical competence, clarity and evaluative skills appropriate for a 4000-level course

Indicative Content:

- US and world politics from 1918-1989
- US as superpower and consequences
- Power projection – financial, diplomatic and military
- Key historical junctures in US rise to power
- The effects of foreign policy on domestic developments
- The contested nature primary textual analysis

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Midterm Exam:	30%
Term Paper (2500 words)	30%
Final Exam (2 hours)	40%

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.

Bibliography:

- Tindal, G. & Shi, D. (2007) *America: A Narrative History*, (Norton)

