

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: 6

Course Title: United States History Since 1972

Course Code: HST 6220

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 appreciation of the political, social and cultural developments that have defined the United States since 1972. Starting with the break in at the Watergate, the course considers the events, personalities and politics that contributed to make the ensuing 4 decades so turbulent and memorable. Particular attention is paid to issues of relative decline, the impact of Watergate and Vietnam on the national psyche, the rise of the new right and the new south, and the evolving role of minority groups. The course will address the manner in which the United States emerged from the Cold War but found little peace, domestically or internationally, in the aftermath.

Pre-requisites: HST 4105

Aims and Objectives:

- To explain the political, cultural and social changes that occurred in this era of U.S. History
- To analyse the manner in which the United States changed from 1972- 2008
- To examine the key historical events that defined the US in this era
- To convey an appreciation of the contribution of key individuals to the development of organisations and institutions during the era.

Programme Outcomes:

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

6A(i); 6A(iv); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(i)

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 module, 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 U.S. history.
- Be comfortable analysing a wide range of primary and secondary sources about the USA
- 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 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Key events in U.S. History since 1972
- Analysis of U.S. social and cultural history
- Consideration of U.S. fluctuating economic status
- Changes in U.S. regional domestic demographics
- The impact of successive administrations on the course of US History

Assessment:

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

Term Paper (4,000 words)	50%
Final Exam (2 hours):	50%

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 and Shi (2010) *The Enduring Vision*, (Norton)
- Patterson, J. (2007) *Restless Giant US 1974-2000* (Oxford)
- Ferguson et al (2011) *The Shock of the Global* (Harvard)
- Ehrman (2006) *The Eighties* Yale

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

