

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: American Studies

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: The American Presidency

Course Code: AMS 6205

Course Leader: 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:

This course studies the American presidency in a deliberately multi-disciplinary fashion, taking into account the history of the office, its place within the American system of government as well as its cultural impact. The course considers the origins, history and evolution of the presidency; addresses the powers and limitations of the office; examines the individuals who have sought and held the title and explore the continuing cultural impact of the American Presidency.

Pre-requisites: PLT 5400 or INR 5400

Aims and Objectives:

- To understand the Constitutional role of the Presidency within the US political system.
- To analyse the evolving nature of the office of the American Presidency.
- To examine the key historical developments that defined the American Presidency.
- To address the cultural impact of the American Presidency.

Programme Outcomes:

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

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

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of how cultural, political and historical processes can be conceptualised at the global level, and the relevance of these to understanding contemporary social, cultural and political debates in USA and the Americas.
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the role of the USA and of US politics and culture in dynamics of contemporary globalisation.
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms
- Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions

Indicative Content:

- USA Constitution, Founding Principles and Debates
- USA political institutions
- The History of the Presidency
- The Presidency on the national and international stage
- The Powers and limitations of the Presidency
- The reciprocal relationship between the Presidency and culture

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms

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:

- Nelson, M. (2009). *The Presidency and the Political System*, Sage
- Rollins, P. (2005). *Hollywood's White House*, University of Kentucky

