

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT****Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences**Programme:** Political Science**FHEQ Level:** 5**Course Title:** Politics Goes to Hollywood**Course Code:** PLT 5401**Course Leader:** Dr Mike Keating**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:**

Popular culture often reflects and shapes the political landscape of a given epoch. This course critically investigates the tensions between actual political conditions and events and their representations in popular culture, particularly in film. In using selected concepts and theories of political science this course seeks to identify and describe explicit and implicit political content in contemporary popular culture. The course will provide students with an opportunity not only to critically examine a variety of contemporary political analyses on key issues but also to independently assess the relevance and coherence of political concepts through the medium of film. Indicative themes studied may include changes in political economy, race and identity politics, contemporary warfare and ecological crises.

**Pre-requisites:** PLT 3100 or PLT 4100 or COM 4100 or COM 4200**Aims and Objectives:**

- To enable students to utilize contemporary interpretative social science research methods to conduct independent research on political phenomena.
- Develop an awareness of the interconnectedness of the political and popular culture;
- Analyse film and popular culture as instruments of political persuasion.
- To encourage an independent and critical approach to popular representations of political phenomena

- To write essays that critically evaluate the content and theoretical accuracy, from a political science perspective, of films and other forms of popular discourse.
- To introduce students to a range of contemporary political concepts and issues

### **Programme Outcomes**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes. 5A(i), 5A(ii), 5B(i), 5B(ii), 5B(iii), 5C(i), 5C(ii), 5C(iii), 5D(ii)

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.

- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with popular representations of political phenomena and issues
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in core political concepts and issues
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with an understanding of methods of analyzing popular culture for political content
- Delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach

### **Indicative Content:**

- Definitions of political ideology
- Methodological analysis of film as political text
- The 'end of ideology' and political ideology in popular culture
- Political subjectivity (e.g., race, gender, class), and film
- Political concepts (e.g., labour, the state, social movements, war) in cinema
- Political ideologies (e.g., liberalism, conservatism, environmentalism) in cinema

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

### **Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, film screenings, and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures and film screenings provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core

problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented

