

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Academic School/Department:</b> | Communications, Arts and Social Sciences             |
| <b>Programme:</b>                  | Combined Studies                                     |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                 | 5                                                    |
| <b>Course Title:</b>               | Modern Britain: A Social Analysis                    |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                | SCL 5400                                             |
| <b>Course Leader:</b>              | Alex Seago                                           |
| <b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>   | 120                                                  |
| Lectures:                          | 22.5                                                 |
| Seminars/Tutorials/Visits:         | 22.5                                                 |
| Independent / Guided Learning:     | 75                                                   |
| <b>Semester:</b>                   | Spring                                               |
| <b>Credits:</b>                    | 12 UK CATS credits<br>6 ECTS credits<br>3 US credits |

**Course Description:**

A general presentation of British society for students who arrive in the country and are keen to know about its way of life, patterns of thought, and socio-cultural background.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Aims and Objectives:**

This course offers students an insight into to Modern Britain by examining the history of its major social and political institutions, the cultural values of its peoples and significant contemporary socio-political issues and debates. Topics covered local and national cultures, multi-culturalism, urban/rural issues, local and national politics, welfare, immigration, religion, class, gender, race and ethnicity. The course encourages critical discussion about the differences between US and British society and will address the relation of Britain to Europe, past, present and future. The course aims to facilitate student orientation in the context of British society and to offer an important socio- historical framework relevant to the other courses they will take.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

A5(i); A5(ii);B5(i);B5(ii);B5(iii);C5(i);C5(ii);C5(iii);D5(1);D5(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:**

- Detailed understanding of key differences between UK & US culture and society.
- Detailed understanding of key UK social and political institutions..
- Detailed understanding of the ways in which key political and sociological ideas apply to practical issues in British life and culture.
- Critical engagement with intercultural issues in contemporary British society.
- Critical engagement with aesthetics of the built environment
- Demonstrates well-developed skills (eg; group work, report writing, oral presentation) which translate to workplace.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

### **Indicative Content:**

- Growth of urban & industrial Britain
- British class structure
- Social mobility
- Education system
- Race, ethnicity and immigration.
- Gender issues
- Political system & Parliament
- Britain's changing global role.

### **Assessment:**

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

### **Teaching Methodology:**

The course will be taught through classroom lectures, seminar classes, student presentations and field trips.

### **Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

### **IndicativeText(s):**

Rojek,C. Brit Myth: Who do the British Think They Are? (Reaktion 2007)

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

