

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: American Studies

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Contemporary American Culture

Course Code: AMS 6200

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:

This senior level American Studies course is international and interdisciplinary in scope. It focuses on 20th and 21st century questions of Americanization and culture, examining discourses that have influenced and continue to shape the United States and its complex relations with the rest of the world.

Prerequisites: COM 5205

Aims and Objectives

- To examine and assess key debates relating to contemporary cultural developments in the United States, Canada, Latin America and in other regions influenced by Americanization.
- To consolidate and synthesize an accumulated body of knowledge acquired in American Studies-related courses over the course of the major
- To demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge critically to a variety of contemporary cultural situations and interpretations
- To demonstrate the ability to formulate appropriate questions and provide answers to them using valid and relevant evidence and argument.

Programme Outcomes:

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

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

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.

- Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms relevant to the study of contemporary American culture.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in various approaches to the study of contemporary American culture
- Demonstrate 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.
- Demonstrate 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.
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, conceptual and analytical sophistication, critical thinking, and reflexive normative and cultural understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Cultural politics, cultural studies & American Studies
- Ethnicity & Immigration
- Gender & sexuality
- The American City
- Popular Culture
- American Visual Culture
- Americanisation and Globalisation

Assessment:

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

Short Paper (1000 words)	20%
Research Essay (3000 words)	40%

