

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: MA in International Relations

Level: 7

Course Title: US Foreign Policy

Course Code: INR 7426

Course Leader: Dr James D. Boys

Student Engagement Hours: 200

Seminars: 39

Tutorials: 6

Independent / Guided Learning : 155

Semester: SPRING

Credits: 20 UK CATS credits

10 ECTS credits

4 US credits

Course Description:

This course will examine the manner in which the foreign policy of the United States has evolved and the degree to which it is judged to have altered in recent decades. The course will provide an understanding of the motivating factors behind the nation's long-term foreign ambitions and the philosophy that drives it. Theories of US foreign policy will be considered, along with the views of officeholders to ascertain the philosophical and practical bases for America's global entanglements. Individuals from Kennan to Reagan, from McNamara to Obama and events from Korea to 9/11 will be addressed to discern the manner in which the United States alternates between excessive intervention and apparent disinterest in global affairs.

Pre-requisites: MA International Relations and MA International Development students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to the role of the United States on the world stage.
- To encourage students to consider the vital link between foreign and domestic policy
- To drive debate as to the extent to which the United States has become an imperial power
- To link theory to a series of events from American history

Programme Outcomes:

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

A; C; E; F; G

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of some of the central debates, themes and contestations in US Foreign Policy.
- Develops critical responses to key US Foreign Policy practitioners, their methods and ideas.
- Articulate a clear sense of US Foreign Policy as an evolving process that builds upon precedent to advance US national interests.
- Demonstrate a clear and demonstrable appreciation of the contribution to US foreign policy as initiated by successive administrations.
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract ideas and diverse information in the area of US foreign policy.

Indicative Content:

- Relationship between foreign and domestic policy
- Examination of structures and actors
- Consideration of the evolving powers of the Executive
- History of US Grand Strategy
- Considerations of relationship between actors and structures

Assessment:

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

| FHEQ level | Richmond/UK Level | Normal Number of Items (including final exam)* | Total assessment |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| LEVEL 7 | R500/UK MA | 2-3 | 5000-7000 words |

Teaching Methodology:**SEMINARS**

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for

the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the module instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Bibliography:

- Cameron, Fraser. *US Foreign Policy After The Cold War 2nd Edition*, New York: Routledge, 2005
- Ferguson, Niall. *Colossus*, London: Penguin, 2005
- Hastedt, Glenn. *American Foreign Policy, Past, Present, Future*, 5th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2003
- Hook, Stephen & Spanier, J. *American Foreign Policy Since World War Two*, Washington, CD: CQ Press, 2007
- Johnson, Loch. *Seven Sins of American Foreign Policy*, New York: Pearson Longman, 2007
- Rothkopf, David. *Running the World*, New York: Public Affairs, 2005
- Wittkopf, Eugene & Jones, Christopher. *American Foreign Policy, Pattern and Process* 7th Edition, New York: Thompson/Wadsworth, 2005

Change Log for this CSD:

| Major or Minor Change? | Nature of Change | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC) | Change Actioned by Academic Registry |
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