

## **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:** History

**FHEQ Level:** 5

**Course Title:** US and UK Comparative History

**Course Code:** HST 5405

**Course Leader:** Professor Michele Cohen

**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:**

Focuses on shared themes from the 1880's to the present day, using a variety of approaches to enable students from different disciplines to participate in the course. Issues around popular culture, gender and ethnicity will be looked at, as well as peoples' responses to major events like the Depression and wars. Concepts from economic history will be used to analyze the booms and slumps that have occurred and the changes to the US/UK that have taken place as a result. The decline of Britain as a world power and the parallel rise of the US will be studied, and this will help put into context the current debates on the post Cold War world order and globalization.

**Pre-requisites:** None

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The class aims to foster the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of a historical period covering the US and UK; which particularly encourages the development of critical comparative thinking. The particular skills focused on include research skills, close reading skills, formulating and presenting a coherent argument in seminars and in writing based upon a critical understanding of a variety of primary and secondary sources

### **Programme Outcomes:**

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

5A(i); 5A(iii); 5B(ii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

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.

- Have a detailed understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of using comparative techniques in the study of US and UK history.
- Be comfortable analysing a wide range of primary and secondary sources about both the US and UK.
- Have a fundamental grasp of methods for reading and interpreting printed primary source material.
- Have developed historiographical skills.
- 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:**

- Key shared events in US and UK History since 1880
- Comparative social history of the US and the UK
- Economic history and the economics of the US and UK
- Issues pertaining to demise/rise of world power status
- US and UK in the contemporary world order
- Comparative cultural developments in the US and the UK

### **Assessment:**

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

### **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:**

- Bower et al                    *The Enduring Vision*
- Englander, D                *Britain and America*
- Pugh, M                        *State and Society*
- Rowbotham, S               *A Century of Women.*

