

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: Combined Studies

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Contemporary British Culture

Course Code: SCL 5450

Course Leader: Alex Seago

Student Engagement Hours: 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminars/Tutorials/Visits: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: Spring

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course/Course Description:

Aimed primarily at students participating in the International Internship Programme, this course provides students with a comprehensive and detailed overview of contemporary British culture.

Prerequisites: None.

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of the course is to take students beyond the initial superficial aspects of “consumer” culture to reveal the elements that collectively can be considered as “British”.

The course provides students with a comprehensive overview of contemporary British culture; an overview that engages with many aspects of current debate regarding national and cultural identity and questions how citizens interact with the modern state. The course will cover the historical processes that have helped shape UK society and now govern the social attitude and outlook of modern Britons. The course will also address issues that have become central to political and cultural reporting by the media. These will include differences between English, Scottish and Welsh identities; the role of Monarchy; UK Parliamentary Democracy; multiculturalism and religious faith in Britain.

In the context of British culture, the course will also focus on practical assistance to International Internship Programme students, to help them adapt to the context of “working-life”. Student will be introduced to the social issues that are likely to influence the behaviour of their workplace colleagues.

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 are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

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.
- Demonstrate well-developed skills (eg; group work, report writing, oral presentation) which translate to workplace.
- Complete 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:

- National & cultural identities in the United Kingdom
- Social & political attitudes
- Monarchy
- Multiculturalism
- Religious identities
- British Media

Assessment:

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

Teaching Methodology:

An informal lecture followed by class discussion and group work. Use will be made of polemics and reference to articles from UK newspapers & periodicals, TV documentaries, films & novels. Students will be expected to participate in-class discussions and, in their own time, visit a suggested list of locations within London

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

Dunleavy, Patrick (et al) **Developments in British Politics**, Basingstoke: Macmillan 2000

