

Module code: MOD000686	Version: 4 Date Amended: 09/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
The United States in the Twentieth Century

2a. Module Leader
Rohan McWilliam

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

You will study the development of the United States during the twentieth century as it gained superpower status. The module investigates social and political change from the Progressive era through to Ronald Reagan's presidency. We will consider such key figures as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Al Capone, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Richard Nixon. Topics will include US foreign policy, imperialism, the New Deal, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam war and Watergate. You will evaluate themes such as the continuities and changes in foreign policy, the development of the reform tradition as well as the problems of race. The module builds on the work done in 'The Growth of the USA' teaches you to draw upon the history of the United States in order to understand the country's present status. It is taught by a combination of lectures and seminars. Teamwork and oral skills are promoted through group discussion during seminars, and this helps to prepare you for employment as it encourages interaction with colleagues. The ability to offer cogent written analysis and informed analysis under pressure is developed through the module.

6b. Outline Content

- The Progressive movement
- Imperialism and the making of US foreign policy
- The Roaring Twenties
- The New Deal
- The Cold War and McCarthyism
- The Kennedy era and the Great Society
- Civil Rights and protest movements in the 1960s
- The Vietnam War at home and abroad
- The new Republican Ascendancy

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the main social, political and economic events in the United States during the twentieth century.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a comprehension of the culture and institutions of the United States and their development over the period.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Provide an analysis of the origins of contemporary American global, political, military and economic strength.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Show flexible and creative approaches to problem solving.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	One 1 hr lecture, weekly.
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	One 1 hr seminar, weekly.
Student managed learning	126	1-4	126 hrs of reading: students will need to organise their own extensive and intensive reading and critical use of web-based information.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Essay: 1,500 words.

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011	Coursework	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Essay: 1,500 words.

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]