

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>American Politics: ideology and power</b>
<b>Programme(s)/Course</b>	BA Politics
<b>Level</b>	6
<b>Semester</b>	2
<b>Ref No:</b>	DSS_6_AMP
<b>Credit Value</b>	20
<b>Student Study hours</b>	Contact hours: 45 Student managed learning hours: 155
<b>Pre-requisite learning</b>	None
<b>Co-requisites</b>	None
<b>Excluded combinations</b>	None
<b>Module Coordinator [Name + e mail address]</b>	Edwin Shaw <a href="mailto:shawe5@lsbu.ac.uk">shawe5@lsbu.ac.uk</a>
<b>Parent Division</b>	Social Sciences
<b>Parent Course</b>	BA Politics
<b>Description [100 words max]</b>	This module examines the government and politics of the USA, underpinned by analysis of political economy and social change. Attention will be given to historical developments by examining aspects of political culture and values, the idea of American exceptionalism, and wider ideological questions, including analysis of emergent phenomena such as Black Lives Matter, the Alt-Right movement and MGTOW. Key institutions and political processes analysed include the presidency, legislature and Supreme Court, the federal system, the media, the military, law enforcement, elections and electoral demography and changes to the dominant political parties.
<b>Aims</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop student understanding of the politics, economy and society of the USA</li> <li>• To analyse politics, culture and civil society in the USA in the context of their historical development</li> <li>• To critically engage with the concept of American exceptionalism</li> <li>• To analyse and evaluate the changing electoral and political demography of the USA</li> <li>• To analyse and evaluate the links between ideology, cultural values, race, ethnicity and gender, and the impact these have on policy and attitudes to governance</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate:</p> <p><b>Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding of the American political system</li> <li>• a critical understanding of the link between ideology, religion, race and politics in America</li> </ul> <p><b>Intellectual Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ability to historically contextualise and analyse the current situation in the USA</li> <li>• the ability to utilise concepts and theories in the analysis of the politics and economics of the USA</li> <li>• critically engage with how ideology and cultural values impact on US politics</li> </ul> <p><b>Practical Skills</b></p> <p><b>Transferable Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• good time management and self-organisation skills</li> <li>• the ability to present arguments and counter-arguments in a critical and cogent</li> </ul>

	manner
<b>Employability</b>	At the end of the module the student will : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to locate and access information independently</li> <li>• Be able to compare and evaluate information</li> <li>• Be able to organise, apply, and communicate information sources to others</li> <li>• Be able to work to deadlines</li> <li>• Be able to research occupations and employers</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning Pattern</b>	1 weekly 2-hour lecture and 1 weekly 1-hour seminar
<b>Indicative content</b>	USA historical development American exceptionalism The US federal system Major institutions of the USA: Presidency, Congress and Supreme Court- interrelations and policy gridlock Party politics in the USA The changing electoral and political demography of the USA Race and racism in the USA Gender and American politics Social justice movements in contemporary American politics The political economy of the USA The USA in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century
<b>Assessment method (Please give details – elements, weightings, sequence of elements, final component)</b>	Formative: Draft textual analysis of 4-500 words to be submitted in week 5 or 6 and discussed in seminar Summative: 1) Textual analysis, 1500 words - 30 per cent 2) Two hour unseen exam - 70 per cent
<b>Indicative Reading</b>	<b>CORE READING</b> Marietta, M. <i>A Citizen's Guide to American Ideology</i> , 2012 McKay, D. <i>American Politics and Society</i> , 2009 Mauk, D. and Oakland, J. <i>American Civilisation</i> , 2009 Peale, G et al, <i>Developments in American Politics 6</i> , 2010 Shapiro, J. <i>Deforming American Political Thought</i> , 2016 Storey,W. <i>US Government and Politics</i> , 2010  <b>OPTIONAL READING</b> Balmer, R. <i>God in the White House</i> , 2009 Foley, M. <i>American Credo</i> , 2007 Zinn, H. <i>A People's History of the United States</i> , 2015
<b>Other Learning Resources</b>	<b>Module VLE:</b> The moodle site presents a more visual, dynamic and interactive point of contact and dissemination for the module. The site details the structure of the module, functions as a document repository and contains links to online (including audio-visual) learning materials for example to newspapers, organisations, digital archives, reports etc. Use of You Tube