



Module Specification

US Foreign Policy

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Part 1: Information

Module title: US Foreign Policy

Module code: UZQNJ-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Politics

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module is based around a range of pivotal US foreign policy case studies from 1945-present. The module is designed to go inside the minds of US policymakers to understand why the US has pursued certain foreign policy packages at certain times, and in certain cases.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: As the content deals with real world cases each week, including some of the most pivotal wars and crises in recent memory, it is very much a practical module that goes beyond simply understanding politics towards instilling a professional appreciation of how politics is done at many levels of government. This equips students with many real-world transferable skills such as policy analysis, report writing and presenting and understanding government and governing. In other words, to borrow a well-known political analogy, it shows 'how the sausage is made' so that students can forge their own policy making insights and skills and then take those beyond their degree.

The below skills are introduced, practised and evidenced during the module. In brackets is their specific strand e.g. presentation.

Communication (Presentation)

Professionalism (Presentation)

Critical Thinking (Presentation and policy analysis)

Digital Fluency (Presentation and independent learning/research)

Innovative and Enterprising (Presentation and policy analysis)

Forward Looking (Presentation and policy analysis)

Emotional Intelligence (Presentation and policy analysis)

The below skill is introduced during the module:

Globally Engaged (Introduced in taught content)

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: As the world's only current 'superpower' the module seeks to chart the rationale for America's definition of its national interests as being global, and the various foreign policies that are made as a result. This is done largely through the analysis and discussion of primary sources (e.g. public policy

papers, declassified archival papers and speeches) and a complementary reading of secondary sources to put the primary sources into context.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Identify the factors and personalities driving US foreign policy decision making in a variety of cases from 1945-present

MO2 Articulate the changing role of the US in international relations

MO3 Analyse a wide range of primary sources

MO4 Present material in a group and individual setting

MO5 Pursue an independent reading and research strategy

MO6 Utilise primary source databases and archival repositories to inform analysis

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqnjp-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqnjp-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: As the module deals with real world cases and the primary policy papers surrounding each case, the assessments are designed to directly test the students' awareness of and ability to reflect upon these sources. Firstly, each student will deliver a 10 minute presentation on one of the case studies from the module. These will be delivered in group format, with each individual presentation on part of an overarching topic that the group has been assigned. This format has been chosen to embed both group work/organisational and individual skills which are

essential for graduate studies or future employment. Whilst the students are working in groups, the assessment is based on their individual contribution. The presentations are arranged as part of a flipped classroom component of the module and allows the presenting group to lead that week's class and also field questions from their classmates.

Secondly, a 2500 word policy analysis will allow students to develop a longer form analysis showing the depth of their understanding of the wider context of the cases under discussion, and the intricacies of how and why the policymakers took the decisions that they did. Students will choose their own topics allowing them to pursue an independent research strategy and build up their research gathering skills. Crucial to this assessment is the building of an analysis to argue for a perceived 'success' or 'failure' of the policies undertaken – which allows the student to show a critical awareness of how certain decisions do not always go to plan and can lead to often unforeseen outcomes.

The referral assessments mirror the first run.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Policy Analysis (2500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5, MO6

Presentation - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO6

Presentation - Component A (Resit)

Description: Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: Policy Analysis (2500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19