



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: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Politics

Module type: Module

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 US foreign policy 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, and explore the impact of those decisions.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module will provide students with the opportunity to understand how foreign policy is made. In doing so students will develop and apply a wide range of theoretical and policy analysis elements of International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis and Political Science.

In broader terms, the module will build student confidence in presenting and voicing their thoughts, ideas and research through the use of flipped teaching and innovative delivery methods that places a premium on two way learning and communication.

Outline syllabus: As the content deals with real world issues, 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 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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: With the US widely regarded as the world's only remaining 'superpower' post 1991, this 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 through the analysis and discussion of different sources such as primary sources (e.g. policy papers, declassified archival papers and speeches) and secondary sources (such as journal articles, books etc.). A flexible, and often flipped, teaching approach allows for each issue to be explored through discussion, group work and practical activities.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

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

MO2 Articulate the changing role of the US in international relations using a variety of historical and contemporary examples

MO3 Analyse policy making in a group and individual setting, building further on essay and presentational skills

MO4 Pursue an independent reading and research strategy

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 issues, and the primary and secondary sources surrounding each issue, the assessments are designed to directly test the students' awareness of and ability to reflect upon these sources to shape their own credible analyses.

Firstly, each student will deliver a 10 minute presentation on one of the case studies from the module. These will be delivered in a panel format, with each individual presentation forming part of an overarching topic that the panel has been assigned – similar to an academic or policy conference panel. This format allows students to lead a session, and also preview what it is like to present their ideas in a professional context, such as a conference.

Secondly, a 2500 word written assignment will allow students to develop a longer form analysis showing the depth of their understanding of the wider context of an

issue, and unpack the intricacies of how and why the policymakers took the decisions that they did, and whether (or to what degree) they succeeded or failed. Students will pursue an independent research strategy and build up their research gathering skills.

The referral assessments mirror the first run.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Policy Analysis Essay (2500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Policy Analysis (2500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19