

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Hyperpower Politics: The USA
2	Module Code:	POLS30101
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Full Year
5	School:	Social Sciences
6	Campus:	City
7	Date:	September 2017

8 Pre, Post and Co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
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9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Humanities

10 Overview and Aims

The aim of this module is to examine the politics and government of the USA - a complex and changing western liberal democracy. Students will be introduced to the significant actors and institutions in the political and governmental system of the United States. Their de jure and de facto powers along with their roles and functions will be discussed and critically evaluated in a range of policy areas.

11 Module Content

The following topics will be studied: The historical context of the USA before the Revolution, the American Revolution, the creation and political impact of the US Constitution, the federal system, US politics in the 19th and 20th century, political parties, interest groups, the electoral system, the impact of African-Americans and Hispanics on American politics and society, the Presidency, Congress, the Supreme Court, the federal bureaucracy, policy creation, pluralist and elitist theories of US power, American foreign policy.

12 Indicative Reading

Canon, D et al. (2008), *The Enduring Debate – Classic and Contemporary Readings in US Politics*, 5th Edition. London. W. W. Norton & Company.

Lowi, T et al. (2011), *American Government – Power and Purpose*, 12th Edition. London. W. W. Norton & Co.

McKay, D. (2013), *American Politics and Society*, 8th Edition. London. Wiley-Blackwell.

McKeever, R., and Davies, P. (2012), *Politics USA*, 3rd Edition. London. Pearson.

Peele, G et al. (2010), *Developments in American Politics*, 6th Edition. London. Palgrave Macmillan.

Reynolds, D. (2010), *America, Empire of Liberty: A New History*. London. Penguin.

13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the impact of the US constitution on modern American politics, policies, institutions and processes;
- Critically appraise the role various formal political actors play in how policy is formulated and delivered;
- Critically evaluate the role interest groups, the media, big business and other non-governmental actors play in policy creation;
- Critically apply theories and methods used in the study of politics to political ideas, institutions and practices in the United States;
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the social, economic and political ramification of US policies;
- Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions and differing interpretations of political issues, policies and events;

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Design and deliver an e-portfolio examining the creation and implementation of a major policy, taking into account the constitutional background and the major actors involved;
- Synthesis reasoned arguments using the relevant academic theories;
- Demonstrate the ability to present work in a clear and structured manner;
- Gather, organise, evaluate and deploy data, evidence, arguments, assumptions and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources;
- Follow academic conventions with rigour and consistency, adhering to either the Harvard or end-note system of citation and referencing;

14 **Teaching and Learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars	
Weekly lectures and seminars	
Total contact hours:	48
<i>Range of other learning methods</i> This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Directed reading and research	
Total non-contact hours:	152

15 Assessment methods			
This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module			
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	100%	Coursework	An E-portfolio examining a major US policy (3000 words)
Diagnostic/ formative assessment			
This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark			
Formative feedback will be provided each week during seminars. Students will be expected to prepare for class by studying a short extract which will be accompanied with guidance questions. This will form the basis of class discussion and students will be encouraged to share their ideas as a means of gaining feedback from their peers and lecturer. A range of other formative assessments will be utilised throughout the module e.g. mini-reports, multiple choice tests mock exams, mini-essays			
Further information on assessment			
This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate			

Document Management	
16	Module Title: Hyperpower Politics: The USA

17	Module Code:	POLS30101	
18	Subject (JACS) Code	L200	
19	Cost Centre	128	
20	School:	Social Sciences	
21	Academic Team	Politics and International Relations	
22	Campus	City	
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU		
24	Date of approval:	January 2017	