

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The American Age: People, Politics and Power  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4505SRCHEL** (128170)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Southern Regional College

Team	Leader
Kathryn Walchester	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4      **Credit Value:** 20      **Total Delivered Hours:** 48  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200      **Private Study:** 152

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Online	2
Seminar	11
Tutorial	11

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2000 word essay	50	
Exam	AS2	2 hour unseen exam	50	2

### Aims

1. *Broaden your understanding of key moments in America's history that have shaped its development as a nation*
2. *Provide you with the opportunity to engage with a variety of sources and historical tools to better understand America's past*
3. *Support your developing a methodical, analytical and critical approach to the study*

*of history*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the various types of source materials used by scholars of American history and be able to apply this knowledge to future study
- 2 Display knowledge of key US events and historiographical debates and be able to apply this understanding with clarity and coherence in assessment tasks and tutorial discussions
- 3 Through written work, clearly present responses to key questions about America's development as a nation

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2000 word essay	2	3
2 hour unseen exam	2	1

## **Outline Syllabus**

*Topics to be covered may include:*

*What it means to be an American: a nation forged by immigrants*  
*The Civil War, origins, aftermath & legacy*  
*Reconciling freedom and power: understanding the American political system*  
*America's culture wars*  
*The Modern Presidency*  
*America on the international stage*  
*Foreign policy from isolationism to Vietnam & beyond*

## **Learning Activities**

Weekly reading to prepare for seminars and lectures  
Collating and interpreting source material  
Attending and engaging with weekly taught sessions  
Workshops on exam technique  
Preparing and submitting an essay on a key aspect of American History

## **Notes**

This module allows students to engage with a variety of means of understanding the American nation via its people, political processes and actions abroad. Through a

range of case studies and contextual lectures and material students will be introduced to important moments in America's history. It will discuss times which challenged the nation's sense of identity, changed the way it engaged with the world and both unified and divided the people who live within its borders.