

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Evil in America
Status: Definitive
Code: **6023ENGLIS** (117986)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Colin Harrison	Y
Morag Reid	
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 24 **Total Delivered Hours:** 60

Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 180

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12
Online	16
Seminar	30
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	textual analysis 1200 words	30	
Essay	AS2	essay 3000 words	60	
Reflection	AS3	seminar introduction (3000 words equivalent)	10	

Aims

1. To posit the existence of evil as a significant cultural tradition in America, and

- examine key instances in which the language and concept of evil is at issue;*
2. *To enable students to explore the way that moral concerns circulate in culture and public life;*
 3. *To give students the opportunity to develop a research interest in a related area.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review the historical traditions behind the language of evil in America, and the different areas of culture in which it circulates;
- 2 Transfer and apply creative skills relevant to the analysis of the representation and discourse of evil: textual criticism, independent research, application and evaluation of various theoretical approaches;
- 3 Accept complete accountability for presenting their own ideas about given reading material and set the terms for further discussion.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

textual analysis 1200 words	2
essay 3000 words	1
seminar intro. 3000 words equi	3

Outline Syllabus

The module will be taught in three sections, after an introduction establishing the philosophical and political dimensions of the question of evil:

1. *contexts: present-day manifestations of a tradition; the puritan inheritance; evil in 19th century literature*
2. *modern evil: comprehending the Holocaust in philosophy and fiction*
3. *contemporary evils: the rise of Christian conservatism; folk devils – from serial killer to paedophile; transgressive fiction; evil and the 'War on Terror'*

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, seminar introductions, individual assignment consultations

Notes

This module posits and tests the hypothesis of a national cultural tradition of evil persisting in American culture since the colonial era, exploring its various manifestations in literature, popular culture and public life. Students will have the opportunity to study Christian fundamentalism, transgressive fiction, the

representation of folk devils such as serial killers and paedophiles, and the discourse of the War on Terror. In addition, they will encounter philosophical and theoretical perspectives on the problem of evil.