

ELECTIVE MODULE DESCRIPTORS

AMERICAN CIVILISATION

1. MODULE SUMMARY

Aims and Summary

The main objective of the module is to give the students a basic knowledge and understanding of American civilization starting with the basics of geography and economy, and then proceeding into the extensive coverage of the main characteristics of political culture. Then, the module will cover an outline of political, constitutional, and social history from colonial times to the present. The last part will deal with contemporary constitutional and political institutions as well as current political issues.

Module Size and credits

CATS points	10.0
ECTS credits	5.0
Total student study hours	100
Number of weeks	12
School responsible	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
Academic Year	2022-2023

Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

N/A

Excluded Combinations

None

Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%, composed of midterm exam 30%, research paper 30%

Final exam 40%

Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

Special Features

None

Course stages for which this module is mandatory

BA Year 2 International Relations (level 5)

Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Explain modern America as a distinctive civilisational entity;
2. Analyze issues from the history, society, politics and legal system of the US;
3. Assess critically the fundamental ideas which drive American society and understand the way they relate to the international scene.

Indicative Content

- The global, political and economic position of the US: history and contemporary issues.
- American political culture.
- Colonial America, the Revolution and the Founding Period: Declaration of Independence 1776, the Constitution 1787.
- The political, social and constitutional history: the Hamiltonian system, the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian revolutions, the Manifest Destiny, the slavery issue, the Civil War.
- The rise of progressive liberalism and the New Deal, the Cold War and the rise of global America
- The rise of the Supreme Court and its role as a vehicle of social change – from the Marshall Court to the Robert’s Court
- The constitutional system: Congress, the President and his administration, the Supreme Court
- The political system: the electoral system, parties, media, military.
- The challenge of internal politics: minorities, affirmative action, feminism, the challenge of the welfare state, identity politics.
- Foreign Policy in the aftermath of the Cold War: the new World’s System, the War on Terror and its implications.
- The United States and the European Union – the political, military and economic relations.
- The United States’ defense of national sovereignty against the Kantian international utopian order.

Teaching and Learning

This module will be taught by means of seminars, workshops, and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

Guided	0 hours	(0%)
Lecture	0 hours	(0%)
Self-guided	60 hours	(60%)
Seminar	30 hours	(30%)
Workshop	10 hours	(10%)
Total	100 hours	

Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

Midterm exam (30% – 3 Credits): 60 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Essay (30% – 3 Credits): around 1500 words; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Final exam (40% – 4 Credits): 100 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Re-sit

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit

Date of last amendment

03-12-2015

3. MODULE RESOURCES

Essential Reading

Schuck, P.H., Wilson, J.Q., 2008. *Understanding America: the anatomy of an exceptional nation*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Rabkin, J., 2005. *Law Without Nations?* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Manent, P., 2007. *Democracy without Nations?* Wilmington DE: ISI Books.

Recommended Reading

Smith, S.W., Shelley, M.C., Barber, B.A., 2015. *American Government and Politics Today, The Essentials 2015 – 2016 ed.*, Boston: Cengage Learning.

Andreson, B.C., 2007. *Democratic Capitalism and Its Discontents*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books.

Mauk, D., Oakland, J., 2005. *American Civilization: An Introduction*. 4th ed. London: Routledge.

Mansfield, H.C., Winthrop, D., 2004. *Introduction' to Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Required Equipment

None

4. MODULE ORGANISATION

Module leader

Name Prof. Andrzej Bryk

E-mail apbryk@gmail.com

Length and month of examination

90 minutes in June

Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

Subject Quality and Approval information

Board of Study Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

Subject Assessment Board Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

Shortened title

Date of approval by FCPC 2 March 2018