



**Pembroke-King's Programme
2010**

Nowhere else to go: The Anglo-American relationship from 1784 to the present

Dr. Peter Martland

Course Outline/Course Description

Throughout the modern era, relations between Britain and the United States have been largely close and supportive. However, this has not always been the case. This course seeks to address the many issues that have both united and divided these two nations during the past 200-odd years, as well as the solutions found (or not) to resolve them.

The course examines important themes such as the largely shared literature, art and culture, ideas of imperialism, legal systems, governance and representative institutions. The course also highlights the important role of Ireland, Irish America, and Irish history in the story of Britain's relations with the United States. Other themes are also examined, revealing the wholly different national experiences of the 20th century, specifically of the two world wars, the Cold War and the "war on terror."

The course particularly highlights the changing nature of the Anglo-American relationship in the forty years between 1775 and 1815, when Britain and the United States fought each other in two vicious wars and came close to conflict on other occasions. Today's 'Special Relationship', arguably forged in North Africa and France in the early 1940s can thus be seen as far more fragile a construct than it might otherwise outwardly appear. Although this twelve lecture course examines the entire period, its main focus is on the development of relations up to the Second World War and the beginnings of the 'Special Relationship', the issue of Anglo-American relations in the later twentieth century is covered by the related course offered in Module 2 (August) 'The Secret Intelligence World: 100 years of Spooks and Spies'.

Teaching Methodology

Teaching is by means of lectures plus tutorial classes (seminars) for the period of the course. The lectures aim to present the material, while the seminars aim to discuss the material presented in the lectures, to solve problems and to explore wider issues raised by the lecture and by the participants. Topics to be discussed in seminars will be distributed throughout the course. These do not form part of the course assessment, but students are required to work through these for their better understanding of the topics covered.

Performance Evaluation

- 1 X mid-term essay – 1,500 to 2,000 words
- 1 X Final essay – 1,500 to 2,000 words
- + Final Exam (2 hours, answer 2 questions)

Detailed Lecture List

Lecture 1: Relations upon American Independence

Lecture 2: The War of 1812, its origins, development and implications

Lecture 3: Political and economic relations to the 1880s

Lecture 4: Religion

Lecture 5: Population and Industrialization

Lecture 6: British and American Imperialism, ideas and practice.

Lecture 7: Literature, Art and Culture in the 19th Century

Lecture 8: Ireland, and the Irish American role in Anglo-American relations

Lecture 9: The First World War

Lecture 10: Britain and America in the Second World War

Lecture 11: The Northern Ireland Troubles: Ireland and Anglo American relations in the twentieth century

Lecture 12: Anglo-American relations in the post-war world

Detailed seminar List

Please note that the contents of the seminars match the lectures

Bibliography

Students should regard this as a preliminary reading list and are advised to consult the texts before arrival in Cambridge. See the complete course [bibliography](#).

David Dimbleby and David Reynolds *An Ocean apart: the relationship between Britain and America in the 20th century* (1989)

Christopher John Bartlett *The Special Relationship: A political History of Anglo-American Relations since 1945* (1992)

Christopher John Bartlett (ed) *Britain Pre-eminent: Britain's world influence in the 19th century* (Macmillan, 1969)

Englander, David, and Open University. *Britain and America : studies in comparative history, 1760-1970* New Haven [Conn.] ; London: Yale University Press in association with The Open University, 1997.

Peter Clarke, *Hope and Glory: Britain, 1900-2000* (2004)

Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500-2000* (1989)

David Reynolds *Britannia Overruled: British policy and world powers in the 20th century* (2000)

Roy Foster *Modern Ireland, 1600-1972* (Penguin, 1990)