1 Advertisement

Post Title: Lecturer in Contemporary Political History (Education and Scholarship)
School/department: School of History, Art History, and Philosophy / Department of History – American Studies
Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term until 8 May 2020 (maternity cover)
Reference: 2505
Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum
Placed on: 21 October 2019
Closing date: 20 November 2019. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview dates: 4 - 6 December 2019
Expected start date: 2 January 2020

The Department of History at Sussex enjoys an international reputation for excellence in research, teaching, widening participation, and impact. Consistently ranked among the top History departments in the UK by university guides, it is one of the most distinguished and innovative departments in the country.

The Sussex Centre for American Studies is consistently ranked in the top three departments in this subject in the UK and has a global reputation for excellence. We deliver excellent teaching and cutting edge research in American history, literature, culture and politics.

The successful candidates will have a proven track record in Contemporary Political History, with particular strengths in the histories of the UK and the US as well as conversance with key cultural and historical issues.

A focus on the history of political institutions and structures, and/or on the culture and politics of race and race relations is especially desirable, but you will need to have a broader understanding of how these issues fit into British and American life, and recent history too.

You will be able to give lectures and teach seminars, mark different kinds of academic assessment, and perform administrative tasks.

The successful candidates will join a thriving, collegial School with a strong commitment to interdisciplinary study, and an intellectually ambitious undergraduate and postgraduate student community. Ability to teach, good communication skills, and an ability to work productively as part of two friendly, team-oriented departments are essential skills for this position.
To arrange an informal discussion about the post, please email the joint Head of History, Dr Chris Warne: C.M.Warne@sussex.ac.uk; or the Director, Sussex Centre for American Studies, Dr Doug Haynes: D.E.Haynes@sussex.ac.uk.

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

2. The School / Division

The School of History, Art History and Philosophy was created in 2009 as part of a major reorganisation of the University’s Faculty structure. It brings together a group of related disciplines – American Studies, Art History, History, and Philosophy – in a common endeavour to study, understand and disseminate knowledge of the historical, philosophical and artistic manifestations of human existence.

With approximately 50 academic staff and 1,000 students, the School offers a diverse, cosmopolitan and supportive environment. All areas of the School performed well in the 2014 REF (including History = 15th; and Philosophy = 16th) and all are routinely placed within the top twenty in their respective disciplines by the *Times* and *Guardian* newspapers and the *Good University Guide*.

The School’s cross-disciplinary interests are evident from its research centres. These include the Sussex Centre for Intellectual History, the Sussex Centre for American Studies, the Centre for Byzantine Studies, the German-Jewish Studies Centre, the Centre for World Environmental History, and the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies.

Current Staff and Research Interests

For a full list of current Faculty in each of the School’s constituent departments, please visit our website:

History: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/history/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)
American Studies: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/americanstudies/people/peoplelists](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/americanstudies/people/peoplelists)
Philosophy: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)
Art History: [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory/people/peoplelists/group/faculty](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory/people/peoplelists/group/faculty)

The Department of History

The Sussex History Department comprises 31 permanent faculty pursuing a diverse and innovative set of research and teaching agendas. Sussex historians are renowned for their innovative teaching and research in contemporary, global, intellectual and digital history. Our geographical range is extensive and includes expertise in the history of Britain, Europe, North America, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa.

The Department offers a single honours BA degree in History and a set of joint degrees with a variety of programmes including English; Politics; American Studies; Philosophy; Sociology; Anthropology; and International Relations. We run two MA programmes: Contemporary History and Intellectual History. The Department has a thriving PhD programme. Over forty candidates for the PhD are currently being supervised in the Department.
Sussex offers a rich diversity of teaching, research opportunities and events. This includes an active programme of outward facing activities including lectures, seminars and workshops. It centres specifically on the Research in Progress seminar held every Thursday afternoon which features presentations from internal and external speakers. Sussex is also renowned for its unique research and teaching resources, most notably the Mass Observation Archive held at The Keep. The interdisciplinary Sussex Humanities Lab is also redefining teaching and research through the use of digital technology.

**Departmental Research and Teaching: History**

The Department is committed to research-led teaching, whose content and form are constantly updated in the light of the latest scholarship and practice. We are committed to the integration of digital methods and skills into the core curriculum, and to enabling our students to develop a reflexive practice of history writing and research, with significant opportunities to develop their own research projects at key points in the degree.

History was ranked 1st in the UK for research output and 15th overall in the 2014 REF exercise. Forty-eight per cent of our submitted publications were classified as 4* quality. Every member of faculty has an established research reputation, and brings their research into their teaching.

The Department is home to several major externally funded projects including *The Digital Panopticon*, and *The Global Impact of London Punishments, 1870-1925* (both Tim Hitchcock), *Merchants and Miracles: Global Circulations and the Making of Modern Bethlehem* (Jacob Norris), and *Botanical and Meteorological History of The Indian Ocean World and Human Environment Interaction in the Indian Ocean World* (both Vinita Damodaran), all of which have figured significantly in the Department's teaching at BA and MA level.

The Department is also central to the development of significant projects that investigate the relationship between teaching, the digital and the archive, such as *Observing the 80s*, *Queerama*, and the *Archive of Resistance Testimony*.

**American Studies**

The Sussex Centre for American Studies is among the preeminent UK departments for Americanist teaching and research. We have 13 faculty members, some of whom teach only in American Studies, others of whom divide their time between American Studies and History or English.

Working in an interdisciplinary way, colleagues from these subject areas cooperate to produce a diverse and innovative curriculum for our students, ranging from foundational modules on literature, culture, history and politics to more bespoke modules on visual culture, documentary, humour, law, and special historical topics. Colleagues from departments ranging from Music to IR to Anthropology and Politics also teach into our degree on a set of modules designed for our students, and ensuring a rich learning experience for our students.

American Studies students at Sussex participate in an integrated study year abroad in the US at one of our many excellent partner institutions. The Centre has the largest and highest quality set of American university partners of any UK programme, and this has a strongly positive academic and personal impact on our students.
Research strengths in the Centre are in the histories of American slavery, race, civil rights, and historical memory; as well as multiple areas of modern and contemporary culture and cultural history.

Alongside our single honours degree, we offer joint honours with Film; History; English; and Politics, as well as a minor with Law. We have launched a new MA Critical American Studies for 2019/20 and we have PhD students researching a wide range of topics. A series of research seminars and workshops, often co-organised with English or History or Global Studies, contribute to a vibrant research culture.

**Departmental Research and Teaching: American Studies**

American Studies does not have a dedicated REF panel; colleagues are returned to the panel most related to their discipline, such as History or English. In the last REF, American Studies researchers contributed to History’s #15 (#1 for outputs) and the excellent #9 position achieved by English at Sussex.

Research in American Studies is diverse, and sustains the range of opportunities offered to students on the American Studies courses. It includes prize-winning work on Black Power; Louisiana slavery; race and the law in the US; international women’s intellectual history; communist US publications; punk poetry; rhetoric; literature and scientific knowledge; transnationalism; Atlantic relationships; Civil War memory; and with strong holdings in 19th and 20th century literature, theory and philosophy.
3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Lecturer in Contemporary Political History (Education and Scholarship)

Department: History/American Studies

Section/Unit/School: HAHP

Location: Arts A

Grade: Lecturer A (Education Focused), Grade 7

Responsible to: Head of School

Responsible for: Lecturer A (Education Focused) is an entry level teaching position. Post-holders will be expected to teach in a developing capacity. Post-holders will be expected to establish an education portfolio (scholarship).

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To deliver and contribute to the design of high-quality teaching programmes to attract students.

2. To contribute fully to the School and University by participating in meetings, working groups, committees and other School and University activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Teaching & Student Support

1.1 Contribute to the planning, delivery and assessment of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, in liaison with the relevant course and module convenors.

1.2 Ensure that teaching content, methods of delivery and learning materials will meet the defined learning objectives, including the use of appropriate technology.

1.3 Set, mark, and assess coursework and examinations; select appropriate assessment instruments and assessment criteria; and provide constructive and comprehensive feedback to students.

1.4 Ensure that teaching materials remain up-to-date and relevant, incorporating advances in the subject area into the course of study.
1.5 Develop and maintain an understanding of appropriate pedagogy in the subject area and respond to challenges.

1.6 Supervise the work of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, providing them with advice on study skills, projects, fieldwork and placements.

1.7 Undertake and complete administrative duties required in the professional delivery of teaching.

1.8 Make a significant contribution to the accreditation of courses and quality-control processes.

1.9 Undertake academic advising duties, and provide first-line support for sensitive issues, referring on as appropriate to services providing further assistance.

1.10 Adopt an approachable and accessible attitude towards students, offering office hours, informal advice etc.

1.11 Transfer knowledge in the form of practical skills, methods and techniques.

1.12 Supervise the work of students, provide advice on study skills and help them with learning problems.

2. Scholarship & Enterprise

2.1 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, third stream income and/or consultancy.

2.2 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

2.3 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2.4 Translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into the course of study

2.5 Undertake scholarship to inform education to ensure excellent learning experience for students

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to School meetings.

3.2 Engage in activities beyond day-to-day teaching duties, for example Admissions Days.
3.3 Assist with undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment.

3.4 Participate in School or University working groups or committees, as required.

3.5 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

4. **Role-specific duties**

4.1 Undertaking of academic duties necessary for the delivery of high-quality teaching and support of learning in a research-led University.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

**INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

1. High quality teaching performance across a range of teaching activities, at different levels (year 1 undergraduate to taught postgraduate) appropriate to the discipline; as evidenced by surveys, questionnaires and peer review.

2. Evidence of skill in assessment and feedback techniques, and using a range of methods for evaluating the effectiveness of teaching.

3. Demonstrable contribution to the planning and development of courses.

4. Delivering a teaching load in line with School expectations.

5. Evidence of applying knowledge arising from scholarship to enhance teaching practice.

6. Evidence of active engagement in advising students and proactively responding to problems experience by students.

7. Efficient and effective contribution to academic support duties within the School or the University.

9. Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.

11. Efficient and effective contribution to academic support duties within the School or the University.
4. **Person Specification**

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with students using a variety of teaching methods.

3. Experience of teaching or delivering professional training.

4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

9. A willingness to participate in student support activities beyond required teaching duties.

10. Excellent IT skills, with the ability to produce high-quality, inclusive learning materials.

**ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Demonstrable ability to teach History and American Studies at BA and MA level, specifically in the areas of the contemporary political history of the US and the UK, the history of race and society in the US and the UK, and also in areas of American culture.

2. A demonstrable ability to communicate complex ideas comprehensibly to student, academic and other audiences.

3. Evidence of willingness to participate in the life of an academic Department beyond fulfilment of required teaching duties.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. A recognised higher education teaching qualification.

2. Experience of teaching at postgraduate level.
3. Membership of professional body, if appropriate.

4. Emerging record of developing an education research portfolio with some focus on scholarship.