



Syllabus

HIS 111 - Modern United States History

General Information

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Department Social Science

Course Prefix HIS

Course Number 111

Course Title Modern United States History

Course Information

Catalog Description Modern U.S. History explores the social, political, economic, intellectual and cultural development of America after 1865. It covers such topics as Reconstruction, industrialization, Western expansion, the Progressive era, the Great Depression, the New Deal, WWI and WWII, America's rise as a world power, the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution and the post-9/11 War on Terror. This course fulfills the SUNY General Education knowledge and skills area for U.S. History and Civic Engagement.

Credit Hours 3

Lecture Contact Hours 3

Lab Contact Hours 0

Other Contact Hours 0

Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

US History and Civic Engagement

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Inquiry and Interconnectedness

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify the major issues, events, and themes of post-1865 American history.
2. Students will trace the historical evolution of key American institutions, traditions and structures (Constitution, Congress, Supreme Court, presidency etc.) after 1865, and will describe the role of individual participation and collective action (in community-based and governmental bodies) in shaping modern American history.
3. Students will describe America's evolving relationship with the wider world after 1865.
4. Students will apply reliable historical evidence to draw, support, or verify conclusions about the post-1865 American past.
5. Students will describe the role of unity and diversity in shaping modern American history.

Outline of Topics Covered

Reconstruction, 1865-77

- Restoring the Union and Remaking the South
- Andrew Johnson Presidency and Impeachment
- 14th and 15th Amendments
- Radical reconstruction and its Collapse, 1867-72

Westward Expansion to 1900

- Manifest Destiny, Homestead Act, Cattle
- Alaska Gold Rush and Purchase
- Subjugation of Plains Indians: Little Big Horn, Dawes Act and Wounded Knee
- Chinese Immigration
- Linking the Nation by Rail

Industrialization, the Rise of Big Business and the “Gilded Age”, 1870-1900

- Technology and Industrial Growth
- Tycoons: Rockefeller, Carnegie and Morgan
- Urbanization and its Problems
- African-American “Great Migration”
- Immigration and Nativism
- Late 19th century American Culture
- Religious Revival: “Social Gospel”
- Labor vs Management
- Print Revolution

American Imperialism, 1898-1914

- Hawaiian Annexation
- Spanish-American War
- “Open Door Policy”
- Theodore Roosevelt’s “Big Stick” policy
- Panama Canal
- Wilson and Mexico

Progressive Era, 1900-16

- Muckrakers
- The “New Feminism” and Women’s Suffrage
- AFL, IWW and Big Labor
- Civil Liberties and Progressive Democracy
- Booker T. Washington and W.E.B DuBois
- Progressive Presidents: Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson

America in the First World War, 1917-19

- Neutrality and Preparedness
- Lusitania and Zimmerman Telegram

- The A.E.F. in the European War
- Wilson's Wartime Presidency
- Home Front
- 14 Points, Paris Peace Conference and the League of Nations

Roaring Twenties

- Mass Production and Mass Consumerism: Radio and the Automobile Age
- Prohibition
- Social Change: Flappers, "Lost Generation" and Harlem Renaissance
- Red Scare
- Scopes Monkey Trial

Great Depression, 1929-41

- Stock Market Crash of 1929
- Hoover Presidency
- Bonus March
- Election of 1932
- 21st Amendment and Repeal of Prohibition
- Banking Crisis
- FDR and the "New Deal"
- Emergence of the Welfare State: N.R.A., W.P.A., A.A.A. and Social Security
- Roosevelt and the Supreme Court

America in WWII, 1941-45

- Isolation vs Intervention
- FDR and American Preparedness: "Arsenal of Democracy," Lend-Lease and "Four Freedoms"
- Pearl Harbor
- Wartime Strategy and Diplomacy
- American Home Front
- War in Europe to V-E Day
- Pacific Theater and the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb

Cold War Begins, 1945-53

- United Nations and Marshall Plan
- "Iron Curtain," Truman Doctrine and Containment
- Berlin Blockade and Airlift

- NATO and the Warsaw Pact
- Korean War

America in the 1950s and 1960s

- Eisenhower Administration
- McCarthyism
- Suburbanization and Consumerism
- Sputnik and the Space Race
- Civil Rights Movement: Montgomery, Birmingham and MLK
- 1960 Election
- Kennedy: “New Frontier,” Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- LBJ’s “Great Society”

Vietnam War

- Early involvement to Tonkin Gulf
- Escalation, 1965-68
- Tet Offensive
- Public Opinion and “Living Room War”
- Counterculture and the Antiwar Movement
- American Withdrawal

America in the Seventies

- Nixon Administration: Détente, Domestic Policy and Watergate
- Feminism and Roe v Wade
- Environmentalism and Energy Crisis
- Ford Administration
- Carter, Stagflation and the Iran Hostage Crisis

Reagan and Bush Eras

- Election of 1980
- Reagan’s Domestic Policy: Reaganomics, AIDS Crisis and the War on Drugs
- Foreign Policy: Grenada, Iran-Contra, Reykjavik, and SDI
- Bush’s Domestic Policy: Debt, Taxes, S&L Crisis, Civil Rights, Exxon-Valdez and the “Thousand Points of Light”
- Bush’s Foreign Policy: Panama, “Operation Desert Storm,” NAFTA and the End of the Cold War

Post-Cold War America, 1989-2000

- Collapse of Communism and the New World Order
- 1992 Election
- Clinton Presidency: Healthcare and Welfare Reform, Somalia, Kosovo, Impeachment
- Computer Revolution
- Culture wars
- Election of 2000

Post 9/11 America

- Bush Presidency: Taxes and Free Trade, Domestic Reforms, Hurricane Katrina
- 9/11, Patriot Act and the War on Terror
- Bush Doctrine: Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay