United States History to 1890
History 2111
Tuesday and Thursday, Social Science, 2025
Spring, 2010

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Student conferences by appointment

**Required Textbooks:**


**Overview**
This course examines the history of the United States from the 1900s to the 1990s with an emphasis on how political, economic, and social developments shaped the conditions, attitudes, and values of present-day America. This course focuses on the central themes and issues in American growth and institutional change as to how Americans faced them.

**Course Objectives:** The student will understand a broad knowledge of the United States since 1890 based on the knowledge of the major movements, events, and personalities of the American scene.

1. Every student will obtain a basic knowledge of the evolution of American political beliefs and institutions. Through this academic process, a foundation for an educated citizenry will be developed so that global citizenship will be more responsible, sophisticated, and analytical.

2. The student will understand how the American economy developed and how it changes influenced its institutions and society in general.

3. Every student will discover, understand, and appreciate the interplay of forces and personalities that shaped historical change and American life.

4. Every student will acquire an appreciation of the historical methodology. In doing so, each student will learn to think historically, learn to ask questions of the past and develop communicative skills, both in writing and with speaking, primary among these is the skill of shaping, substantiating, and communicating historical arguments.
Attendance:

Students are expected to attend both classes each week. Attendance will be taken. All students are expected to attend classes on time, read the assigned class material, and participate in class discussion in a substantive manner. You should involve yourself in class discussions by asking questions, participating in-group activities, and contributing your thoughts, interpretations, and ideas.

While conflicting commitments and unforeseen and unpreventable developments may occasionally force an absence, this class, like one’s job, is a major commitment. Leaving class early without the instructors prior consent will result in a student’s being counted absent for that day. If appropriate documentation for participation university athletics, severe illness, employment conflict, or other compelling reason for absence is presented, that absence will be “excused” and will not be charged against you. Car trouble, traffic jams, poor weather conditions, and the like will not be grounds for an excused absence.) This policy reflects life in the working world, where employers have strict attendance policies and the penalties for violating them are much greater.

Academic Integrity:

There will be zero toleration for any student who violates university policies regarding cheating or plagiarism with his or her work. Once established that a student plagiarizes or cheats, as outlined in the Student Handbook, with any assignment in or for this class, a grade of F will be automatic.

Examinations and Grading:

You will have two examinations during the semester. Each will be announced at least one week in advance. The exams will consist of two basic parts: Part I will consist of three questions from which you will select two questions. Each essay question will be worth twenty-five points each for a total of 50 points. Part II; this section will deal with the supplemental reading. An essay question will be developed from the readings that coincide with the material covered for that particular examination. Part II of the exam consists of Identifications of proper names and events. It will be worth 10 Points. A review session will be conducted as to the type of questions and appropriate answers. Remember, the examinations will be based upon class lectures and assigned readings as indicated on the course syllabus. Blue Books are required for both Examinations.

A final examination will be optional. During the last week of the course, each student will meet with the instructor to review his or her grades. After the review, the student, if satisfied with his/her grade, has the option of taking or not taking the final examination. This will be a comprehensive examination. The Final Examination will replace the lower grade of the examinations. A detailed outline of the examination will be explained at a later date. THE FINAL EXAMINATION IS NOT REQUIRED. IT IS OPTIONAL.
Grading
I do all the grading for this course! Student negotiation for higher grades or seeking changes to assignments will not be tolerated.

Grading for this course is based upon an accumulated point system as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination I</th>
<th>60 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examination II</td>
<td>60 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Examination</strong> will replace the lower score of one of the two regular examinations.</td>
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<td><strong>120 points</strong></td>
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Extra Credit Policy
Your grade for the course is based solely on the required course work. NO OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTRA CREDIT IS AVAILABLE.

Course Schedule

Please read and review this syllabus carefully. You are responsible for knowing the contents and for clarification of the assignments.

Lecture Topics:

A. General Introduction to the Course

   Readings: Text, Chapters – 1 and 2

B. The British Empire in North America
   1. Sources of British Imperial Strength
   2. Early British Colonial Policy in America
   3. British Mercantilism

   Readings: Text, pp. Chapter 3

C. The British Colonies in the 17th and 18th Centuries
   1. Colonial Society
   2. Colonial Government
   3. Religion in American Colonial Society
Readings: Text, Chapters - 4 and 5
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 3

D. The American Revolution
1. Background of the Revolutionary Crisis
2. Reasons for the American Revolution
3. The Road to War
4. The General Character of the American Revolution

Readings: Text, Chapters – 6 and 7
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 4

E. The Establishment of a New Government
1. The Articles of Confederation
2. Background of the Constitutional Convention
3. The Constitutional Convention

Readings: Text, Chapter – 8.
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 5

F. The Federalist Era
1. The Establishment of the US Government Under the Constitution
2. The Federalists in Power
3. The Revolution of 1800

Readings: Text, Chapter- 9, pp. 221-239.
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 6

G. The Jeffersonian Era
1. The Virginia Dynasty
2. The War of 1812
3. A Period of Transition, 1815-1829

Readings: Text, Chapter, 9, pp. 239-254, Chapter, 10

H. The Age of Jackson
1. The Rise of the Common Man
2. The Presidency of Andrew Jackson

Readings: Text, Chapter 11

I. The Rise of Sectionalism
1. Sectional Conflicts before 1832
2. The Old South
3. Reform Movements, 1830-1860

Readings: Text: Chapters – 12 and 13
         Hoffman, et.al. Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

J. The Coming of the Civil War
   1. The Rise of Slavery as a Major Issue
   2. Manifest Destiny and Slavery
   3. The Compromise of 1850
   4. The State of the Union in the 1850’s
   5. The Irrepressible Conflict

      Readings: Text: Chapters – 14 and 15
               Hoffman, et.al., Chapter 13

K. The Civil War
   1. The Secession Crisis
   2. Public Opinion During the War
   3. The Significance of the Civil War
   4. The Aftermath of the War and the United States Government

      Readings: Text: Chapters – 16 and 17
                Hoffman, et.al. Chapters 14 and 15