

Year Course Offered: 2014
Semester Course Offered: Fall
Department: History
Course Number: 1301
Name of Course: U.S. History I
Name of Instructor: TBD

The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description

U.S. History I is a survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I includes the study of pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communications
3. Social Responsibility
4. Personal Responsibility

Major Assignments/Exams

Three tests, with each covering a third of the course and worth a third of the grade. The exams as a whole form the basis of assessing LO 1 to 3, with the target of at least 70% of students completing the course achieving at least a grade of C.

The last exam will require a written response interpreting a primary source (LO 1 to 3; CO 1&2) and a section of questions focused on global connections (LO 1 to 3; CO 3). Successful completion of the exams will demonstrate personal responsibility (LO 1 to 3; CO 4).

Critical Thinking (CO1) – Instructor will rank written interpretation of a primary source as Unacceptable, Acceptable or Excellent.

Communications (CO2) – Instructor will rank written interpretation of a primary source as Unacceptable, Acceptable or Excellent.

Social Responsibility (CO3) – A score of 90 or higher on the section of questions dedicated to global connections will signify a rank of Excellent, 70-89 Acceptable and under 70 Unacceptable.

Personal Responsibility (CO 4) – Successful completion of all three exams with a grade of C or higher on each will signify a rank of Excellent, two exams are Acceptable and one or zero are Unacceptable.

| Learning Outcomes | CO | Assessment Methods | Criteria/Targets |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence. | CT, COM, PR | Selected questions from final test; completion of three tests | For critical thinking and communications, 70% students will receive acceptable or excellent. For personal responsibility, successful completion of all three exams with a grade of C or higher on each will signify a rank of Excellent, two exams are Acceptable and one or zero are Unacceptable. |
| 2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources. | CT, COM, PR | Selected questions from final test; completion of three tests | For critical thinking and communications, 70% students will receive acceptable or excellent. For personal responsibility, successful completion of all three exams with a grade of C or higher on each will |

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| | | | signify a rank of Excellent, two exams are Acceptable and one or zero are Unacceptable. |
| 3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history. | CT, COM, PR, SR | Selected questions from final test; completion of three tests | For critical thinking and communications, 70% students will receive acceptable or excellent. For personal responsibility, successful completion of all three exams with a grade of C or higher on each will signify a rank of Excellent, two exams are Acceptable and one or zero are Unacceptable. For social responsibility, a score of 90 or higher on the section of questions dedicated to global connections will signify a rank of Excellent, 70-89 Acceptable and under 70 Unacceptable. |

Required Reading

Visions of America: A History of the United States, Volume 1: to 1877
(Pearson, 2nd edition, 2013)

List of Discussion/Lecture Topics

Week 1: Introduction: Studying Our Past

Week 2: People in Motion: The Atlantic World to 1590

Week 3: Models of Settlement: English Colonial Societies, 1590—1710

Week 4: Growth, Slavery, and Conflict: Colonial America, 1710—1763

Week 5: Revolutionary America: Change and Transformation, 1764—1783

Week 6: A Virtuous Republic: Creating a Workable Government, 1783—1789

Week 7: The New Republic: An Age of Political Passion, 1789—1800

Week 8: Jeffersonian America: An Expanding Empire of Liberty, 1800—1824

Week 9: Democrats and Whigs: Democracy and American Culture, 1820—1840

Week 10: Workers, Farmers, and Slaves: The Transformation of the American Economy,
1815—1848

Week 11: Revivalism, Reform, and Artistic Renaissance, 1820—1850

Week 12: “To Overspread the Continent”: Westward Expansion and Political Conflict,
1840—1848

Week 13: Slavery and Sectionalism: The Political Crisis of 1848—1861

Week 14: A Nation Torn Apart: The Civil War, 1861—1865

Week 15: Now That We Are Free: Reconstruction, 1863—1877