

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 122

United States History II

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys United States history from its beginning to the present. Part II of II.

Students will demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of major social, economic, military and political events in U.S. history after the Civil War, with an emphasis on critical thinking about causes and consequences (why) more so than recall of who; what, when and where. Proficiency levels appropriate for freshman/sophomore level college history are defined and determined by professional history instructors for each class.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

Textbook:

Foner, Eric. Give Me Liberty!: An American History (Brief Fifth Edition). New York: W.W. Norton, 2012.
ISBN: 978-0-393-61414-5

Other Required Materials:

Other reading requirements vary by instructor.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain the Jim Crow era
- Describe Gilded Age politics
- Define Populism
- Explain the causes and consequences of immigration, urbanization, industrialization, and the Progressive Movement
- Explain the Spanish-American War
- Describe late 19th/early 20th century American globalism
- Demonstrate an understanding of the causes and consequences of World War I
- Discuss the Roaring 1920s, the Great Depression and New Deal
- Explain World War II
- Explain foreign and domestic affairs in the early Cold War (1946-59) and the 1960s, focusing on Kennedy's New Frontier and Johnson's Great Society
- Explain the Civil Rights Movement
- Describe the Vietnam War and its domestic implications
- Demonstrate an understanding of Watergate
- Describe the presidencies of Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, G. H. W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush

Topical Description

1	<p>Reconstruction, 1865-1877: Significance of the 14th and 15th Amendments after Reconstruction Supreme Court Decision – Plessy v. Ferguson Booker T. Washington and W.E. Du Bois’ different approaches for the advancement of African-Americans</p>
2	<p>The American West, 1870-1900: Federal Indian Policies and effects of settlement on native populations Frontier culture and society Economic implications of mining, ranching and agriculture Turner Thesis and conservation</p>
3	<p>Industrial America, 1870-1900: Energy sources and railroads The new corporations and the new management class Mass Marketing The New South Unions and industrial conflict – the hardships of immigrants and women</p>
4	<p>Urban America, 1870-1900: Slums, ghettos, and suburbs Promoting social welfare The emerging urban environment: public spaces and skyscrapers</p>
5	<p>Daily Life, popular culture and the arts, 1870-1900: Social classes, families and education Mass consumption Cultures in conflict – Victorianism vs. women and popular culture</p>
6	<p>Politics in the Gilded Age: Political Parties The politics of privilege – The interests and ideology of big business City Machines Populism Jim Crow Politics Imperialism – Spanish American War</p>
7	<p>The Progressive Era, 1900-1920: Reforming an America society in turmoil - urban middle class, racism, and labor Civil Rights National Progressivism – Square Deal, New Nationalism, and New Freedom</p>
8	<p>World War I, 1914-1919: Neutrality and mobilization Patriotism and dissent The home front – the economy, immigration, women and the end to reform Peace terms</p>

9	The Roaring Twenties: Prosperity Mass society and culture Nativism, moralism and racism Herbert Hoover
10	America's Great Depression and New Deal, 1929-1939: The economy The human faces of the economic depression New Deal and FDR's leadership Legacy of the New Deal
11	World War II, 1939-1945: Events leading up to war – Fascism, Nazism, and national aggressions American interventions and mobilization Transforming a peace time economy and society into a war time economy and society Alliances, D-Day and atomic bombs
12	Cold War America, 1945-1952: Soldiers come home Transforming the war time society into a peace time one Anticommunism and containment Truman's "Fair Deal" McCarthyism – hysteria and government repression
13	The Affluent Society of the 1950s: The Warren Supreme Court – the new civil struggle Society and culture – suburbs, drive-ins, television and rock and roll The other America – poverty, blight, and rebels War in Korea
14	The Turbulent Sixties: JFK and the New Frontier Symbols and fights for the Cold War – Berlin Wall, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Bay of Pigs LBJ and the Great Society Struggles for equality – Martin Luther King, Jr. Vietnam War Rise of Counter Cultures – Hippies
15	The 1970s: End of the Vietnam War Watergate Economic Struggles – Stagflation Iranian Hostage Crisis Earth Day – environmentalism takes off
16	Reagan and Bush:

	Reagan Election Reaganomics U.S. vs. "Evil Empire" Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) "Trickle Down" economic theory Scandals – Iran Contra scandal Election of George Bush End of the Cold War Demise of the Soviet Union Persian Gulf War AIDS
17	The 1990s and beyond: The presidencies of Clinton and George H. Bush NAFTA Health Care Don't ask Don't Tell Policy – gays in the military 9/11 and terrorism Iraq and Afghanistan wars

Notes to Instructors

None