

Course Title	: INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE USA
Course Code	: HST1113
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

This course is an introduction to the history of the United States from earliest times to the present.

Aims

The objective of this course is to help students understand the historical formation of the United States and that country's subsequent impact on world history. This course will also provide students with an introduction to American culture and geography.

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Familiarity with the history and culture of the United States
- 2) Improved critical reading and analytical skills
- 3) Improved English-language writing ability

Indicative Content

- I. Native Americans
 - A. Migration to the New World
 - B. Cultures and dispersal across North America
- II. European Arrival in the Americas
 - A. Spain and Columbus
 - B. England before 1607
- III. English Settlement of North America
 - A. Virginia and Chesapeake
 - B. New England
 - C. Mid-Atlantic
 - D. Lower South
- IV. Early Colonial Culture and Lifestyles
 - A. Puritans
 - B. Indentured Servitude, Slavery, Race and the Plantocracy in the Chesapeake
 - C. The Atlantic Economy
- V. War and Revolution
 - A. The Seven Years' War, 1754-1763
 - B. The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1775
 - C. The American Revolution, 1775-1783
- VI. The New Republic

- A. Creating the Constitution, 1783-1789
 - B. Hamiltonianism v. Jeffersonianism
- VII. The Early Nineteenth Century
 - A. Era of Good Feelings
 - B. Age of Jackson
 - C. Westward Expansion
 - D. Industrialization, Cotton and the Economy
 - E. Reform Movements
- VIII. Slavery and Politics
 - A. Slavery
 - B. The Mexican War, 1846-1848
 - C. Westward Expansion, Sectional Conflict, Sectional Compromise, 1820-1850
 - D. Sectional Conflict without Compromise, 1850-1860
 - E. Drift to Disunion
- IX. Civil War, 1861-1865
 - A. War Goals
 - B. Nature of Military Conflict
 - C. War & Political Economy in the North
 - D. Race, Slavery & the War
- X. Reconstruction, 1865-1877
 - A. Radical Republican Goals
 - B. Freedmen, freedwomen and their goals
 - C. The Ku Klux Klan and White Southern Resistance
 - D. The End of Reconstruction
- XI. The Gilded Age
 - A. Political organization
 - B. Corporations, wealth, and social inequality
 - C. Populism, Unions and Reform
 - D. Urbanization
 - E. Westward Migration, the “Closing of the Frontier”
- XII. American Empire
 - A. Spanish-American War
 - B. Hawaii
 - C. Panama
 - D. Theodore Roosevelt
- XIII. Progressivism
 - A. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson
 - B. Women’s suffrage
 - C. Prohibition
 - D. Conservation
- XIV. Wilsonian Foreign Policy
 - A. World War I
 - B. Versailles
- XV. The 1920s
 - A. Mass consumption economy
 - B. Red Scare, Immigration Restriction
 - C. Herbert Hoover
- XVI. The Great Depression, 1929-1941

- A. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
 - B. The First New Deal
 - C. The Second New Deal
 - D. American Life in the Depression
- XVII. World War II
- A. Roosevelt's Foreign Policy, 1933-1941
 - B. America in the War in Europe
 - C. America in the War in the Pacific
- XVIII. Beginning of the Cold War
- A. Truman
 - B. Post-War Alliances (NATO, Warsaw Pact) and Post-War economic structures (IMF, World Bank)
 - C. Marshall Plan
 - D. Red Scare
 - E. Korean War
 - F. Eisenhower Republicanism
- XIX. Civil Rights
- A. The Movement in the 1950s
 - B. Kennedy and Johnson
 - C. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - D. Women's Rights
- XX. Vietnam
- A. Kennedy, Johnson
 - B. Richard Nixon
 - C. 1960s Culture
- XXI. The 1970s
- A. Watergate
 - B. Oil Crisis
 - C. Nixon and China
 - D. Jimmy Carter
 - E. Iran
- XXII. American Conservatism
- A. The New Right and the Southern Strategy
 - B. Ronald Reagan
 - C. The Role of Government
 - D. George H. W. Bush and the First Gulf War
 - E. Clinton
- XXIII. America Today
- A. George W. Bush
 - B. September 11, 2001
 - C. The Iraq War
 - D. The Changing Faces of American Society

Teaching Method

Lectures, supplemented by readings, will provide students with the basic outline of U.S. history. In class reading exercises will foster students' critical-thinking and analytical skills.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1 will be developed through written assignments and tests. Outcomes 2 and 3 will

be developed and assessed through the short essays, term paper, handouts, in-class exercises and the essay sections of the midterm and final exam.

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 70%

Examination: 30%

Required/Essential Reading

David M. Kennedy, et al., *The Brief American Pageant: A History of the Republic* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004)

Recommendation/Supplementary Readings

Ambrose, Stephen E, *Nixon*, 2 Vols., New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986, 1989.

American Council of Learned Societies, *Dictionary of American Biography*, 22 Vols., New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1944.

Dallek, Robert, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.

Ferrell, Robert H., *Woodrow Wilson and World War I, 1917-1921*, New York: Harper and Row, 1985.

_____, *American Diplomacy: The Twentieth Century*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1988.

Handlin, Oscar, et al., *Harvard Guide to American History*, New York: Atheneum, 1969.

Lafeber, Walter, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1900*, 6th ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 1991.

_____, *The American Age: United States Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad since 1750*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1989.

Leuchtenburg, William E., *The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-1932*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958.

_____, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940*, New York: Harper and Row, 1963.

_____, *In the Shadow of FDR: From Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan*, Rev. and updated ed., Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989.

Link, Arthur S. and McCormick, Richard L., *Progressivism*, Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1983.

Martin, Michael and Gelber, Leonard, *Dictionary of American History*, Totowa, New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams and Co., 1978.

Parment, Herbert, *JFK: The Presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1983.

Tindall, George B. and David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 5th ed., New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.

Wiebe, Robert H., *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*, New York: Hill and Wang, 1966.

American Council of Learned Societies, *Dictionary of American Biography*, 22 Vols., New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1944.

Beisner, Robert L., *From the Old Diplomacy to the New, 1965-1900*, 2nd ed., Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1986.

Dangerfield, George, *The Awakening of American Nationalism, 1815-1828*, New York: Harper and Row, 1965.

Foner, Eric, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*, New York: Harper and Row, 1988.

- Gipson, Lawrence H., *The British Empire before the American Revolution*, 15 Vols., New York: Knopf, 1936-1970.
- Handlin, Oscar, et al., *Harvard Guide to American History*, New York: Atheneum, 1969.
- LaFeber, Walter, *The American Age: United States Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad since 1750*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1989.
- Martin, Michael and Leonard, Gelber, *Dictionary of American History*, Totowa, New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams and Co., 1978.
- McPherson, James M., *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Miller, John C., *The Federalist Era, 1789-1800*, New York: Harper and Row, 1960.
- Morris, Richard B., *The Forging of the Union, 1781-1789*, New York: Harper and Row, 1987.
- Morison, Samuel E., *The European Discovery of America*, 2 Vols., New York: Oxford University Press, 1971, 1974.
- Smelser, Marshall, *The Democratic Republic, 1801-1815*, New York: Harper and Row, 1968.
- Watson, Harry L., *Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America*, New York: Noonday Press, 1990.
- Wiebe, Robert H., *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*, New York Hill and Wang, 1966.

* Optional items

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.