

Course Title	:	EMPIRE, SLAVERY, AND CAPITALISM IN NORTH AMERICA TO 1865
Course Code	:	HST3255
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 subject is a survey of the American people and their political and social institutions prior to 1865. The subject begins with the arrival of the Native Americans and concludes with the Civil War.

Aims

To assist students to gain a basic knowledge about the early history of the American colonies and the later United States in order to provide a framework for understanding more about America in the world today.

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Learning Outcomes

- 1) A deeper familiarity with the history and culture of the United States before 1865.
- 2) Improved critical reading and analytical skills
- 3) Improved English-language writing ability
- 4) Improved facility with primary and secondary sources
- 5) Improved research abilities

Indicative Content

- I. Colonial Period
- II. The American Revolution
- III. The Confederation Period
- IV. The U.S. Constitution
- V. The Early National Period
 - A. George Washington's administration
 - B. John Adams' administrations
- VI. The "Revolution of 1800" and Its Aftermath
 - A. Thomas Jefferson's administrations
 - B. James Madison's administrations
 - C. James Monroe's administrations

- VII. Nation Building and Sectional Divisions
 - A. The Election of 1824
 - B. Nullification
 - C. The Texas Revolution
 - D. The Mexican War
- VIII. The Civil War
 - A. The Compromise of 1850
 - B. The Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - C. Election of 1860
 - D. Abraham Lincoln's administrations

Teaching Method

As an introductory subject to a topic with which most students are totally unfamiliar, the main teaching approach will be lectures.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1 will be developed through written assignments and the final test. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be developed and assessed through the written assignments, in-class exercises, and the essay section of the final test. Outcome 4 will be developed in in-class exercises and on the written assignments. Outcome 5 will be developed in the essay assignment.

Assessment

- In-class final test: 35%
- Essay: 35%
- Reading responses: 15%
- Discussion participation: 15%

Required Readings

Hyser, Raymond M. and Arndt, J. Chris, *Vocies of the American Past Documents in U.S. History*, Vol. I, 3rd ed., Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.

Foner, Eric, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, New York: Seagull Edition, Norton, 2005.

Supplementary Readings

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.

Journals

American Historical Review
Journal of American History
William and Mary Quarterly

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/>.