



American History

Unit of Study Outline

1. Unit of study information

This course focuses on American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the moment of contemporary issue. Topics cover the most significant events of America. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography.

2. Pre-requisite units and assumed knowledge

None

3. Learning aims and outcomes

After finish this course, the students are expected to be able to

- Have a broad and critical understanding of the ongoing American experience.
- Use historical evidence to construct arguments and support positions
- Interpret and draw conclusions from various recourses of data such as, original documents, cartoons, graphs etc.
- Work effectively in groups to solve problems and make presentations

4. Weighting of final grade

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam	30%
Presentation	10%
Assignments	30%
Class Participation	10%

5. Grading

A	100-95	A-	94-90	B+	89-87
B	86-83	B-	82-80	C+	79-77
C	76-73	C-	72-70	D+	69-67
D	66-63	D-	62-60	F	59 or lower

6. Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 20% absences of the total teaching hours will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. F students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade will be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, frequent visiting your instructors and chatting in English during their office hours is highly recommended.

Policy on Assignments and Quizzes

Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. Assignment should be submitted on the date appointed by the instructor. If a

student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse will be needed. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80. An assignment that is late for 3 days will be corrected but receive 0.

You are recommended print all your assignment in the uniform format with the heading of Student's Pledge of no cheating. Written assignment or printed ones without the uniform heading of pledge will receive a maximum grade of 80.

It is mandatory to have weekend assignment every week. Any weekend assignment should be submitted on first class of next week.

It is mandatory to have holiday assignment on the public holidays. Any holiday assignment should be submitted on the first day on returning to school.

Students are required to do a multitude of presentations during the course.

Plagiarism

Any form of cheating is NEVER tolerated. Any student ONCE caught cheating on a quiz, assignment or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the whole semester. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, the sources must be clearly identified (using quotes, bibliography and giving reference).

Classroom Policies

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. Please speak in English rather than Chinese in class.
3. Students are not allowed to attend class without textbooks.
4. Stand up when answering questions.
5. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
6. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
7. Take good care of the laboratory facilities. Do not splash water on the desktop.
8. When each class is over, hang the earphone on the hanger. Put the trash into the trash-bin.
9. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
10. All communications with the teacher must be in English, both inside and outside class time.

7. Texts and other recourses

Boyer, P. S. Clark, C.E. Jr. Hawley, S. M. Kett, J. F. Rieser, A. Salisbury, N. Sitkoff, H. and Woloch, N.(2010) *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. 6th ed., Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

8. Teaching methods

Students are required reading assigned portion of the texts and discussing certain topics. Lectures and group presentation on assigned topics are teaching methods.

9. Week by week topic and study guide

Week 1	Chapter 1-2	Native Peoples of America
		The Rise of the Atlantic World
Week2	Chapter 3-4	The Emergence of Colonial Societies
		The Bonds of Empire
Week 3	Chapter 5-6	Roads to Revolution
		Securing Independence, Defining Nationhood
Week 4	Chapter 7-8	Launching the New Republic
		Jeffersonianism and the Era of Good Feelings
Week 5	Chapter 9-10	The Transformation of American Society
		Democratic Politics, Religious Revival and Reform
Week 6	Chapter 11-12	Technology, Culture, and Everyday Life
		The Old South and Slavery
Week 7	Chapter 13-14	Immigration, Expansion, and Sectional Conflict
		From Compromise to Secession
	Midterm Exam	
Week 8	Chapter 15-16	Crucible of Freedom: Civil War
		The Crisis of Reconstruction
Week 9	Chapter 17-18	The Transformation of the Trans-Mississippi West
		The Rise of Industrial America
Week 10	Chapter 19-20	Immigration, Urbanization, and Everyday Life
		Politics and Expansion in an Industrializing Age
Week 11	Chapter 21-22	The Progressive Era
		Global Involvements and World War I
Week 12	Chapter 23-24	The 1920s: Coping with Change
		The Great Depression and the New Deal
Week 13	Chapter 25-26	Americans and a World in Crisis
		The Cold War Abroad and at Home
Week 14	Chapter 27-28	America at Mid-Century

		The Liberal Era
Week 15	Chapter 29-30	A Time of Upheaval
		Conservative Resurgence, Economic Woes, Foreign Challenges
Week 16	Chapter 31-32	Beyond the Cold War: Charting a New Course
		Global Dangers, Global Challenges
Week 17	Final Exam	