

Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 4/15/15

Course Prefix and Number: HIS 269

Course Name: *United States Since 1945*

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: ENG 101

This course focuses on “America’s Century,” from its victorious participation in the Second World War, through its rise to global political, military, economic and cultural preeminence during the Cold War, to the present. Using a variety of media and striking a judicious balance between foreign policy and domestic developments, this course covers the events, personalities and issues that have shaped Modern America. Major topics include, WWII, birth of the atomic age, McCarthyism, the mass consumer society of the 1950s, Cold War crises in Berlin, Cuba, Korea and Vietnam, LBJ’s “Great Society,” civil rights movement, Nixon and Watergate, the space race, Ford-Carter Years, Reagan Revolution, Clinton’s Middle Way, America after 9/11 and the Obama presidency.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

Demonstrate knowledge of the basic narrative of the political, economic, social, military, intellectual and cultural history of the United States since 1945:

Demonstrate an understanding of America’s evolving relationship with the rest of the world since 1945, and thereby obtain the historical knowledge necessary to live interdependently in a diverse global community.

Demonstrate an understanding of the political evolution of America since 1945, including developments in the three branches of federal government, the dynamic of successive presidential and congressional elections and landmark Supreme Court rulings, as well as influential socio-political movements since WWII, so as to better equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be involved in their communities.

Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings.

Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Modern American history, and, in their own writing, demonstrate well-reasoned and evidence-supported arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published/printed and electronic historical resources.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

For most degrees this course can be taken to fulfill a Social Science elective, a Liberal Arts elective or a General Elective requirement.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> writing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> computer literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oral communications | <input type="checkbox"/> ethics/values |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citizenship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> critical thinking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information resources |

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph(s), College learning management system, web-based historical material.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, reading and discussion

IV. Assessment Measures:

- Student knowledge of the basic narrative of United States history since 1945 will be assessed using a combination of quizzes, written assignments and essay examinations. (Critical Thinking Competency)
- An assigned research paper will be employed to assess students' ability to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of Modern American

history. In their paper, students will demonstrate well-reasoned and evidence-supported arguments when interpreting historical subject matter. (Writing and Critical Thinking Competencies)

- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate primary and secondary source readings in the field of Modern American history. (Reading Competency)
- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world since 1945. (Global Concerns Competency)
- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' knowledge of the political evolution of America since 1945. (Citizenship Competency)
- An assigned, computer-generated research paper will be employed to assess students' ability to gather information from a range of published/printed and electronic historical sources. (Writing, Computer Literacy and Information Resources Competencies)

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

America's Rise to World Leadership: World War II and birth of the Atomic Age

The Cold War Begins, 1945-52: Truman, the Berlin Crisis, Korean War & Containment

Eisenhower, the American Consensus and the Age of Mass Consumerism, 1952-1960

JFK , the New Frontier, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Space Age, 1960-1963

Lyndon Johnson and the New Society, 1964-1968

Civil Rights Movement

America and the Vietnam War, 1964-1975

The Imperial Presidency: Nixon and Watergate, 1968-1974

The Crisis of Confidence: Carter Presidency, 1976-80

The Return of Confidence: The Reagan Revolution and the New Right, 1980-88

George Bush and the End of the Cold War, 1988-1992

The High-Flying Nineties: The Clinton Years, 1992-2000

The Bush Administration and post-9/11 America, 2000-2008

Obama Administration, 2008-present