



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Sydney Rice
Course Title & #:	HIST 121 – US History 2	Email:	Sydney.rice@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10290	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	2788
Class Dates:	10/6 - 12/6/25	Office Hours:	MTWR - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm by email or Pronto. You can also contact me at other times.
Class Days:	Asynchronous	How to Contact #:	Contact me through email or through Pronto (in Canvas)
Class Times:	Asynchronous	Emergency Contact:	BSS Admin Assistant Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous (Canvas)

Course Description

This course is a survey of American history from Reconstruction to the present. This course will cover the major political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural and intellectual transformations of the modern American eras. Of special note will be an examination of America's rise to global power. At the completion of this course students will have a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements, and events in the modern period. (C-ID: HIST 140) (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film.
2. Describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event.
3. Explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the major events and key political, economic, foreign policy, intellectual, cultural, social, scientific and technological trends in United States history from the Reconstruction era to the present.

Updated 6/2023

Identify and understand the significance of important personalities and ideas in modern American history. Comprehend and describe how the development of the modern United States occurred within a global context in which American society was influenced by and influenced events, ideas, people, and cultures throughout the world. Describe the differences between primary and secondary sources, understanding their use in the development of historical interpretation, and appropriately utilize primary and secondary historical sources to expand comprehension of American history. Understand how the acquisition of historical knowledge about the United States is critical to the development of an educated individual and a responsible American citizen. Specifically:

2. Describe the movement of migrants into the trans-Mississippi west after 1865, the development of western railroads and industries and its impact on Native peoples;
3. Describe the causes and consequences of the second industrial revolution, the scientific and technological innovations that helped fuel it, and the rise of American corporations;
4. Discuss the main trends in American politics during the post-Civil War period including issues of labor, immigration, and urbanization;
5. Explain changing attitudes and policies with regard to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and class in the late-19th century;
6. Describe the role of the United States in emerging globalism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including American ideas and policies regarding imperialism and the specific events of U.S. involvement in the Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America;
7. Discuss the rise of the new political ideas of Populism and Progressivism and explain the changes they brought to American political, economic and social life;
8. Explain the causes of World War I, the changing response of the United States to the war and the evolution of American involvement, and the global consequences of World War I and the Versailles Peace Treaty;
9. Discuss the main political, social, intellectual, and cultural trends of the 1920s, including the growth of modernism and the concurrent conservatism in the United States;
10. Explain the economic situation of the 1920s and the causes of the Great Depression in the United States;
11. Discuss the major social and political events of the Great Depression, including the programs and policies of the New Deal, its successes and failures, and the global impact of the Great Depression;
12. Describe the causes of World War II in both Europe and Asia, the evolution of American involvement in the war, the key events of the war, including the development of the atomic bomb, the response of the American public to World War II and its effects on the home front;
13. Discuss the global consequences of World War II, including the emergence of the United States as a permanent player on the global stage;
14. Discuss the causes of the Cold War, the events, attitudes, and policies that led to tension between the United States and the Soviet Union after 1945 and the impact of the emerging Cold War on the rest of the world;
15. Discuss the culture, society, policies and events of the 1950s and early 1960s, including the effects of the Cold War both internationally and domestically, particularly regarding the increasing involvement of the U.S. in global affairs, and the increasing importance of science and technology to American society, both in military and civilian contexts during the 1950s;



16. Describe the causes, key events, personalities, and success of the African American civil rights movement in the United States;
17. Describe the spread of civil rights activism among other groups, such as Chicanos, women, gays, Native Americans and to other areas of American life, such as personal freedom, environmentalism, and political action.
18. Discuss the causes, key events, and consequences of the Vietnam War, including the global context for American involvement in Vietnam, the effect of the war on domestic life in the United States, and the long-term impact of the war on American society and culture both domestically and abroad;
19. Describe the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States during the 1970s, including domestic and foreign policy successes and failures, the changing U.S. relationship with the Soviet Union and China, and the rising importance of the Middle East in American and global affairs due to events such as the emergence of OPEC and the Iranian revolution;
20. Discuss the rise of domestic conservatism and the "Reagan Revolution" of the 1980s and 1990s, including the computer revolution and the increasing importance of technological innovation to American life, and the challenges and opportunities of the post-Cold War world;
21. Describe the major trends in the United States in the 21st century, including the global war on terror and the changing nature of American engagement with the rest of the world, and the economic, social, and political challenges facing Americans today.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: eBook: [Give Me Liberty](#) by Eric Foner
7th edition (Seagull)
W.W. Norton Publishing

NOTE: The eBook may be purchased through the IVC Bookstore or directly from the publisher using the link in our Canvas course. If you are having difficulty purchasing the textbook, please send me a note.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

READING: This is a reading intensive course. Please be prepared to spend time reading each week. If you do not read the chapters, you will not be prepared for the quizzes and assessments.

CHECK INS: These are mini-assessments after each chapter. You have three (3) times to take each check-in and you may use your notes to help you. Check-ins are not timed.

DISCUSSIONS: Each week you will participate in a discussion about topics presented in the module. For each discussion, you must make one (1) original post of at least 150 words and two (2) posts to other students. Posts should demonstrate your engagement with the material and must go beyond "I agree with you."

ASSESSMENTS: At the end of each week, you will take an assessment covering the units from the week's module. Assessments can only be taken once and are timed.

FINAL PROJECT: At the end of the term, you will submit a final project. Instructions for the project will be given throughout the class.

OTHER: In addition to reading, you will engage in learning in other ways as well including:

Updated 6/2023

Watching and responding to videos;

Engaging in lectures;

Examining primary documents;

Creating graphic organizers;

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

ASSIGNMENT	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
Prepare and Check Ins	15%
Assessments/Papers	20%
Discussions	20%
Final Project	15%
Other Assignments	30%
TOTAL	100%

A = 90 – 100% (passing grade)

B = 80 – 89% (passing grade)

C = 70 – 79% (passing grade)

D = 60 -69% (non-passing grade)

F = 59% and below (non-passing grade)

Anything submitted after the deadline will receive a deduction.

Discussions, Projects, and Assessments are due by the deadline and **will not be accepted late.**

Attendance Policy

This is a fully online class. Regular participation is required. Regular participation includes:

- Participation in discussions;
- Completion of assignments;
- Submission of papers and projects;
- Completion of assessments.

In order for you to remain in the class, you must submit some work each week. If you do not submit work for a week or send me an email, you will be dropped from the class. If there is an emergency, please let me know



as soon as possible so we can make arrangements. However, if you miss a week, and I don't hear from you, you will be dropped.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

AI includes the use of the following and is NOT allowed without permission from your teacher:

- ChatGPT
- Grammarly
- Grammarly Pro
- You.com
- Microsoft Co-Pilot
- Any program in which you do not do the original writing.

Your work will regularly be run through TurnItIn, IVC's Plagiarism checker. **If your paper comes back as written by AI, you will receive a ZERO (0) and be asked to explain to the instructor what happened.** At that point, it what the final grade will be or if you will need to submit a new paper.

Course Policies

When do modules open and close? You have one week to complete each module. Modules open on Sunday morning and close at 11:59 pm the following Monday night.

Can I complete work when I want? Yes, you can! However, you must complete each module by the deadline. (Monday night at 11:59 pm).

Can I complete my work after the module closes? Yes! You can complete work in a module after the module closes, but you will not receive full points for your work. The only exception is the weekly discussion. Weekly discussions must be submitted ON or BEFORE the deadline.

Can I retake a test if I get a bad grade? There are two types of assessments for this class: Check Ins and Assessments. You can take a Check In two (2) times, so if you don't like your score, you can do the Check In again. The computer will keep the highest score. However, you can only do an Assessment one time. If you don't like your score, you cannot do the assessment again.



What happens if I have a problem? If something happens, please email me as soon as possible! I will work to help you!

What if I decide I don't want to take the class? If you decide you don't want to take the class any longer, you need to drop the class on Webstar. If you stop doing work, I will drop you from the class (please see above). Not completing a class can affect financial aid.

Other Course Information

How do I access my assignments?

Always go through MODULES to find your assignments. Do not go to the gradebook. Sometimes there will be an assignment which is open in the gradebook, but which isn't in the modules. If you do an assignment which is not assigned in the modules, you will not get credit for the assignment.

Can I do something for extra credit? No. I do not give extra credit in this class. There are plenty of opportunities for you to earn enough credit to pass the class.

Can I submit a Google Document? No. You cannot submit a Google doc. While Google is used in high school, it is not used at Imperial Valley College. You must submit a .doc or a .docx document. If you need Microsoft Office, you can access it through your IVC email in OneDrive.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week 1 (10/6 - 10/15) DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR FIRST WEEK ONLY	Complete Module 0 Complete Module 1 Chapter 15: "What is Freedom?" Reconstruction, 1865-1877 Chapter 16: America's Gilded Age, 1870 – 1890	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Reflection
Week 2 (10/12 - 10/20)	Complete Module 2 Chapter 17: Freedom's Boundaries, At Home and Abroad Learn about Primary Documents	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Check In Primary Document Analysis Reflect on History

		END OF THE WEEK Check In Self-Reflection
Week 3 (10/19 – 10/27)	Complete Module 3 Chapter 18: The Progressive Era – 1900 – 1916 Chapter 19: Safe for Democracy: The United States and WWI, 1916-1920 ASSESSMENT	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Reflection
Week 4 (10/26 - 11/3)	Complete Module 4 Chapter 20: From Business Culture to the Great Depression, The Twenties, 1920 – 1932 Chapter 21: The New Deal, 1932 – 1940	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Assessment 1: Chaps 15 – 18 Self-Reflection
Week 5 (11/2 - 11/10)	Complete Module 5 Chapter 22: Fighting for the Four Freedoms: WWII, 1941 – 1945 Chapter 23: The United States and the Cold War, 1945 – 1953 ASSESSMENT – Chapters 19 - 23	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Reflection
Week 6 (11/9 - 11/17)	Complete Module 6 Chapter 24: An Affluent Society, 1953 - 1960 Chapter 25: The Sixties, 1960 - 1968	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK



		Self-Reflection
Week 7 (11/16 - 11/24)	Complete Module 7 Chapter 26: The Conservative Term, 1969 – 1988 Chapter 27: A New World Order, 1989 – 2004	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Reflection
Week 8 (11/30 - 12/6)	Complete Module 8 Chapter 28: A Divided Nation ASSESSMENT FINAL PROJECT	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In Discussion Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Assessment 2: Chaps 24-28 Self-Reflection

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****