

1. Course / Catalog Description

This course surveys United States history from Reconstruction to the present, with emphasis on significant political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural, and intellectual transformations in modern America. The course pays particular attention to the rise of the United States as a global power and to the ways domestic developments have been connected to international events and ideas. By the end of the course, students will have a broad understanding of the key ideas, personalities, movements, and events that have shaped modern American history. (C-ID: HIST 140) (CSU/UC)

Class Attendance

An instructor may drop students who fail to attend the first meeting of any class for which they have officially enrolled. Instructors may also drop a student from a class for excessive absences.

Please refer to the course syllabus. Be aware that it is always the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes officially. In no case should students presume the instructor has dropped them.

Late work policy

- **Late work deduction:** Written assignments lose 3 points from the total possible score for each calendar day they are late, up to 4 days after the due date.
- **Cut-off for late work:** After 4 days past the due date, the assignment is no longer accepted and will remain a zero because it is no longer gradable within the course flow.
- **Emergencies:** If you experience a serious emergency, contact me as soon as you can so we can discuss options, but understand that not all work can be made up.

Tardies and no-show policy

- **Tardies:** Arriving late to class disrupts everyone's learning. Three tardies equal one absence in this course.
- **No-shows:** A "no-show" means you do not attend class and do not communicate with me before class. Three no-shows may result in you being dropped from the class.
- **Combination rule:** Any combination of 3 total no-shows or repeated tardiness that shows a pattern of non-attendance may lead to being dropped from the course to make room for students who are participating.
- **First-week attendance:** Community colleges may drop students who do not attend or participate in the first class meetings, so make sure you show up or contact me if there is an issue.

1. Requisites

None.

1. Grading

Letter grade only.

1. Measurable Course Objectives

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

- Describe major events and key political, economic, foreign policy, intellectual, cultural, social, scientific, and technological trends in U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present.
- Identify and explain the significance of essential personalities, movements, and ideas in modern American history.
- Explain how the development of the modern United States has occurred within a global context, including the mutual influence between the United States and the wider world.
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources, explain their role in historical interpretation, and appropriately use both to deepen understanding of American history.
- Articulate why historical knowledge of the United States is essential to the development of an educated individual and responsible citizen.

More specifically, students will be able to:

- Describe post-1865 westward migration, the expansion of railroads and industry in the trans-Mississippi West, and the impact of these developments on Native peoples.
- Explain the causes and consequences of the Second Industrial Revolution, including scientific and technological innovations and the rise of large corporations.
- Discuss major trends in post-Civil War politics, including labor conflict, immigration, and urbanization.
- Analyze changing attitudes and policies related to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and class in the late nineteenth century.
- Describe the role of the United States in emerging globalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including imperialism and U.S. actions in Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Latin America.
- Explain the rise of Populism and Progressivism and evaluate the political, economic, and social changes they produced.
- Explain the causes of World War I, shifts in U.S. responses to the war, and the global impact of the conflict and the Versailles Treaty.
- Discuss key political, social, intellectual, and cultural developments of the 1920s, including modernism and resurgent conservatism.
- Explain the economic conditions of the 1920s and the causes of the Great Depression.
- Discuss significant social and political developments of the Great Depression, including New Deal programs and policies, their successes and failures, and the global repercussions of the crisis.

- Describe the causes of World War II in Europe and Asia, trace the evolution of American involvement, identify key events (including the development and use of the atomic bomb), and assess the impact of the war on the home front.
- Discuss the global consequences of World War II, including the emergence of the United States as a permanent global power.
- Explain the origins of the Cold War, key events and policies that heightened tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the impact of the conflict in the broader world.
- Analyze the culture, society, policies, and events of the 1950s and early 1960s, including Cold War influences at home and abroad and the growing centrality of science and technology.
- Describe the causes, key events, leading figures, and outcomes of the African American civil rights movement.
- Describe the spread of civil rights activism to other groups and causes, including Chicano, Native American, women's, and LGBTQ movements, as well as environmentalism, personal freedom, and grassroots political action.
- Discuss the causes, key events, and consequences of the Vietnam War, including its global context, its effects on domestic life, and its long-term impact on U.S. society and culture.
- Describe significant political, economic, social, and cultural developments of the 1970s, including domestic and foreign policy successes and failures, changing U.S. relations with the Soviet Union and China, and the growing importance of the Middle East, OPEC, and the Iranian Revolution.
- Discuss the rise of domestic conservatism and the "Reagan Revolution" of the 1980s and 1990s, including the computer revolution, the increasing role of technological innovation, and the challenges and opportunities of the post-Cold War era.
- Describe major trends in the United States in the twenty-first century, including the global war on terror, changing patterns of U.S. engagement with the world, and contemporary economic, social, and political challenges.

- **Core Content (Lecture Outline)**

- Westward expansion and development after 1865: railroads, industry, agriculture, and impacts on Native Americans.
- The Second Industrial Revolution, scientific and technological innovation, and the growth of large corporations.
- Post-Civil War politics, including labor, immigration, and urbanization.
- Changing ideas and policies regarding race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and class in the late nineteenth century.
- U.S. imperialism and emerging globalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including interventions in Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Latin America.
- Populism and Progressivism and their impact on American political, economic, and social life.
- World War I: causes, significant events, U.S. involvement, and global consequences, including the Versailles Treaty.
- The 1920s: politics, culture, intellectual life, modernism, and conservatism.

- The 1920s economy, the causes of the Great Depression, the New Deal, and the Depression's domestic and global impact.
- World War II: origins in Europe and Asia, U.S. entry and strategy, key campaigns, scientific and technological developments (including the atomic bomb), and the home front.
- Global consequences of World War II and the emergence of the United States as a leading world power.
- The Cold War: origins, major crises, policies, and global impact.
- The 1950s and early 1960s: culture and society, the Cold War at home and abroad, and the growing importance of science and technology.
- Civil Rights Movements (African American, Chicano, Native American, women's, LGBTQ), environmentalism, personal freedom, and new forms of political activism.
- The Vietnam War: causes, significant events, global context, effects on domestic life, and long-term consequences.
- The 1970s: political, economic, social, and cultural developments; domestic and foreign policy; relations with the Soviet Union and China; and the growing importance of the Middle East, OPEC, and the Iranian Revolution.
- The rise of conservatism and the Reagan era; the computer and information revolution; and the post-Cold War world.
- The twenty-first century: the global war on terror, evolving U.S. foreign policy, and current economic, social, and political issues.

1. Methods of Evaluation

- In-class activities
- Essays and essay exams
- Quizzes and objective exams
- Midterm and final examinations
- Oral assignments and presentations
- Written assignments and research projects
- Map exercises, group projects, and group presentations

1. Assignments

Out-of-class work may include:

- Formal essay assignments and book reviews
- Online discussions

Reading and writing expectations:

If the bookstore doesn't have this copy, then get the latest edition

1. Carefully read the textbook and supplemental materials and practice analyzing primary sources.
2. Write critical, analytical essays based on readings and class activities.
3. Use the library and approved online resources to research topics relevant to the course.
4. Study course materials in preparation for quizzes and exams.
5. Produce approximately 8–10 pages of formal written work over the term.

Weekly and Ongoing Work

- Read assigned textbook chapters and supplemental readings carefully, including primary source documents.
- Take notes and practice analyzing primary sources as you read.
- Participate in online or in-class discussions, responding thoughtfully to prompts and classmates.
- Study regularly to keep up with course content and prepare for quizzes and exams.

Preparation for Assessments

- Review notes, readings, and primary sources to prepare for quizzes.
- Study major themes, events, and concepts for midterm and final exams.
- Practice organizing information into clear, evidence-based written answers for essay exams.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and accurately recall key information from historical texts and documentary films.
- Describe the causes and/or impacts of selected historical events.
- Explain and analyze the key information contained in primary source documents.