



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Sydney Rice
Course Title & #:	HIST 121 – US History: Reconstruction to Present	Email:	Sydney.rice@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15037	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	2788 NOTE: I am not on campus this term. If you need to speak to me, please send me an email or a message on Pronto
Class Dates:	1/2 – 2/3/2025	Office Hours:	No winter office hours
Class Days:	Asynchronous	How to Contact #:	Contact me through email or through Pronto (in Canvas)
Class Times:	Asynchronous	Emergency Contact:	Behavioral and Social Sciences Office 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. 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.

Note: All History 120 and 121 courses at Imperial Valley College have a writing requirement. Students can expect to write a minimum of ten total pages over the course in the semester. Assignments are listed in course schedule (below).

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: [US History](#) from OpenStax.

NOTE: This is an Open Educational Resource. You will find it in your Canvas course. The full book is posted in Course Resources and individual chapters are posted in each module.

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 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 in 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.

CRITICAL QUESTION PRESENTATION: For your final assignment, you will produce a PowerPoint presentation or a video on an important aspect of history or time-period discussed in class.

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

Watching and responding to videos;

Engaging in lectures;

Examining primary documents;

Creating graphic organizers;

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

ASSIGNMENT	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
Check-Ins	20%
Assessments	25%
Discussions	20%
Writing Assignments	20%
Other Assignments	15%
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 are due by the deadline and will not be accepted late.



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Academic Honesty and 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.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty Policy: Because I want to ensure that you are practicing and learning in this class, I take plagiarism pretty seriously. Plagiarism happens when you copy words or ideas from somewhere else and submit it or repeat it as your own work. We get better at what we practice, and when we copy, we only get better at copying, not the important English skills we should be practicing. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and is a very serious problem. Plagiarism includes:

- copying and pasting information from webpages (this includes using the internet for support and taking ideas, sentences, summaries, etc. without giving credit);
- copying answers from an answer key or Teacher's book;
- copying the work from another student in your class, in another class, or from a previous class;
- copying information from a webpage or book in Spanish and submitting the English translation as your work.
- using AI or text generators to complete your assignments.

To help keep track of plagiarism, I use Turnitin in our class. Turnitin will run a report and show how much of the paper is exactly like another paper or webpage or is suspected as being AI generated. If more than 20% of your paper is flagged, you will be asked to re-do the assignment. If more than one assignment is flagged from another source or as AI generated during the semester, you will receive 0s on those assignments.

What that means: You'll be expected to submit assignments on time or early, be kind and respectful to your classmates, and do all of your own work to the best of your ability without copying or using anyone else's (including AI) words, ideas, or writing.

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 Sunday night.

Updated 6/2023



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Can I complete work when I want? Yes, you can! However, you must complete each module by the deadline. (Sunday 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 back grade? There are two types of assessments for this class: Check Ins and Assessments. You can take a Check In assignment three times, so if you don't like your score, you can do the Check In again. 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!

Attendance: Any student who does not complete the first day attendance assignment will be dropped. I do not drop students at any other time during the semester.

Participation: Regular participation is required. Participation includes:

- Posting and responding in weekly discussions;
- Completing weekly work on Canvas;
- Submitting your work on time;

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

Note: All History 120 and 121 courses at Imperial Valley College have a writing requirement. Students can expect to write a minimum of ten total pages over the course in the semester. To meet this requirement students will be assigned the following assignments:

Activity: Primary document analysis

Paper: U.S. Movement from Isolation to Expansion

Paper: Impact of WWI and Versailles Peace Treaty on Today's World

Activity: Pivotal Events – 1945 – 1960

Final Project: Literature Review

Discussions: Weekly discussions will review topics covered in the week. Initial posts must be a minimum of 300 words. Responses should be substantive being no less than 150 words each.

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 (1/2 – 1/6)	Complete Module 0 Complete Module 1 Chapter 16 – The Era of Reconstruction Chapter 17 – Westward Expansion Chapter 18 - Industrialization Chapter 19 – Urbanization	For each chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In END OF THE WEEK Reflect/Discussion Assessment Self-Reflection
Week 2 (1/5 – 1/12)	Complete Module 2 Chapter 20 – Politics in the Gilded Age Primary Document Analysis Chapter 21 – The Progressive Movement Chapter 22 – Age of Empire Paper – U.S. Movement from Isolationism to Expansion Chapter 23 – Americans and the Great War	For each chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In END OF THE WEEK Primary document analysis Paper Reflect/Discussion Assessment Self-Reflection
Week 3 (1/12 – 1/19)	Complete Module 3 Chapter 23 – Americans and the Great War PAPER: WWI and the Versailles Peace Treaty of Today's World	For each chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
	Chapter 24 – The Jazz Age Chapter 25 – The Great Depression Chapter 26 – Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal	Check In END OF THE WEEK Reflect/Discussion Assessment Self-Reflection
Week 4 (1/19 – 1/26)	Complete Module 4 Chapter 27 – Fighting the Good Fight and World War II Chapter 28 – Post War Prosperity and Cold War Fears Chapter 29 – America in the 1960's ACTIVITY: Pivotal Events – 1945-1960	For each chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In END OF THE WEEK Reflect/Discussion Assessment Self-Reflection
Week 5 (1/26 – 2/3)	Complete Module 5 Chapter 30 – Political Storms at Home and Abroad Chapter 31 – From Cold War to Culture Wars Chapter 32 – The Challenges of the 21 st Century Final Project	For each chapter, complete: Prepare Read Video Check In END OF THE WEEK Reflect/Discussion Assessment Self-Reflection

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