

H/SS Elective 7: American History

Spring, 2025

INSTRUCTOR: Liu Xiang

OFFICE:

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OFFICE HOURS:

LECTURES: Monday 19:20-21:55

RECITATION:

TEXTBOOK:

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

PREREQUISITE:

English reading ability and basic knowledge on modern history of the world.

DESCRIPTION:

As a major power with important influence in contemporary world, United States went through great transformation since its independence. In the course of more than two hundred years of historical evolution, the politics, economy, society, culture and foreign relations of the United States have undergone drastic changes, which not only caused drastic changes in the United States itself, but also had a profound impact on the Americas and the world. This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with a brief introduction to the American history, which begins with Colonial America and end with contemporary U.S..

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with a survey to the American history. Through the study of this course, students need to understand the basic context of American history, be familiar with the important historical facts of American history since independence, and have an in-depth understanding of the complex political, economical, and ideological factors behind the history. At the same time, students should learn to master the methods of historical analysis, think about the interaction between the United States and the world and its impact, and manage to comprehend contemporary American politics and foreign affairs based on historical study.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE:

- 1) Understand basic knowledge on important events in American History
- 2) Master the methods of historical analysis
- 3) Try to comprehend contemporary U.S. based on historical knowledge

GRADE DETERMINATION:

ATTENDANCE and Discussion: 20%

HOMEWORK: 20%

Group Presentation: 30%

Book Critical Review: 30%

MATERIAL COVERED: The sequence of the sections covered in this class is:

Week	Contents
1 (02/24)	Introduction
2 (03/03)	Pre-Colonial and Colonial America
3 (03/10)	Revolutionary war and American Constitution
4 (03/17)	Early Republic of America
5 (03/24)	Westward Expansion
6 (03/31)	Civil War and Reconstruction
7 (04/07)	Industrial America
8 (04/14)	American Progressive Movement and World War I Experience
9 (04/21)	1920s, Great Depression and New Deal
10 (04/28)	American Experience in World War II
11(05/05)	1950s America(adjust to Holiday Arrangement)
12 (05/12)	1960s America
13 (15/19)	1970-80s America
14 (05/26)	Post-Cold War Era and the making of contemporary America
15 (06/02)	Holiday
16 (06/09)	Group Presentation and Discussion