Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 3/15/12

I. Course Prefix and Number: HIS 110

   Course Name: United States History I

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

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: no pre-requisites or co-requisites

This course begins the exploration of the social, political, intellectual and cultural development of America from 1500 to 1877, covering such topics as the first European settlements, the American Revolution, Age of Jefferson, Westward Expansion, Slavery and the Old South, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic narrative of early American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, and the role of unity and diversity in shaping American society.

- Demonstrate knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups.

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

- 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 early American history, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.

- Demonstrate understanding of the political evolution of early America (including the fashioning of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and the development of the American federal, two-party system) so as to better equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be involved in their communities.
Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published and electronic historical resources.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:**

May be taken to fulfill the SUNY General Education requirement of 3 credits of a American History course or as a Social Science (HIS 111) elective requirement.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- [ ] writing
- [ ] oral communications
- [x] reading
- [ ] mathematics
- [x] critical thinking
- [x] computer literacy
- [ ] ethics/values
- [x] citizenship
- [x] global concerns
- [x] information resources

**III. Instructional Materials and Methods**

**Types of Course Materials:**

Textbook, published primary source reader (or electronic equivalent), assigned historical monograph, College learning management system.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture, reading and discussion

**IV. Assessment Measures:**

- In-class, closed-book essay exams will be employed to assess students’ knowledge of the basic narrative of early American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, and the role of unity and diversity in shaping American society (Critical Thinking competency).

- In-class, closed-book essay exams will be employed to assess students’ knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups (Critical Thinking competency).

- Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students’ ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings (Reading competency).
An assigned paper (critical book review or research paper) will be employed to assess students' ability to gather information from a range of published and electronic historical sources, to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of early American History, and to develop a well-reasoned and evidence-supported historical argument (Critical thinking, Computer Literacy and Information Management competencies).

Quizzes and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' understanding of the political evolution of early America (Citizenship competency).

Quizzes and essay examinations will be employed to assess students' understanding of the manifold ways in which the history of early America connects with that of the wider world (Global Concerns competency).

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

The First Americans (America on the Eve of European Contact)
The Columbian Exchange
The First European Settlements, 1500-1625
The Emergence of the Colonial Societies, 1625-1750
The Road to Revolution, 1750-1776
American Revolution, 1776-1788
Defining Nationhood and Launching the New Republic, 1788-1800
The Early Republic: Age of Jefferson and War of 1812
Westward Expansion, The Coming of the Railroad and Early Industrialization, 1815-1850
Age of Jackson, Age of Reform and the Second Great Awakening
Old South and Slavery
Immigration, Expansion and Sectional Conflict, 1840-1848
Road to the Civil War: Compromise to Secession, 1850-1861
Civil War, 1861-1865

Reconstruction, 1865-1877