Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 3/15/12

I. Course Prefix and Number: HIS 111

   Course Name: United States History II

   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, the second half of the history of the United States sequence, continues the exploration of the social, political, intellectual and cultural development of America from 1865 to the present, covering such topics as industrialization, the Progressive era, the Great Depression and the New Deal, World War II and America’s rise as a world power, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement, Watergate, the Reagan presidency and the post-9/11 War on Terror. HIS 110 is NOT a prerequisite for the course.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic narrative of 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 an 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 Modern American history, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting historical subject matter.
Demonstrate an understanding of the political evolution of modern America 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 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 modern 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 Modern America (Citizenship competency).

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

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Reconstruction
Industrialization
The Progressive Era, 1900-1917
America in the First World War, 1917-1919
Roaring Twenties and Prohibition
Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1939
America’s Rise to World Leadership: World War II
Truman and Cold War America, 1945-52
Eisenhower and the American Consensus, 1952-1957
JFK, the New Frontier and the Cuban Missile Crisis
Johnson and the New Society
Civil Rights Movement
America and the Vietnam War
The Imperial Presidency and Watergate
New Realities: Carter Presidency, 1976-80
The New Right: The Reagan Years, 1980-88
End of the Cold War
Clinton Presidency, 1992-2000
Bush, 9/11, Iraq and the War on Terror

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