



HIS 011: US History to 1877

Term: 2020 Winter Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 6

Total Weeks: 4

Total Class Sessions: 25

Class Session Length (minutes): 145

Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

This course introduces the US history through a chronological survey, from the ancient America before 1492 to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. The following major topics and events will include: Pilgrims, the Stamp Act, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Civil War, and the Reconstruction era. Students will explore the US history through various perspectives: politics, economics, society, and culture. Through the classroom discussion, reading quizzes and other assignments, students will be able to get command of the development of US history before 1877 and improve their ability of historical analysis.

Course Materials:

America: A Narrative History, Volume 1: To 1877, Tindall, George Brown, and David E. Shi, 10th edition.

Understanding the American Promise--A History, Vol. 1, Roark, et al., 2nd edition

Exploring American Histories, Nancy A Hewitt and Steven F Lawson, 2nd edition

The American Nation: A History of the United States, Volume 1, Mark Carnes, 15th edition

* Other readings have been prepared and will be distributed by the instructor. These are a blend of primary and secondary materials that complement lectures and provide the foundations for



classroom discussions.

Course Format and Requirements:

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester. While attendance is not directly calculated into the student's course grade, it will be a factor in determining participation grades. After a student's 4th absence, each unexcused absence will result in an automatic drop in grade. With each unexcused absence your final letter grade will be dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ a grade – NO EXCEPTIONS (e.g.: A to A-).

Grading Scale:

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Assignments:

Attendance: 5%

Attendance at all class sessions is required. You have to notify the instructor in advance of your absence. If you fail to attend class on a regular basis, your final course grade will be lowered. Likewise, you should arrive to class on time. Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful to me and to your classmates. Please make every effort to arrive punctually.

Quizzes: 15%



Eight quizzes will occur in class without informing, based on the reading assigned before class. Five of them will be open book, so you are encouraged to make some margin notes before class and bring your textbook to the class. One of them will be the map quiz (gap filling) from the maps in the textbook, *Understanding the American Promise--A History*. The lowest score (except for the map quiz) of all the quizzes will be dropped.

Reading Response: 30%

You will write three reading response throughout the four-week courses. In your reading response, you will write 400-600 words responding to the reading. You are not summarizing the text, instead, you will respond by making connections, synthesizing readings and your own experiences. You will receive fifteen points for a well-reasoned and thorough response, one point for a mediocre response, and zero points for no response.

Exams: 50%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Midterm exam will be conducted in-class on the third week. You will be informed the covered content in advance by your instructor. You should not refer to the textbook or communicate with your classmates. Otherwise, you will get zero points for this exam. It may include multiple choices, true/false questions, matching, short answer. You will get more detailed information when the exam is approaching.

Final Exam: 30%

The final exam will be held outside of normal class hours. It is close-book, non-cumulative and will include all the content you have learnt during the twenty-five classes. You are supposed to review your textbook, notes, and additional reading materials provided by the lecturer. The types of problems will be more various compared with the midterm exam. It will consist of some combination of short answer, multiple choice, identification, and essays. There are no make-up exams.

Course Assessment:

Attendance	5%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Reading Response	30%
Final Exam	30%



Total	100%
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Course Schedule:

Week	Contents	Assignments
Week One (Class 1~6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Introduction to the course and syllabus • Understanding Ancient America before 1492 • Europeans Encounter the New World, 1492–1600 • Founding the southern colonies in the seventeenth century. 1601-1700 (*Pilgrims) • Sounding the northern colonies, 1601 - 1700 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Quiz 2 • Reading Response 1
Week Two (Class 7~12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing world of colonial America, 1701-1770 • The British empire and the colonial crisis, 1754-1775 (*The Stamp Act) • Fighting the American revolution, 1775 - 1783 (* the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence) • Building a republic, 1775-1789 (*Constitution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • Quiz 4 • Reading Response 2
Week Three (Class 13~18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming the new nation, 1789-1800 • A maturing republic, 1800-1824 (*The Missouri Compromise) • The expanding republic, 1815-1840 • The new west and the free north, 1840-1860 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam • Quiz 5 • Quiz 6 • Reading Response 3
Week Four (Class 19~25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the slave south, 1820-1860 • The house divided, 1846- 1861 (* The Compromise of 1850) • The crucible war, 1861-1865 (* the Civil War) • Reconstructing a nation, 1863-1877 (*the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 7 • Quiz 8 • Reading Response 4 • Final Exam



	Reconstruction era) • Review for final exam	
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Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University’s *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean’s Office.

Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.