

HIST153: AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

Course Overview: This course is a survey of the history of the United States from pre-Columbian America to the present. It will explore the political, economic, religious, social, ideological, and artistic influences in the American story.

The course is designed to help students develop knowledge of broad areas of history; an appreciation of the major events in U.S. history; and the skills necessary to read, write and speak about U.S. history and historical writing.
13 credits

Grading:

Weekly quizzes	30%
Weekly discussions	30%
Primary source essays	30%
Final activity	10%

Attendance:

Attendance is recorded for each discussion or assignment that is submitted. Students are encouraged to log on about 4 times per week and dedicate about 6 hours each week to their coursework.

Assignments:

Quizzes: 75 minute open book quizzes covering the assigned reading material will be administered through blackboard learn.

Videos and discussions: online videos from the Annenberg/CPB series: *A biography of America* will be used as the basis for weekly discussions to examine our attitudes and behaviors.

Primary source essays: Students must submit 7 of the possible 14 primary source essays to analyze a document or media element. The 5 paragraph essay must summarize and analyze the artifact in historical context.

Final activity: This will require students to compose a 5 paragraph essay addressing a specific question about American Exceptionalism and its relevance to present day realities.



15 week course
Not self-paced;
assignments
Have weekly
deadlines.



Students can access
their course any time,
from any location.
A laptop or desktop is
recommended.



Students will set up a
university email & use
this while in the
course.
Orientation will be
required prior to the
start of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: New World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The New World; Colliding Cultures • Video/Online Discussion: New World Encounters/The Beginnings of America • Primary Source assignment: Document regarding the Indies
Week Two: Colonial World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: British North America; Colonial Society • Video/Online Discussion: English Settlement/New England and Virginia • Primary Source assignment: Document regarding witchcraft
Week Three: Independence & Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The American Revolution; A New Nation • Video/Online Discussion: A New System of Government • Primary Source assignment: Political Cartoon analysis
Week Four: Jefferson & Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Early Republic; Democracy in America • Video/Online Discussion: Thomas Jefferson • Primary Source assignment: Political Cartoon analysis
Week Five: Slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: Religion and Reform; The Old South • Video/Online Discussion: Slavery • Primary Source assignment: Slave Spirituals
Week Six: Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Sectional Crisis; The Civil War • Video/Online Discussion: The Coming of the Civil War • Primary Source assignment: Photos dead soldiers
Week Seven: Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: Reconstruction • Video/Online Discussion: Reconstruction • Primary Source assignment: The Klan in Political Cartoons
Week Eight: Westward Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: Manifest Destiny; Conquering the West • Video/Online Discussion: The West • Primary Source assignment: Pres. Jackson views on American Indians
Week Nine: Gilded Age & Progressivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: Industrial America; The Progressive Era • Video/Online Discussion: Industrial Supremacy • Primary Source assignment: Gilded Age cartoons
Week Ten: World War I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: World War I & Its Aftermath • Video/Online Discussion: TR and Wilson • Primary Source assignment: WWI songs
Week Eleven: The New Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Roaring Twenties (The New Era) • Video/Online Discussion: The Twenties: The Tensions of Prosperity • Primary Source assignment: “Modern youth”
Week Twelve: Great Depression & New Deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Great Depression • Video/Online Discussion: FDR and The Depression • Primary Source assignment: Dear Mrs. Roosevelt
Week Thirteen: World War II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: World War II • Video/Online Discussion: World War II/Total War • Primary Source assignment: Poster Art from World War II
Week Fourteen: Cold War Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Cold War; The Affluent Society; The Sixties • Video/Online Discussion: The Cold War • Primary Source assignment: Consumerism & Gender Roles
Week Fifteen: 1970’s & Beyond / Final Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook chapters & quizzes: The Unraveling; The Rise of the Right; The Recent Past • Video/Online Discussion: Contemporary History • Final Activity assignment: American Exceptionalism

This is a sample course schedule and the actual course layout could change each term.