

# HIS 131 American History I

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or DRE 098; or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course is a survey of American history from pre-history through the Civil War era. Topics include the migrations to the Americas, the colonial and revolutionary periods, the development of the Republic, and the Civil War. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in early American history. Native Americans, minorities, women, and representative biographies are also examined. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. To demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology by mastering the knowledge of historical narrative.
2. To interpret and apply data from original documents.
3. Use historical data to support generalizations and interpretations.
4. Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, and comparison.

## OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. European expansion and colonial beginnings, 16th century
  - A. Age of Exploration: voyages to the new world
  - B. Motives and methods of colonization: Elizabethan England
  - C. English colonization: Virginia and Plymouth Plantation
- II. The rise of colonial America, 17th century
  - A. The New England way – the Puritans and the quest for perfection
  - B. Chesapeake society – freedom and slavery
  - C. The middle colonies – diversity and pluralism of peoples and cultures
- III. An emerging American culture and society, 1660–1750
  - A. British colonial rule – salutary neglect
  - B. 18th century colonial society – merchants, planters, yeoman
  - C. Enlightenment and Awakening – influence of European ideas on American life
- IV. Road to revolution, 1756-1776
  - A. British reorganization of colonial rule - the end of salutary neglect
  - B. Colonial resistance to British regulation - conserving a "unique relationship"?
  - C. The ideology of independence - English Whigs, John Locke, Thomas Paine
- V. Creating a nation, 1776-1788
  - A. A revolutionary society - egalitarianism for women, for blacks, for natives?
  - B. A new republic - political institutions: states, confederation, and Constitution
- VI. Establishing a new nation, 1789-1800
  - A. Executive leadership and civil liberties - the presidency & the Bill of Rights
  - B. A national economic policy - Alexander Hamilton
  - C. The place of native Americans in a new nation
  - D. Ideological confrontation - federalist vs. republican

- VII. A republican America, 1800-1824
  - A. Jefferson as President - Louisiana Purchase as symbol of a new nationalism
  - B. War of 1812 - winning economic independence and national stature
  - C. The role of the Supreme Court & the Monroe Doctrine-A national perspective
  - D. Sectional rivalry - Missouri compromise "like a fire bell in the night"
- VIII. A Market Revolution, 1815-1840
  - A. Westward expansion - federal land and Indian policies
  - B. Agricultural boom and the transportation revolution
  - C. Industrialization - mill and city
  - D. Social consequences - distribution of wealth and new social relationships
- IX. Politics, religion and reform - Responses to the market revolution, 1824-1848
  - A. Jacksonian democracy - passing on the tradition of Jefferson?
  - B. Evangelism and reform - A Protestant, capitalist, benevolent empire
  - C. Women's sphere - the search for equality and identity in the republic
- X. An American culture - homegrown, 1840-1860
  - A. Technology and economic growth - America's quest for progress
  - B. Quality of life - housing, public health, food and water
  - C. Popular pastimes and American arts and literature - A democratic culture
- XI. A Southern Nation. 1800-1860
  - A. The cotton economy
  - B. The plantation as a system of production and labor organization
  - C. White society - planters and yeoman
  - D. Black Southerners - family, culture, and community without freedom
- XII. Immigration, territorial expansion, and sectional antagonisms, 1840-1848
  - A. Germans, Irish, Catholics and nativism
  - B. The politics of expansion - manifest destiny, Mexican War, political feuds
- XIII. The failure of compromise, 1850-1861
  - A. Compromise of 1850 - Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Fugitive Slave Act
  - B. Kansas and Nebraska - popular sovereignty, Free Soil, & the Republican Party
  - C. Controversies - Dred Scott, Lecompton, John Brown, Election, 1860, Ft. Sumter
- XIV. Civil War, 1861-1865
  - A. Mobilization
  - B. Presidential leadership and government power
  - C. Emancipation - war aims and the role of black Americans
  - D. Total War - the ravages of society
- XV. The Crises of Reconstruction, America's second revolution, 1865-1877
  - A. Presidential vs. Congressional - How to reforge a nation?
  - B. The role of black Americans - what was to be their place in American society?
  - C. Election of 1877 - A failure of conscience

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

To be selected by the Instructor/Discipline Chair.

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling (919) 536-7207, ext. 1413, or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.