Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE USA  
Course Code: HST1113  
Recommended Study Year*: Year 1  
No. of Credits/Term: 3  
Mode of Tuition: Sectional  
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week  
Category in Major Prog.: Elective  
Prerequisite(s): None  
Co-requisite(s): None  
Exclusion(s): None  
Exemption Requirement(s): None

Brief Course Description
This course is an introduction to the history of the United States from earliest times to the present.

Aims
The objective of this course is to help students understand the historical formation of the United States and that country’s subsequent impact on world history. This course will also provide students with an introduction to American culture and geography.

Learning Outcomes
1) Familiarity with the history and culture of the United States  
2) Improved critical reading and analytical skills  
3) Improved English-language writing ability

Indicative Content
I. Native Americans  
   A. Migration to the New World  
   B. Cultures and dispersal across North America

II. European Arrival in the Americas  
   A. Spain and Columbus  
   B. England before 1607

III. English Settlement of North America  
   A. Virginia and Chesapeake  
   B. New England  
   C. Mid-Atlantic  
   D. Lower South

IV. Early Colonial Culture and Lifestyles  
   A. Puritans  
   B. Indentured Servitude, Slavery, Race and the Plantocracy in the Chesapeake  
   C. The Atlantic Economy

V. War and Revolution  
   A. The Seven Years’ War, 1754-1763  
   B. The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1775  
   C. The American Revolution, 1775-1783
VI. The New Republic
   A. Creating the Constitution, 1783-1789
   B. Hamiltonianism v. Jeffersonianism

VII. The Early Nineteenth Century
   A. Era of Good Feelings
   B. Age of Jackson
   C. Westward Expansion
   D. Industrialization, Cotton and the Economy
   E. Reform Movements

VIII. Slavery and Politics
   A. Slavery
   B. The Mexican War, 1846-1848
   C. Westward Expansion, Sectional Conflict, Sectional Compromise, 1820-1850
   D. Sectional Conflict without Compromise, 1850-1860
   E. Drift to Disunion

IX. Civil War, 1861-1865
   A. War Goals
   B. Nature of Military Conflict
   C. War & Political Economy in the North
   D. Race, Slavery & the War

X. Reconstruction, 1865-1877
   A. Radical Republican Goals
   B. Freedmen, freedwomen and their goals
   C. The Ku Klux Klan and White Southern Resistance
   D. The End of Reconstruction

XI. The Gilded Age
   A. Political organization
   B. Corporations, wealth, and social inequality
   C. Populism, Unions and Reform
   D. Urbanization
   E. Westward Migration, the “Closing of the Frontier”

XII. American Empire
   A. Spanish-American War
   B. Hawaii
   C. Panama
   D. Theodore Roosevelt

XIII. Progressivism
   A. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson
   B. Women’s suffrage
   C. Prohibition
   D. Conservation

XIV. Wilsonian Foreign Policy
   A. World War I
   B. Versailles
XV. The 1920s
A. Mass consumption economy
B. Red Scare, Immigration Restriction
C. Herbert Hoover

XVI. The Great Depression, 1929-1941
A. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
B. The First New Deal
C. The Second New Deal
D. American Life in the Depression

XVII. World War II
A. Roosevelt’s Foreign Policy, 1933-1941
B. America in the War in Europe
C. America in the War in the Pacific

XVIII. Beginning of the Cold War
A. Truman
B. Post-War Alliances (NATO, Warsaw Pact) and Post-War economic structures (IMF, World Bank)
C. Marshall Plan
D. Red Scare
E. Korean War
F. Eisenhower Republicanism

XIX. Civil Rights
A. The Movement in the 1950s
B. Kennedy and Johnson
C. Martin Luther King, Jr.
D. Women’s Rights

XX. Vietnam
A. Kennedy, Johnson
B. Richard Nixon
C. 1960s Culture

XXI. The 1970s
A. Watergate
B. Oil Crisis
C. Nixon and China
D. Jimmy Carter
E. Iran

XXII. American Conservatism
A. The New Right and the Southern Strategy
B. Ronald Reagan
C. The Role of Government
D. George H. W. Bush and the First Gulf War
E. Clinton

XXIII. America Today
A. George W. Bush
B. September 11, 2001
C. The Iraq War
D. The Changing Faces of American Society

Teaching Method
Lectures, supplemented by readings, will provide students with the basic outline of U.S. history. In class reading exercises will foster students’ critical-thinking and analytical skills.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
Outcome 1 will be developed through written assignments and tests. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be developed and assessed through the short essays, term paper, handouts, in-class exercises and the essay sections of the midterm and final exam.

Assessment
Continuous assessment: 70%
Examination: 30%

Required/Essential Readings

Recommendation/Supplementary Readings

* Optional items