

<b>Course Title</b>	: CRITICAL INTERSECTIONS IN U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1865: RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY
<b>Course Code</b>	: HST3256
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Sectional
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 3 hours per week
<b>Category in Major Prog.</b>	: Elective
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: None
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: None
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: None
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: None

### **Brief Course Description**

A survey of the history of the American people and their political and social institutions. The subject begins with Reconstruction and concludes with a study of the contemporary American scene.

### **Aims**

To assist students to gain basic knowledge about the history of the United States since 1865 in order to better understand its influence in the world today, and some of the reasons for its attitudes and actions.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- 1) A deeper familiarity with the history and culture of the United States after 1865.
- 2) Improved critical reading and analytical skills
- 3) Improved English-language writing ability
- 4) Improved facility with primary and secondary sources
- 5) Improved research abilities

### **Indicative Content**

- I. Reconstruction
- II. The Far Western Frontier
- III. “The Gilded Age”
  - A. Industrial development
  - B. Politics
  - C. Reforms in American society

- IV. Politics, Reform and Expansionism
  - A. Populism
  - B. The “New Imperialism”
  - C. The Spanish-American War
  - D. The Progressive Movement
    - 1. Theodore Roosevelt’s administrations
    - 2. William Howard Taft’s administration
    - 3. Woodrow Wilson’s administrations
- V. World War I
- VI. The “Return to Normalcy”
- VII. Herbert Hoover and the “Great Depression”
- VIII. The New Deal
- IX. The Coming of World War II
  - A. Isolationism
  - B. The Spanish Civil War
  - C. The rise of totalitarianism in Europe and the Far East
- X. World War II and Its Diplomacy
- XI. Post-War America
  - A. Post-war conversion
  - B. The “Cold War” and McCarthyism
  - C. The Eisenhower years
  - D. John Kennedy and the “New Frontier”
  - E. The civil rights movement
- XII. Vietnam and After
  - A. Lyndon Johnson’s administrations
  - B. Richard Nixon’s administrations
  - C. “Watergate” and its impact on America
  - D. Jimmy “Who?” – The catharsis of the Carter years
  - E. Resurgent America
  - F. The Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations
- XIII. Post-Cold War America

### **Teaching Method**

As an introductory subject to a topic with which most students are totally unfamiliar, the main teaching approach will be lectures.

## Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1 will be developed through written assignments and the tests. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be developed and assessed through the written assignments, in-class exercises, and the essay sections of the midterm and final tests. Outcome 4 will be developed in in-class exercises and on the essay assignment. Outcome 5 will be developed in the course essay.

## Assessment

- Essay: 30%
- In-class midterm test: 25%
- Take-home final test: 25%
- Reading responses: 10%
- Discussion participation: 10%

## Required Readings

Hyser, Raymond M. and Arndt, J. Chris, *Vocies of the American Past Documents in U.S. History*, Vol. II, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., United States: Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.

Foner, Eric, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, New York: Seagull Edition, Norton, 2005.

## Supplementary Readings

Ambrose, Stephen E, *Nixon*, 2 Vols., New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986, 1989.

American Council of Learned Societies, *Dictionary of American Biography*, 22 Vols., New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928-1944.

Dallek, Robert, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.

Ferrell, Robert H., *Woodrow Wilson and World War I, 1917-1921*, New York: Harper and Row, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_, *American Diplomacy: The Twentieth Century*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1988.

Handlin, Oscar, et al., *Harvard Guide to American History*, New York: Atheneum, 1969.

Lafeber, Walter, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1900*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_, *The American Age: United States Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad since 1750*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1989.

Leuchtenburg, William E., *The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-1932*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940*, New York: Harper and Row, 1963.

\_\_\_\_\_, *In the Shadow of FDR: From Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan*, Rev. and updated ed., Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989.

Link, Arthur S. and McCormick, Richard L., *Progressivism*, Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1983.

Martin, Michael and Gelber, Leonard, *Dictionary of American History*, Totowa, New Jersey: Littlefield, Adams and Co., 1978.

Parnet, Herbert, *JFK: The Presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1983.

Tindall, George B. and David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 5<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000.

Wiebe, Robert H., *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*, New York: Hill and Wang, 1966.

### Journals

*American Historical Review*

*Journal of American History*

*William and Mary Quarterly*

### Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.