

HIST 17C: HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1914 TO THE PRESENT

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Summer 2025
Units:	4
Hours:	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
Advisory:	Demonstrated proficiency in English by placement via multiple measures OR through an equivalent placement process OR completion of ESLL 125 & ESLL 249; not open to students with credit in HIST 17CH.
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area 4: Social & Behavioral Sciences
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate factual knowledge of important public figures, social, economic, cultural, political and intellectual developments in modern United States history.
- Develop a historical analysis and support it using details and examples.
- Relate important historical events and patterns to current events and patterns and identify significant similarities and differences.

Description

History of the United States from 1914 to the present. Survey of the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States with emphasis on the country's evolving involvement in world affairs and increasing struggle to achieve civil rights for all Americans.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad factual knowledge of important social, economic, cultural, political, and intellectual movements in modern American history
2. Analyze issues which have a direct bearing and influence on American life today
3. Explain the principal historical debates and problems within the field of American historiography concerning the sources and verification of historical evidence
4. Recognize the impact of different ethnic groups and other minorities on the evolution of American society in the 20th and 21st centuries

5. Utilize the skills of historiographical analysis and interpretative exposition to explain and evaluate important developments in American history
6. Use primary and secondary sources effectively to articulate sound historical analysis

Course Content

1. How do we know what we know—primary and secondary sources and their importance and use
2. U.S. involvement in the First World War
 - a. Analysis of the reasons behind America's entry into the war
 - b. Examination of the impact of total war
 - c. America's role in the war and the peace settlement
 - d. The development of war socialism at home
 - e. Comparison of the competing concepts of collective security and national sovereignty illustrated by the debate over the League of Nations
3. Social and technological change in the 1920s
 - a. The rise and impact of mass consumer culture
 - b. New images and activism of women and minorities
 - c. Conservative reaction to change
4. American economics and government policy in the 1920s and 1930s
 - a. Analysis of the causes of the Great Depression
 - b. Economic and social upheaval of the Great Depression
 - c. Assessment of the new role for the federal government during the New Deal
 - d. Challenges to government's role from the political left and right
5. Changing global systems and the rise of militarism
 - a. Assessment of the failure of collective security
 - b. Significance of the rise of totalitarianism
 - c. Aggression and conquest in Asia, Africa, and Europe
6. Global aspects of World War II
 - a. Global aggression and U.S. response
 - b. Mobilization and U.S. entry into war
 - c. Economic and social impact of the war on the home front
 - d. Assessment of long-term impact of the war on American society
 - e. Analysis of Allied success and eventual victory
 - f. Causes and impact of the Holocaust on U.S. and the world
 - g. Evaluation of America's use of atomic weapons
7. Development of Cold War ideology and its impact at home and abroad
 - a. Assessment of the efficacy of Cold War policies in Europe and Asia
 - b. Origins of the concept of national security and its impact on civil rights and international law
 - c. Covert operations and American foreign policy
 - d. The Red Scare in America
8. The civil rights revolution
 - a. Evolution of the African American civil rights movement
 - b. Evaluation of the impact of nonviolent action in the South
 - c. Assessment of the rise of militancy in the movement
 - d. Government and social reaction to the civil rights movement
9. Social and political upheaval in the 1960s and 1970s
 - a. Containment in Asia and the Vietnam War
 - b. Assessment of America's increasing involvement in Vietnam
 - c. Impact of liberal policies under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson

- d. Causes and impact of social activism among minorities and youth
 - e. Evaluation of the counterculture and its impact on American society
10. The rise of conservatism in the 1970s and 1980s
 - a. Conservative foreign and domestic policy under President Nixon
 - b. Watergate and abuse of presidential power
 - c. Analysis of increasingly conservative reaction to liberal government policies
 - d. Assessment of social and economic revolutions under President Reagan
 11. The United States in the post-Cold War world
 - a. Identify causes of the collapse of the Soviet Union
 - b. Trace conflict and change in the Middle East
 - c. Evaluate continuing liberal social change in American society
 12. The United States in the 21st century
 - a. Analysis of the origins and continuing threat of terrorism
 - b. Assess the impact of globalization on American society
 - c. Evaluate the U.S. role in a post-Cold War world
 - d. Evaluate the continuing struggle for civil rights among minority groups in America
 - e. Identify other current economic, political, and environmental challenges faced by the United States and the world, and the value of historical perspective in formulating solutions to those problems

Lab Content

Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. When taught on campus, none.
2. When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Midterm exams featuring written essays
 Final examination featuring written essays
 Research paper based on analysis of primary and secondary historical sources
 Class discussion and participation
 In-class written assignments and quizzes

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture
 Discussion
 Guided research
 Electronic discussions
 Multimedia presentations

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Faragher, John Mack, et al.. Out of Many: A History of the American People, Vol. II, 9th ed.. 2019.

Henretta, James A., et al.. America's History Vol. II, 10th ed.. 2021.

Schultz, Justin M.. HIST, 5th ed.. 2017.

Additional wide-ranging use of web-based primary sources.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. Midterm exams consisting of objective questions requiring understanding and assessment of important people, events, and concepts, and written essays asking for explanation and analysis of major themes and periods
2. One two-hour long final examination with written and objective questions in the style noted above
3. Research paper requiring development of a thesis, collection and analysis of primary and/or secondary sources, and organization and presentation of a quality written product
4. Class discussion and participation focusing on understanding content, analyzing point of view and competency of sources, and identifying important thematic connections to present day topics and events
5. Written questions and assignments requiring evaluation of particular documents, ideas, or incidents from the period

HISTORY PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to critically analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources and draw valid historical interpretations from them.

Discipline(s)

History