



## **HIS201: United States History Since 1870**

### **Syllabus Overview**

This syllabus contains all relevant information about the course: its objectives and outcomes, the grading criteria, the texts and other materials of instruction, and weekly topics, outcomes, assignments, and due dates. Consider this your roadmap for the course. Please read through the syllabus carefully and ask questions if you would like anything clarified. Please print a copy of this syllabus for reference.

### **Course Description**

3 Credits

Prerequisite: ENG201

This U.S. history course is centered upon the belief that historical events have social, economic and political consequences that echo into our present lives. The emphasis of the course is the inter-relationship among historical events, rather than simply a chronological study of isolated events or people. The scope and sequence of the course is designed to highlight themes, processes, and causal relationships between events, to communicate the idea that history is a process of continuity, as well as change. Utilizing this approach will result in an increased ability to recognize and analyze the connection between historical events and present circumstances and conditions. The National Council of the Social Studies (NCSS) validates the thematic approach through its own ten thematic strands of social studies and the goal of “adopting common and multiple perspectives” on historical events. Accordingly, the weekly discussions in this course are designed to further highlight these related historical themes, as well as their downstream consequences in our present world.

### **Course Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to analyze and compare current social, political and economic issues considering important changes that have occurred in the United States during the recent past.
- Describe and evaluate the evolution of U.S. foreign policy as it relates to various regions of the world.
- Delineate the major internal events that have influenced domestic economic, social and political policy in the U.S. since 1870.
- Assess the impact of the Civil Rights Movement and other minority rights movements on U.S. society, politics and culture.
- Evaluate the social, economic and political impact of foreign wars on the U.S.

- Identify the meaning of ethics and ethical behavior within the context of U.S. history since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present, paying particular attention to how these ethical issues influence our business society.

## Communication with Your Instructor

You will receive a welcome email from your instructor prior to the start of class. This email will contain your instructor's contact information. Your instructor will also be communicating with you via several methods in the course, including:

- **Announcements** – This communication tool, located on the navigation menu within your course in Canvas, contains important updates. Be sure to check for new announcements from your instructor each time you access your course.
- **Q&A** – Use this discussion board, located on the Home screen in your course, to communicate with your instructor and classmates regarding general course questions (i.e. missing links, assignment clarification, etc.).
- **Inbox** – Use the Inbox, located in the top right corner of Canvas, to send a message to your instructor or classmates.

## Materials and Resources

**All readings and lectures are provided within the course accessed through Mindedge\*.**

\*Purchase your MindEdge access code through the Bookstore.

## Bookstore Information

The bookstore can be located in the left-hand navigation of any Canvas course.

## Library Services

Detailed information about the eLibrary can be found in the Student Resource Center. This is a course that all students have access to during their academic career.

## Canvas Help Desk and Technical Questions

If you experience technical issues in your course, please contact the Canvas Help Desk by clicking the Help link (top right corner within Canvas). There are 3 ways to contact them:

- Phone (888-628-2749)
- Live chat
- Report a problem (submit a ticket)

Be sure to notify your instructor of any technical difficulties you are experiencing.

Additional resources are available in the Student Resource Center and the Canvas Guides website:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>

## Weekly Schedule

<b>Week 1      The Gilded Age, American Imperialism, and World War I</b>	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the relationship between invention and industrialization in America during the Gilded Age.</li> <li>• Discuss the rise of the Populist Party and the evolving role of populism in American politics.</li> <li>• Describe the reasons behind the rise of progressivism in America at the turn of the century and identify the long-term consequences of this development.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of American Imperialism and identify the factors that led to a “new” Manifest Destiny.</li> <li>• List the reasons behind the Spanish-American War and identify the effects of this war on American foreign policy.</li> <li>• Understand and discuss the causes, evolution and outcomes of World War I.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spanish-American War</li> <li>• Platform of the People's Party: Made at Omaha</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialization and the Rise of Big Business 1870-1900</li> <li>• Politics in the Gilded Age</li> <li>• The Progressive Movement 1890-1920</li> <li>• Age of Empire</li> <li>• Americans and the Great War 1914-1919</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>Journalism</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 1 Assignment: Populism</b>
<b>Week 2      The Great Depression, Presidency of FDR, and the New Deal</b>	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and understand the reasons behind the stock market crash of 1929.</li> <li>• Identify developments related to the beginning of the Great Depression and analyze Hoover’s response to the crisis.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the socio-political effects and responses to the Great Depression.</li> <li>• Analyze the implementation and outcomes of FDR’s New Deals on the political, economic and social landscape of America.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Deal economics: Lessons from Herbert Hoover</li> <li>• I’ll tackle economic challenges head on, says Obama</li> <li>• President Obama Weighs His Economic Policy</li> </ul> <p><u>Optional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. News: Obama Signals Big Stimulus Plan</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Great Depression 1929-1932</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>Economics</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 2 Assignment: Hoover and the Great Depression</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>World War II</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the global causes and origins behind World War II.</li> <li>Analyze the role played by the United States in the outcomes/results of World War II.</li> <li>Describe the social, political and economic changes in war-time America.</li> <li>Identify and evaluate, with prominent examples, the major global events in the final stages of World War II.</li> <li>Evaluate the aftermath of World War II on the U.S. and the world.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hitler's rise to power</li> <li>Pioneers of production: women industrial workers in World War I</li> <li>Understanding the horror</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fighting the Good Fight in World War II</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>Waging a Global War</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 3 Assignment: The role of women in American society <u>or</u> What was the Holocaust?</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>The Cold War, Korean War, McCarthyism, and the New American Prosperity</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List and analyze the factors that led to the Cold War.</li> <li>Identify the effects of the Cold War on Asian and European nations.</li> <li>Develop a basic understanding of the Korean War and its outcomes.</li> <li>Assess the social, political and economic impact of the Cold War and McCarthyism on the United States.</li> <li>Describe the new economic prosperity in 1950's America and how it relates to the idea of the "American Dream."</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The big chill</li> <li>I have here in my hand a list ...</li> <li>America's forgotten war</li> </ul> <p><u>Optional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A philosopher ponders the death of the American dream</li> <li>The Korean War</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post War Prosperity and Cold War Fears</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>The Good Old Days...or Not?</b>

Assignments	<b>Week 4 Assignment: The factors that led to the Cold War <u>or</u> The causes and events that led to the Korean War</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>The 1960's: A Decade of Turbulence and Change</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the presidency of John F. Kennedy and discuss its social, political and economic impact on the nation.</li> <li>Detail the major contours of Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency and develop an understanding of LBJ's "Great Society."</li> <li>Discuss the major causes, events and outcomes of the Vietnam War.</li> <li>Identify key societal changes in 1960's America and detail the rise of the counter-culture movement.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John F. Kennedy: 50 Years Later</li> <li>When the other guy blinked</li> <li>Far away, but not forgotten</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contesting Futures</li> <li>Political Storms at Home and Abroad</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>Culture Shifts</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 5 Assignment: The Cuban Missile Crisis <u>or</u> Vietnam War</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>The Civil Rights Movement and Challenges to the Status Quo</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the origins of the Civil Rights Movement and develop an understanding for the individuals and major events that shaped the early movement.</li> <li>Analyze the outcomes of the Civil Rights Movement, listing both successes and setbacks.</li> <li>Describe and evaluate the key events, people and decisions that informed the turning points in the Civil Rights Movement.</li> <li>Identify and analyze the concurrent movements for equal rights among other minority populations in America and interpret their outcomes.</li> <li>Illustrate the important individuals and events behind the Women's Rights Movement and evaluate its short and long-term effects.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cesar Chavez</li> <li>Like a Hurricane: The American Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee</li> <li>5 Minutes with a Student Who Made a Surprising Discovery About the 'I Have a Dream' Speech</li> <li>The long battle for women's equality</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post War Prosperity and Cold War Fears</li> <li>Contesting Futures</li> <li>Political Storms at Home and Abroad</li> </ul>

Discussion	<b>Civil Rights Advancement</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 6 Assignment: Equal Rights</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>From Richard M. Nixon through William J. Clinton</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrate the major contours of the presidencies of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.</li> <li>• Describe the Watergate Scandal, its effects on the American public perception of politics, and the role of the media in the scandal.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the long and short-term effects of “Reaganomics” on the political, economic and social landscape of America.</li> <li>• Discuss the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.</li> <li>• Detail the major events and outcomes of Operation Desert Storm and evaluate its influence on American foreign policy in the Middle East.</li> </ul>
Readings	<p><u>Optional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing Reaganomics: the trouble with theories</li> <li>• Jimmy Carter</li> <li>• Gerald Ford</li> <li>• The Fallout</li> <li>• The fight of his life</li> <li>• The fall of a president: the Watergate scandal changed American politics forever</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Storms at Home and Abroad</li> <li>• From Cold War to Culture Wars 1980-2000</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>Watergate</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 7 Assignment: Presidential Legacy 1</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>From George Walker Bush to Present</b>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrate the major contours of the presidencies of George Walker Bush and Barack Hussein Obama.</li> <li>• Discuss the major aspects of the War on Terror and evaluate its influence on American foreign policy.</li> <li>• Evaluate the causes and outcomes of the Great Recession and illustrate its short and long-term economic, social and political effects.</li> <li>• Develop a basic understanding of globalization, particularly how it relates to protectionism.</li> <li>• Delineate the major events leading up to the election of 2016 and evaluate its outcomes.</li> </ul>
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond the Great Recession</li> <li>• International Trade: Globalization vs. Protectionism</li> <li>• The War on Terror</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking Back at 2016 Election</li> </ul>
Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From Cold War to Culture Wars 1980-2000</li> <li>The Challenges of the Twenty-First Century</li> </ul>
Discussion	<b>The Influence of Globalization</b>
Assignments	<b>Week 8 Assignment: Presidential Legacy 2</b>

## Grading and Evaluation

Your grades will reflect the way in which you present and support your topics and positions in the various learning activities used in this course. The grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments and responses in the various activities.

***Be sure to review the discussion and assignment rubrics in the course for specific grading criteria.***

The various graded activities are weighted as follows:

Course Element	% of Final Grade
Assignments	
Discussions	
Quizzes	
Interactive Learning Activities	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Students will be expected to meet all the deadlines of the class as indicated throughout the course and in the syllabus. This is primarily so we don't get behind in the course. In addition, discussions cannot overlap from one week to the next. This is to ensure that all discussions and submissions take place within the week they are scheduled in order to be of value to the entire class as well as to help you not get behind. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to communicate that to the instructor and make arrangements accordingly, if appropriate.

**Late Assignments:** Exceptions are to be determined by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

## Learner Success Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to help you succeed in your coursework:

- Participate in the class introduction activity on the first day of class.
- Submit ALL assignments by the posted due dates and times.
- Check your emails daily.

- Contact Portal Help for logon problems or Canvas Help for technical issues with Canvas.
- Participate fully in all threaded discussions.
- Contact your instructor if you have questions about an assignment or need additional help completing your work successfully. Academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal from the program.

## Academic Policies

The following Academic Policies can be found in the [Student Resource Center](#).

- Grading Criteria
- Reasonable Accommodations Policy
- Student Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy
- Student Engagement and the Granting of Academic Credit
- Copyright Policy

## Caveat

The above schedule, content, and procedures in this course are subject to change. All policies are superseded by the latest College Catalog available on our website:

<https://www.cambridgecollege.edu/student-rights-complaints-grievances/student-code-conduct>