

Course Title: N 360 Perspectives in American History

Course Description:

This course chronicles the history of the United States from colonial origins to the beginning of the 21st century. It focuses on several key themes such as the exceptionalism of the American experiment, the commitment to socioeconomic mobility and opportunity in the marketplace, the expanding enfranchisement of citizens in the development of political democracy and the confirmation of the “melting pot” as a symbol of inclusion in the national body politics. This course also discusses the beginnings of European settlement of what is now the United States to the end of the Mexican War and the Great Compromise of 1850 covering the “Colonial America” and the “Early Republic”.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the variety of indigenous cultures in North America before and during European exploration.
2. Identify important cultural aspects and regional variations of major North American nations.
3. Learn the experience of discovery and settlement that changed Europeans, American native peoples, African and Caribbean slaves, and all other different populations that came to North America
4. Understand how the United States manages to assimilate so many different people from so many different places.
5. Discuss how the geography, beliefs, and necessities of the settlements European planted along the eastern coast of North America affect unprecedented religious, political, and economic freedom.
6. Explain how the natural resources of North America and the human resourcefulness of its people generated such an abundance of wealth.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.
8. Understand the principles and ideals that shaped the development of the United States’ democratic institutions.
9. Compare and contrast different colonies that were separated by wars from Great Britain and made them in new nation, the United States.
10. Describe life within the colonies and their geographical areas and analyze their impact.
11. Recognize the struggle of Americans to reconcile the impact of the Industrial Revolution with their allegiance to a republican system.
12. Understand the principles and ideals that shaped the development of the United States’ democratic institutions.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of the massive wave of “New” immigration after 1870, its differences from the “Old” immigration, and its impact on new social patterns, conflicts, and ideas of national unity.
14. Analyze the causes of World War I and identify key people, major events, and the war’s impact on American foreign and domestic policy.
15. Demonstrate knowledge of the causes of the Great Depression and how it affected Americans in all walks of life.
16. Demonstrate knowledge of the changing domestic and foreign policies in the Carter, Reagan, and Clinton administrations.
17. Demonstrate knowledge of economic, social, and cultural developments in contemporary United States.