



Nanchang University
HIS12: United States 1865-Present
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 4

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session (3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

Survey of American history from post-Reconstruction to the contemporary era, including industrialization, emergence as world power, World War I, Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, the expanding role of government, and global issues in the post-Communist era.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

1. *Cheap Amusements*, Author: Peiss, Publisher: University of Chicago, Year Published: 1986
2. *American Promise (v2)*, Author: Roark, Publisher: MPS, Edition: 4, Year Published: 2009
3. *River of No Return*, Author: Sellers, Publisher: University of Mississippi, Year Published: 1990

Grading

•Class participation	10%
•Essay 1	15%
•Essay 2	15%
•Essay 3	15%
•Midterm	20%
•Final exam	25%

A+ 96-100	A 90-95	A- 85-89
B+ 82-84	B 78-81	B- 75-77
C+ 71-74	C 66-70	C- 62-65
D 60-61	F < 60	



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction to an overview of American history up to 1865

Class 2:

Expansion to the West; Railroads & Indians; Migration & Land

Class 3:

Urbanization and Industrialization

Class 4:

Rise of Classes in America

Class 5:

The Cities of the Interior

Class 6:

Industry and the Robber Barons

Class 7:

Spanish-American War

Class 8:

American Isolationism

Class 9:

Lusitania Incident and America Enters World War I

Class 10:

The Depression and the Interwar Years

Class 11:

The Progressive Movement

Class 12:

Prohibition and New Deal



Class 13:

Overview of Political Situation Leading to World War II

Essay 1 due in class

Class 14:

Review

Class 15:

American Industry in Pre-war Years

Class 16:

America in World War II (from Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima)

Class 17:

The Return to Normalcy and American Prosperity

Class 18:

The Cold War

Class 19:

NATO, UN and US vs. USSR

Essay 2 due in class

Class 20:

America in the 60's Review

Class 21:

The Triumph of Capitalism

Class 22:

Extremism and the End of Idealism

Class 23:

Overall Review

Class 24:

Essay 3 due in class

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.



Policy on “Late Withdrawals”

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.