

Course Description

AMH2020 | History of the US Since 1877 | 3.00 credits

In this course, students will trace the history of the United States from the end of the reconstruction era to the contemporary era. Topics will include but are not limited to the rise of industrialization, the United States' emergence as an actor on the world stage, constitutional amendments and their impact, the progressive era, World War I, the great depression and new deal, World War II, the civil rights era, the cold war, and the United States since 1989. Student learning outcomes: students will describe the factual details of the substantive historical episodes under study; students will identify and analyze foundational developments that shaped American history since 1877 using critical thinking skills; students will demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped American history; and students will demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the basis of our American democracy and republican form of government by:

1. Understanding the content of the United States Constitution as a basis of American democracy
2. Examining the principles established within the Declaration of Independence as a foundation of our modern republic
3. Discussing how the Constitution and Bill of Rights continue to shape the function of American governmental institutions

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the changes in late 19th century America by:

1. Explaining how the Civil War shaped the development of the Southern economy and society and the issues of race-relations and segregation that emerged in the post-Reconstruction South
2. Discussing how the Reconstruction Era fueled new debates over the dynamic of federalism and rights of citizenship after the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments
3. Identifying the features of the emerging industrial economy and debates over the regulation of industry and business practices as demonstrated by Supreme Court decisions of the Gilded Age
4. Examining political, social, and cultural developments during the latter part of the nineteenth century
5. Analyzing the process of westward expansion and U.S. relations with the various Native American tribes

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the emergence of America as a world power in the early 20th century by:

1. Discussing the rationale and motives of American overseas expansion and how debates over the status of U.S. territories and the constitutionality of U.S. expansion were outlined in the Supreme Court's Insular Cases
2. Examining the origins of the Great War, the causes of America's entry into the conflict, and the impact that it had on the American economy, society, federalism, and the power of the national government
3. Explaining post-WWI U.S. domestic and foreign policy

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of the economic depression in the 1930's the reforms of the New Deal, and America's entry and participation in WWII by:

1. Analyzing the social, economic, and political environment of the U.S. in the 1920's and 1930's
2. Evaluation of the disputes which the New Deal and Roosevelt's approach to the Great Depression brought about concerning the extent of governmental power and regulation
3. Describing the changing role of minorities and women in American culture, society, and politics
4. Examining the origins of WWII, American entry into the War, activities on the Home Front, and constitutional debates over military necessity vs personal rights
5. Describing American military actions and their effect on the outcome of the War

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the changes in postwar America, from the beginning of the Cold War to the fall of the Soviet Union by:

1. Describing the changes in the post-war economy, domestic and foreign policy, and population growth of the U.S. in the 1950's
2. Examining American societal and political changes in the 1960s and the successes of the Civil Rights Movement as demonstrated by Brown vs. the Board of Education, the Civil and Voting Rights Acts, and Affirmative Action
3. Evaluating the domestic and foreign issues impacting America during the 1970's
4. Explaining U.S. and Soviet ideological competition and the fall of the USSR through the 1980's to 1990
5. Examining the effects of the Cold War on American society, culture, and politics

Competency 6: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic, and political issues of the latter part of the 20th century & the beginning of the 21st century by:

1. Examining the emergence of the U.S. as a hegemonic world power in the 1990's
2. Describing the effects of globalization and free trade on the US economy
3. Analyzing the effects of global terrorism on U.S. domestic and foreign policy since the attacks on September 11, 2000
4. Evaluating multiculturalism as an emerging dynamic in American politics, culture, and society in the 21st century

Learning Outcomes

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information