**United States History**

**HIS 121 & 122**

**College Link (YMA-SUNY Farmingdale)**

**Fall 2021 & Spring 2022**

**Instructor:** Michael Devlin

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2:30-3:15

**Meeting Times:** Monday-Friday 11:48-12:35 & Monday-Friday 1:28-2:15

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide a college-level experience and preparation for the rigors of college. An emphasis is placed on interpreting documents, comparing differing interpretations of United States history, and writing critical essays. Topics include life and thought in colonial America, revolutionary ideology, constitutional development, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, nineteenth-century reform movements, and Manifest Destiny. Other topics include the Civil War and Reconstruction, immigration, industrialism, Populism, Progressivism, World War I, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, the post-Cold War era, and the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

In addition to the topics listed below, the course will emphasize a series of key themes throughout the year. These themes are essential to a comprehensive study of United States history. The themes will include discussions of American diversity, the development of a unique American identity, the evolution of American culture, demographic changes over the course of America’s history, economic trends and transformations, environmental issues, the development of political institutions and the components of citizenship, social reform movements, the role of religion in the making of the United States and its impact in a multicultural society, the history of slavery and its legacies in this hemisphere, war and diplomacy, and finally, the place of the United States in an increasingly global arena. The course will trace these themes throughout the year, emphasizing the ways in which they are interconnected and examining the ways in which each helps to shape the changes over time that are so important to understanding United States history.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Identify important themes in U.S. history
* Explore American history from differing perspectives
* Critically evaluate historical sources
* Assess and analyze differing narratives and interpretations of American history
* Communicate ideas with concision and clarity

**Textbooks**

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History, 5E*  edition, Norton, 2017.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*, 4th edition. Longman, 1994.

**Additional Readings**

Remini, Robert V**.** *A Short History of the United States*. Harper, 2008.

Assorted texts assigned in Teams

**Grading:**

**Essays (40%)** – Quarterly essays will focus on utilizing multiple texts representing diverse perspectives to critically analyze important themes in U.S. history.

**Exams (30%)** – Quarterly exams will include a mix of identification of major themes and short written responses.

**Reading Journals (15%)** – Focus on essential questions using documentary and supporting evidence from class text(s).

**Class Discussion (15%)** -- Our expectation is that you come to class having read the material, thought about it, and prepared to engage in actively. While divergent viewpoints are expected and encouraged, respect for all within the community is also our norm. Please share all ideas and treat all members of the community with respect.

**Schedule**

*Please complete the readings before our Monday class. Assignment dates may be rearranged depending on school events.*

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| **Week** | **Topic** | **Readings** |
| 1 | Pre-Columbian America & The Encounter | Remini, Ch. 1  Foner, Ch. 1 |
| 2 | Colonial America | Remini, Ch. 1  Foner, Ch. 2-4 |
| 3 | The American Revolution | Remini, Ch. 2  Foner, Ch. 5-6 |
| 4 | The Constitution | Remini, Ch. 2  Foner, Ch. 7 |
| 5 | **Essay Construction**  **(Topic: The Constitution)** |  |
| 6 | The Early Republic | Remini, Ch. 3  Foner, Ch. 8  Zinn, Ch. 6 |
| 7 | The Market Revolution | Remini, Ch. 4  Foner, Ch. 9 |
| 8 | Expansion of Democracy | Foner, Ch. 10  Zinn, Ch. 7 |
| 9 | **Quarterly Exam**  **(Topics: Pre-Columbian America through the Jacksonian Era)** |  |
| 10 | Slavery in America | Remini, Ch. 5  Foner, Ch. 11 |
| 11 | Sectionalism | Foner, Ch. 13  Zinn, Ch. 10 |
| 12 | Civil War | Remini, Ch. 5  Foner, Ch. 14 |
| 13 | Reconstruction | Remini, Ch. 6  Foner, Ch. 15 |
| 14 | **Essay Topic:**  **Rebuilding the Republic** |  |
| 15 | The Gilded Age & “Settling” The West | Foner, Ch. 16  Zinn, Ch. 11 |

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| **Week** | **Topic** | **Readings** |
| 16 | Immigration, Industrialization, & Imperialism | Remini, Ch. 7  Foner, Ch. 17 |
| 17 | Progressivism | Foner, Ch. 18  Zinn, Ch. 13 |
| 18 | World War I & The 1920’s | Remini, Ch. 7  Foner, Ch. 19-20 |
| 19 | **Quarterly Exam**  **(Topics: Slavery through The 1920’s)** |  |
| 20 | The Great Depression & The New Deal | Remini, Ch. 8  Foner, Ch. 21 |
| 21 | World War II | Foner, Ch. 22  Zinn, Ch. 16 |
| 22 | The Cold War | Remini, Ch. 9  Foner, Ch. 23 |
| 23 | **Essay Topic:**  **Paranoia in American History** |  |
| 24 | Civil Rights & The Great Society | Foner, Ch. 24  Zinn, Ch. 19 |
| 25 | The 1960’s | Remini, Ch. 9  Foner, Ch. 25 |
| 26 | The Rise of Conservatism | Remini, Ch. 10  Foner, Ch. 26 |
| 27 | A Post-Cold War World | Remini, Ch. 11  Foner, Ch. 27 |
| 28 | **Quarterly Exam**  **(Topics: Great Depression through A Post-Cold War World)** |  |
| 29 | Crises in the 21st Centry | Remini, Ch. 11  Foner, Ch. 28 |
| 30 | **Final Projects** |  |