

**Imperial Valley College**  
**History 121: United States History from 1877**

**Semester:** [ ] Fall      [X ] Spring 2014

**Units:** 3

**Instructor:** Mike Swearingen

**Course Description:** This course is a survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. This course will cover the major political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural and intellectual transformations of the modern American eras. Of special note will be an examination of America's rise to global power. At the completion of this course, students will have a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements, and events in the modern period.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film. (ILO1)
2. Describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event. (ILO1, ILO2)
3. Explain the significance of a historical text by the end of the course. (ILO1, ILO2)

**Course Objectives:** Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to identify the major events and key intellectual, cultural, social, political and economic trends in United States history since 1877, and identify and understand the significance of important personalities and ideas in United States history since 1877. Specifically:

1. Describe the movement of Americans into the trans-Mississippi west after 1877, the development of western industries and its impact on Native peoples.
2. Describe the causes and consequences of the second industrial revolution and the rise of American corporations.
3. Discuss the main trends in American politics during the Gilded Age including issues of labor, immigration and urbanization.
4. Explain the changing social, gender and class roles and experiences in the late-19th century.
5. Describe the rise of American imperialism and its effects in the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America.
6. Discuss the rise of the new political ideas of Populism and Progressivism and explain the changes they brought to American political, economic and social life.
7. Explain the causes, key events and consequences of World War I.
8. Discuss the main social and cultural trends of the 1920's, including the growth of modernism and the concurrent conservatism.
9. Explain the economic situation of the 1920's and the causes of the Great Depression.
10. Discuss the programs and policies of the New Deal, both successes and failures.
11. Describe the causes of World War II, the reasons for United States involvement, the key events of the war, and its effect on the home front.
12. Discuss the causes of the Cold War and the events that led to the tensions between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in the post-war world.

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13. Explain the policies and events of the Cold War of the 1950's, especially the Korean War, nuclear weapons, American interventionism, and Cuba.
14. Discuss the culture and society of America in the 1950's.
15. Describe the causes, key events, and successes of the black Civil Rights movement.
16. Describe the spread of civil rights activities to other groups (Chicanos, women, gays, Indians) and other areas (personal freedom, environmentalism, political action).
17. Discuss the causes, key events and consequences of the Vietnam War.
18. Describe the post-Vietnam war domestic, foreign policies, and events.
19. Discuss the rise and success of the Conservative movement in America beginning in the 1970s.
20. Describe the end of the Cold War and the problems and opportunities facing the United States in the 21st century.

**Class Topics and Reading Assignments:** will cover all topics below and will be assigned weekly in class.

1. The expansion of Industry and the railroads: westward expansion and development after 1877: Indians, mining, cattle, farming and railroads
2. Big business and the Labor Movement: the second Industrial Revolution and the growth of corporations
3. Immigration and nativism, 1877-1924
4. Urbanization
5. Politics of the Gilded Age: economics, labor, social change and gender and class relations
6. Social, political, and economic conditions at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
7. The rise of Imperialism and Dollar Diplomacy: overseas expansion 1890's - 1917
8. The Spanish-American War, Philippines, Latin America, Hawaii
9. Populism and Progressivism
10. The early Feminist Movement
11. Pres. Theodore Roosevelt (Teddy) and the Square Deal and Pres. Taft
12. Pres. Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom
13. World War I: Pre-war, the war, and post war. Causes, events and consequences
14. The Roaring 1920's: politics, economics, class, social, and race relations
15. The Great Depression
16. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) and the New Deal
17. World War II: Pre-war, the war, and post-war. Causes, events and consequences
18. The Cold War: developing nuclear arms, American third-world interventionism, Cuba
19. The end of the Cold War, triumph of the conservative agenda, and Post-Cold War America, problems and opportunities in the new global community
20. Korean War: Birth and consequence
21. The 1950s: the affluent society, social, class and cultural change
22. Pres. John F. Kennedy (JFK) and the New Frontier

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23. The 1960's: era of social change: The Civil Rights Movement for African Americans, Gay Rights, Chicano Rights, Indian Rights, Women's Rights, environmentalism, and the growth of personal freedom
24. Pres. Lyndon B Johnson (LBJ) and the Vietnam War: causes, events, protest and consequences and post-Vietnam domestic and foreign policy
25. Pres. Richard M Nixon, Watergate and the rise of conservatism
26. Pres. Gerald Ford and Pres. Carter years.
27. Pres. Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush (41): conservative years
28. Pres. Bill Clinton years: 1990's
29. Pres. George W. Bush (43) and Pres. Barak Obama
30. Today's World

### **Required Textbooks:**

1. Faragher, John Mack et al. (2012). *Out of Many: A History of the American People* Vol. 2 (6th/e). Pearson Education. ISBN: -
2. Neiwert, David A. (2005). *Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community* (1st/e). Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9781403967923

**Assignments and Grading:** At least three assignments will be given during the semester and may require outside viewing of videos or additional reading materials. Grading will include consideration of objective and accurate use of facts from the sources required and the relevance to the course. Testing will be a significant portion of the final grade given. Additional information regarding assignments and grading will be discussed in class. Note: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated.

### Grading Rubric for Course:

90+	A
80+	B
70+	C
60+	D
Less than 60	F

### **Additional Informational Items:**

1. Student counseling and health services are available. 355-6310
2. Disabled Student Programs and Services are available. 355-6312
3. IVC Website/Catalog lists additional Student Rights and Responsibilities