History of the United States

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Hours: MWF, 8:15-9:15      TTh, 8:30-9:30
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I. Course Description
This course is a survey of United States history from the late 1800s to the 21st century. Topics covered include the Gilded Age, Progressivism, Imperialism, World War I, the Great Depression & New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, Watergate, and major domestic and international developments from the 1980s to the present. The course also hopes to encourage students to develop critical thinking skills with which they may better understand current events.

II. Prerequisites
Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151.

III. Course Objectives Include:
1. Understanding developments involving industrialization, immigration, labor movements, and Progressivism.
2. Understanding imperialist interests, overseas expansion, and participation of the US in World War I.
3. Understanding the economic and social conditions in the postwar period and the changes brought about by the Great Depression.
4. Understanding the role of the US in World War II and the postwar settlement and the start of the Cold War.
5. Understanding the role of the US as a superpower, the Korean and Vietnam wars, civil rights issues, presidential elections, and other domestic and foreign policy issues up to the present.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes.
* Students will be able to compare and contrast various historical concepts and different interpretations of the history of the United States from the post-Reconstruction period to the present.
* Students will be able to differentiate the impact of race, ethnicity, gender and class on American society.
* Students will be able to critique various political, economic and social forces that have been key to the nation’s development and it’s influence on global affairs.

V. Course Materials
* Videotapes and DVDs: A large collection of specially edited video material including documentaries and television news coverage.
VI. Attendance
Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Absences can lead to a lower grade. If a student wishes to withdraw from the class, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the Office of Admissions and Records before the deadline. Failure to do so may lead to a failing grade.

VII. Students With Disabilities
All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities.

VIII. Exams and Grades
There are two one-hour exams and a two-and-a-half hour final exam. All exams are worth a maximum of 100 points. No grades can be dropped. The final grade will be an average of the three exam grades, according to the following percentage scale:

90 to 100 = A  80 to 89 = B  60 to 79 = C  50 to 59 = D  0 to 49 = F

IX. Exam Make-Up Policy
Make-up exams are allowed only if the instructor is convinced there was a good reason to miss the regularly scheduled exam.

X. Academic Dishonesty Policy
All students are expected to do their own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. This is the official policy of Glendale Community College and the instructor of this course. Students found to be using unauthorized materials on exams, copying from other students’ exams, copying other written material without proper credit to the original author, or cheating in any other way, will have the particular assignment marked F and may receive a failing grade for the course.

XI. Special Interactive Video Format
The format of the course features an innovative combination of lecture/discussion and interactive video. A collection of specially edited videotapes and DVDs will be viewed and discussed extensively in class, to supplement the textbook.

XII. Course Outline
Part One: The Gilded Age, Immigration, Industrialization, Progressivism, Imperialism, World War I and the Aftermath
* New waves of immigrants and new opportunities
* Industrialization, Social Darwinism, interests of business and labor
* President Theodore Roosevelt, progressivism, the “big stick”
* Imperialism, Cuba and the Spanish-American War
* The Far East, the Philippines and Imperial America
* Europe and Russia from 1900 to 1914, nationalism and imperialism
* World War I, 1914-18
* President Wilson, neutrality and reasons for US entry into the War
* Wilson’s 14 Points and the Paris Peace Conference in 1919
* “Return to Normalcy” and the election of President Harding in 1920

EXAM INATION#1
Part Two: The Roaring 20s to the Great Depression to World War II and the Start of the Cold War
* Isolationism, anti-immigrant sentiments, *Red Scare*, the Great Migration
* Presidents Coolidge and Hoover, the great crash of 1929
* President Franklin Roosevelt, the Great Depression, and New Deal--1930’s
* Fascism, Hitler, and World War II--1939-45
* American neutrality and economic imperatives
* The scope and limits of the Soviet-American alliance
* Pearl Harbor to Yalta to Hiroshima
* President Truman, Eastern Europe, the start of the Cold War, the Korean War
* President Eisenhower, prosperity, roots of US involvement in Vietnam

EXAMINATION #2

Part Three: The 1960s to the Early 2000s.
* President Kennedy, the space race, the Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missal Crisis
* President Johnson, the civil rights and other social movements, counterculture
* Vietnam and home front USA, arguments for war and the anti-war movement
* President Nixon, Vietnamization, conservatism and liberalism, Watergate
* Presidents Ford, evacuation from Vietnam
* President Carter, energy crisis, economic stagflation, idealism in foreign policy
* President Reagan, conservative surge, confronting Soviet Union, Iran-Contra
* President Bush I, end of the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, economic weakness
* President Clinton, economic strength, moral weakness and impeachment
* President Bush II, 9/11, war in Iraq, economic decline
* Contemporary domestic and international issues and current developments

EXAMINATION #3 (FINAL EXAM)