HIS 315K: United States, 1492-1865
Texas Common Number: HIST 1301

History 315K follows the narrative of the history of the United States from before Europeans arrived in the Western Hemisphere to the end of the Civil War in 1865. It begins by tracing the establishment of European colonies in what the explorers called the "New World," and continues to the emergence of a distinctive society and culture in the British colonies and the eventual creation of the United States of America during the Revolutionary War. The remaining portion of the course follows the early years of the United States of America, the rise of political parties, the initial phase of industrialism, the development of sectional tensions over slavery, and the events that culminated in the Civil War.

Prerequisites
Completion of fifteen semester hours of college coursework.

Course Organization

This course is divided into six learning modules containing a total of fourteen lessons. Each lesson contains a statement of lesson objectives, a reading assignment, instructor commentary, and self-assessment exercises. All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module.

Topics include:

Module 1
Lesson 1: Contact in the Atlantic World to 1590
Lesson 2: Colonization of North America, 1590-1675
Lesson 3: Crisis and Change, 1675-1720

Module 2
Lesson 4: Colonial British America Expansion, 1720-1763
Lesson 5: Wars for Independence, 1764-1783

Module 3
Lesson 6: Towards a More Perfect Union, 1783-1788
Lesson 7: The Federalist Republic, 1789-1799

Module 4
Lesson 8: The New Republic Faces a New Century, 1800-1815
Lesson 9: Exploded Boundaries, 1815-1828
Lesson 10: The Years of Andrew Jackson, 1827-1836

Module 5
Lesson 11: Economic Upheaval & Sectional Crisis, 1837-1854
Lesson 12: Broken Bonds, 1855-1861

Module 6
Lesson 13: Descent into War, 1861-1862
Lesson 14: Blood and Freedom, 1863-1867
Required Materials

The readings for this course come from the following text:


Grading

The course consists of fourteen (14) instructor-graded assignments (a mix of short-answer, essay, and identification exercises; each assignment is of equal weight), a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. An instructor is available via a message center to provide feedback and respond to questions regarding assignments. Both exams must be taken in a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student.

- Instructor-Graded Assignments 25%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 50%

In addition to earning the minimum number of points on assignments to receive a passing grade, students must earn score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five (5) months upon registration in which to complete all coursework, plus an additional thirty days in which to take the final exam.

University Extension

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit www.utextension.org. Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or uex@austin.utexas.edu. Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.