



COURSE DESCRIPTION

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Código 801824

NATURE	ELECTIVE	COURSE	4º
ECTS	6	SEMESTER	1ST
AREA	HISTORY		
DEPARTMENT	HISTORY OF AMERICA I		
PROFESSOR	PROF. SYLVIA L. HILTON DEPT. OF HISTORY OF AMERICA I, BUILDING 'B', 6TH FLOOR, OFFICE 11 TEL. 91 394 57 84. E-MAIL: shilton@ucm.es		

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This course will study the historical evolution of the United States in its principal political, demographic, economic, social and cultural manifestations, as well as in its international relations. It will take into account the geographical conditions of North America and forms of human interaction with different natural environments, as well as the ethnic diversity that has always characterized this territory in historical times.

RESULTS

On successfully completing this subject, students will be capable of achieving the following results:

1. Identify successive periods in the history of the United States.
2. Describe the evolution of U.S. history.
3. Explain fundamental ideas in U.S. history using diverse kinds of sources relevant for its study.
4. Classify and interpret, in geography and time, social, economic, cultural, political and international processes in U.S. history.
5. Handle the processes of location, organization, analysis and selective use of information found in diverse kinds of historical sources.
6. Apply correctly the terminology found in historiography concerning the United States.
7. Show appropriate sensitivity to the historical realities of the United States, its cultural and patrimonial wealth, its influence on present-day cultures and societies, and its contribution to the global history of humanity.

TOPICS INCLUDE - Syllabus

1. The American political system: Government and political life.
2. The American political system: The theoretical development of democracy.
3. The changing frontiers of the United States.
4. Regionalism and economic growth.
5. A multiethnic population.
6. The American struggle for social justice.
7. The development of multiculturalism.
8. International relations: The 'long' 19th century.



9. International relations: The United States as a world power.

SKILLS

Knowledge and application of the diachronic structure of historical processes to the specific case of the United States, to enable the analysis of social, political, economic and cultural aspects of the American past in its geographical space and chronological evolution.

Knowledge and application of concepts and methods of historiographical analysis to the specific case of the United States.

Knowledge and analysis of the themes and problems of U.S. history that have inspired significant historiographical debates.

Knowledge, organization, use and interpretation of diverse kinds of sources relevant for the history of the United States.

Knowledge and interpretation of the role of ethnic minorities and women in U.S. social history.

Knowledge and analysis of the history of the international relations of the United States, with special attention to its connections with European and Latin American societies.

Competence in the use of the basic terminology of historiography, with special attention to the specific case of the United States.

TEACHING PRACTICES DISTRIBUTION

- Regular classes: 45h (1st semester: Monday – Tuesday: 10.00-11.30)
- Practical classes: 12h.

ASSESSMENT

- Final written examination on the course contents = 50%.
- Practical exercises and written test on topics covered = 40%.
- Attendance and participation during in-site classes = 10%.

Alternative modes of evaluation will be offered and explained in separate instructions, if necessary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Note: Other materials will be made available in the Virtual Campus of the UCM.