

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: U.S. History I

Course #: HIS 201

Course Description: 3 Credits

The class will be divided into two parts. The first section will encompass the Colonial Era and the War for Independence. Topics for discussion will include colonial life, the road to rebellion, and the American Revolution. The second section will focus on the Early National Period and the Antebellum Period. In our study, we will address the development of the American government and society following the Revolution. Topics for discussion will include American politics, slavery, and the origins and rise of sectional conflict.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: ENG* 101 or ENG* 101W, with a "C" or better, OR ENG* 101 with concurrency.

- Goals:**
- To acquaint students with the social, economic and political movements from the pre-colonial era through the American Civil War.
 - To develop an appreciation for history and historiography from the perspective of different cultural groups with attention to race, gender, ethnic and class issues.
 - To recognize the complexity of American history and its relevance to life today.
 - To appreciate the importance of both war and politics in American history

Outcomes: At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze primary and secondary historical sources.
- Define and evaluate the concept of historical agency
- Analyze the development of the so-called "Age of Discovery"
 - Describe the role of Columbus and other European explorers
 - Compare pre and post-Columbian native culture
 - Appraise the Spanish Conquest
 - Describe the European race for colonies
- Analyze the settlement of the English New World
 - Compare and contrast the following settlements: Jamestown, Plymouth/Massachusetts Bay, and Pennsylvania
- Describe the Colonial Era
 - Discuss the development colonial governments and societies with special attention paid to the following:
 - the differences between corporate, proprietary, and royal
 - New England theocracies
 - mercantilism
 - slavery
 - the evolving relationship with England
 - "Salutary neglect"

Interpret the coming of the American Revolution

- Appraise the importance of the Seven Years' War
- Examine the role of Taxation with special emphasis on the following: Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Duties, Tea Act, and the Coercive Acts
- Describe the colonial reaction to Britain's actions
- Identify the following: Committees of Correspondence, Sons of Liberty, Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party
- Analyze the ideological reasons for the Revolution
 - Identify and discuss Locke's Social Contract Theory

- Interpret the American Revolution
 - Appraise the development of the Military Revolution
 - Lexington/Concord, Fabian strategy, Saratoga, Yorktown
 - Discuss the development of the Ideological Revolution
 - Examine the Revolution as a civil war
 - Patriots/rebels vs. Loyalists/Tories
 - Demonstrate the importance of women in the conflict
 - Analyze the development of the Political Revolution
 - Describe and analyze the following: Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation
- Assess the Early National Period
 - Interpret the reasons for the Constitutional Convention
 - Describe the U.S. Constitution
 - Explain the ratification process
 - Examine Washington's Administration with special attention paid to the Federalist Honeymoon, Alexander Hamilton's Reforms, the development of the first political party system, and Jay's Treaty
 - Examine Adams' Administration with special attention paid to the Alien and Sedition Acts, the Quasi-war with France, and the X, Y, Z Affair
 - Examine Jefferson's Administration with special attention paid to: Louisiana, Lewis and Clark, and the developing Supreme Court
- Describe the Antebellum period with an emphasis placed on the following areas: the War of 1812, the Monroe Doctrine, the Jacksonian Era, the Indian Removal Act, the Growth of Sectionalism, the Missouri Compromise, Abolitionism, and Secessionists
- Analyze the coming of the Civil War
 - Identify and assess the importance of the following: the Republican Party, Containment vs. expansion of slavery, Lincoln, and the Election of 1860