JINAN UNIVERSITY

United States History (1900 to present)

Lecturer: Juan Javier Pescador

Time: Monday through Friday (6/23/2014-7/25/2014)

Credit: 4

Location: Management School

Office: Management School 518

Office hours: By Appointment

E-mail: pescador@msu.edu

Course Description

This class will introduce students to the major historical transformations in the United States from the end of the nineteenth century to present times. The course will analyze the evolution of American society, economy, population, politics, culture, art, entertainment and media. Furthermore, this class will focus on the intersections between American industrialization and the construction of ethnic, regional and national identities in the United States in the 20th century. The class is designed to provide a substantial introduction to the modern history of the United States in the industrial and post-industrial eras. The American diverse experiences will be analyzed in the context of its connections with socio-economic circumstances according to class, gender and race during the so-called American Century.

Required Text


Course Hours
The course has 25 sessions in total. each class session is 100 minutes in length. the course meets from Monday to Friday.
Grading Policy

Two Take-Home Exams 40%
Two informal journals 20%
Final Exam 30%
Participation in class discussions and activities 10%

Attendance is mandatory in the class. Respect towards the classmates, instructor and class activities is also expected. Unjustified absences, disrespectful behavior in the classroom and lack of participation in class will have a negative impact on the final grade.

Courses Schedules

Week 1 Introduction. Reconstruction Era, Spanish-American War; Processes of Industrialization, Immigration.

This unit provides an overview of the urbanization & industrialization processes in the United States in the last decades of the 20th century, as well as the consolidation of the nation as military power with possessions and political control stretching from the Caribbean to the South Pacific. It also analyzes the vast demographic trends and changes in the immigration processes from Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Week 2 World War I; Roaring 20s; Suffrage Movement; The Great Depression, American Radio, Film Silent-Era.

This unit documents the main economic, social and political transformations in American society from the Great War to the Great Depression. It discusses the accelerated economic growth of the country followed by its worse economic depression. Furthermore, it provides an overview of the main political and cultural transformations in American society, including the arrival and consolidation of radio and film to the average American household.

JOURNAL 1 DUE

Week 3 World War II; Cold War; American Studio film Golden era.

This unit analyzes the history and impact of World War II and the Cold War on American society, along with the consolidation of the United States as a global power. It also discusses the transformations in the economic, social and political arenas, along with the expansion of American media, film and TV broadcasting, in the entertainment industry.

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 4

This unit provides an overview of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, in its different political and cultural manifestations. It discusses the main transformations in the social struggles to address racial, ethnic and gender discrimination.

[B]Post-Industrial era; American entertainment and sports industries

This unit analyzes the main socioeconomic transformations in the United States in the 1970s and 1980s, providing special attention to changes in economic and demographic trends. It focuses on the metamorphosis of American society into a post-industrial economy, along with its repercussions on American households.

JOURNAL 2 DUE

Week 5 United States and the Globalization process; Contemporary issues.
This unit discusses the most recent transformations on American economy, society and culture in connection with the processes of globalization, giving special attention to contemporary issues in immigration, labor, politics and culture.

FINAL EXAM

Academic Honesty

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students’ own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one’s own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another’s work. Within these general definitions, however, instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of F for the entire course.