

HIS250/HIS111 Tema 7: History of the United States

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The course is taught in English

Theme description

HIS 111 is a course which aims at giving a condensed introduction to the history of the United States of America from the first European settlement in 1607 to the present time. The course is organized around three main themes: A. Democracy and Nation Building. B. Immigration and Industrialization. C. USA in the World.

A. Democracy and Nation Building: This theme is covering the status of the 13 colonies inside the British Empire, their struggle for independence up to 1783, the development of a constitution and a federative state, and the consolidation of state and nation up to the crisis culminating by the Civil War 1861-65. The theme is then extended to the late 20th century, presenting the recent past with focus on political developments, social changes since World War II, civil rights and other reform movements.

B. Immigration and Industrialization: Starting with a retrospective on colonial North America, this theme is mainly concerned with the exceptional development of the US-economy during the 19th and early 20th century. Topics like agriculture, infrastructure, demography, social relations, education and science are included as well. The theme is rounded off by a description of the Depression and the New Deal of the 1930's.

C. USA in the World: The third and last theme is covering the 20th century and exploring the US as an actor on the global stage. Participation in the two world wars is examined, as well as the role of the US in international relations during the long Cold War period, and the redefinition of this role after 1989. Events are considered both from an American and from an outsider's perspective. Finally particular attention is given to American influence on the world economy.

Syllabus

Faragher, John Mack et al.: *Out of Many. A History of the American People*. Combined Volume, Brief Sixth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River 2012. Chapters 3-31 (Sum 810 pp.)

Philip Weeks, *Farewell, My Nation: The American Indian and the United States in the Nineteenth Century*. Harlan Davidson, Illinois, 2001, paperback edition ISBN 0-88295-9565. Chapters 1, 2, part of chapter 3, and chapters 4 and 5. Pp. 13-86, 104-202. (Sum 171 pp.)

Chandler, Alfred D.: The United States: Engines of economic growth in capital-intensive and knowledge-intensive industries. In: Chandler, Alfred D. et al. (eds.): *Big Business and the Wealth of Nations*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1997. Pp. 63-101. (Sum 39 pp.)

Davies, Edward J. II: *The United States in World History*. Chapters 4-10, Epilogue, Conclusion. (Sum 122 pp.)

Schröter, Harm G.: *Americanization of the European Economy. A Compact Survey of American Economic Influence in Europe since the 1880s*. Springer, Dordrecht 2005. Pp. 205-223. (Sum 19 pp.)

Total: ca. 1160 pp.