JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

HST104H

HONORS U.S. HISTORY II FROM RECONSTRUCTION

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
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Arts and Science Education
Mindy Selsor, Dean
HST104H HONORS U.S. HISTORY II FROM RECONSTRUCTION

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: Honors Program Admission
3 semester hours credit

Honors U.S. History II from Reconstruction shows the development of the United States reconstruction to the present. It is designed to help students understand and function in their society. Honors U.S. History II partially meets the history and political science requirement for the AA and AAS degrees. It does not meet constitution requirements. Honors U.S. History II applies toward the Honors Certificate and Honors Diploma.

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will demonstrate through the completion of all course requirements:

A. An understanding of the historical process as an academic discipline and to apply the perspectives, knowledge and tools of the discipline.

B. The use of critical thinking techniques including problem, solving, analysis and synthesis and to develop these critical thinking skills both orally and in writing.

C. A comprehension of the basic concepts, ideals, institutions, traditions, trends and perspectives (political, economic, social and cultural) that are continuous in American history.

D. An insight and awareness of the continuing paradoxical relationships in American history that include multiculturalism and nativism, conservatism and liberalism, internationalism and isolation amongst others.

E. An understanding of the nature of key social, economic, political, and other problems facing the United States today and in the future.

F. An insight into the dynamics of cultural conflict, resolution and toleration.

G. The knowledge and comprehension of the origins and ever-changing nature of the American relationship with the rest of the world.

H. The ability to place current events in a historical framework.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (course content will be drawn from this)

A. Unit I: Redefining the Nation
B. Unit II: Growing Pains of a World Power

C. Unit III: From Good Times to Hard Times

D. Unit IV: America’s Becomes a World Power

E. Unit V: America faces its limits

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Redefining the Nation

1. The Civil War
2. Freedom and the legacy of slavery
3. Congressional Reconstruction
4. The End of Reconstruction
5. Foundation for Industrialization
6. Railroads and Economic Growth
7. Entrepreneurs and Workers
8. A Nation Transformed
9. Populating the West
10. Railroads, Mining and Agribusiness
11. Ethnicity and Race in the West
12. The West in American Thought

B. Growing Pains of a World Power

1. The New Urban environment
2. The New immigration
3. The New South
4. Patterns of Social and Cultural life
5. Political Stalemate
6. Economic distress, reform and Political upheaval
7. Imperialism and the A Big Stick
8. Reform and Progressivism
9. Progressive Diplomacy and Going to War
10. The 2 Two Fronts: Over Here and Over There
11. Trauma in the wake of War

C. From Good Times to Hard Times

1. The Economics of Prosperity
2. The Two Faced Twenties: Modern vs Traditional America
3. Race, Class and Gender
4. Politics of Prosperity
5. The Onset of the Depression
6. The era of the New Deal
7. Society, politics and culture in the Thirties
8. The New Deal Winds Down
9. The Road to War
10. America=s response to War
11. Waging world war

D. America=s Becomes a World Power

1. The Cold War begins
2. Cold War politics: domestic and foreign
3. The Era of Consensus
4. Seeking Civil Rights
5. Eisenhower and a hostile world
6. The New Frontier and Civil Rights
7. Flexible Response and foreign policy
8. Beyond the New Frontier: Conservatism and liberalism
9. Youthful Voices, new agendas

E. America faces its limits

1. Johnson and The Vietnam War
2. The Great Society
3. Nixon and the Balance of Power
4. Nixon and domestic politics
5. Politics of Uncertainty: Ford and Carter
6. The Turn to the Right
7. Re-Asserting World Power: Reagan and Bush
8. A Divided Society
9. Politics of Morality
10. Calls for Change

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lecture
B. Class discussion
C. Film and video
D. Small group exercises and discussions
E. Historical analysis
F. Reading of required texts and other materials
G. Multimedia Presentations
VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

None specified.

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

None specified.

IX. METHOD OF EVALUATION

A. Periodic examinations, consisting of written essays and objective questions
B. Subject assessment assignments, e.g., Minute Papers
C. Outside Reading Analysis
D. Special projects as required
E. Attendance and participation in class