**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Number: HIST 1403

Course Title: American History 1865 to Present

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The topics of particular focus of this course include the Age of Discovery and European expansion, the temper of European-Indigenous American “first contact”, early Colonial wars and culture, the growth of the Anglo-American rift, and the American Revolution. The course examines the failures of the early Confederation, America’s struggle to establish a consti­tutional republic, the challenges of our first four Executive administrations, Jacksonian Democracy and the transformation of America’s 19th century socio-political landscape, and an analysis of America’s bloody Civil War.

1. **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
2. Develop knowledge of the overall historical development of the United
3. States in the last century and a third.
4. Acquire an appreciation of the cultural development of the United States after the Civil War.
5. Develop knowledge of American history by critically analyzing the questions for each topic.
6. Acquire knowledge of economic development by tracing such economic issues of the United States as the silver/gold question, advent of the Federal Reserve System, tariff issues, and economic questions since World War II.
7. Broaden their knowledge of how this period shaped American history by comparing and analyzing the events that can be identified as shaping much of 20th century history.

Each chapter of the textbook is divided into several sections that have specific objectives for each section. These should be used by the student to interpret the significance of the chapter and will also be the basis of threaded discussions.

1. **COURSE COMPETENCIES**
2. Describe what "Wartime Reconstruction" means.
3. Discuss the meanings of freedom for the freed slaves.
4. Analyze Johnson's Reconstruction Plan and determine its effectiveness.
5. Summarize the Congressional Reconstruction Plan and it's policies.
6. Discuss Reconstruction politics in the South and how it affected the overall plans.
7. Analyze the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and what it meant to the country.
8. Discuss the economic activities of Native Americans and the impact the development of the west had on them.
9. Describe how the extraction of natural resources in the west effected its development.
10. Explain how irrigation and transportation expanded in the American west.
11. Summarize the legacy the expansion of the west had upon Native Americans and also the individuals who helped to expand it.
12. Discuss industrial growth and transportation in modem American cities during the period I877 through I920.
13. Analyze the living conditions in the iuner city and urban neighborhoods during the period I877 through I920.
14. Summarize family life, new leisure and mass culture during the period I877 through I920.
15. Discuss new ideas in education, law, religion and the sciences during the
16. Progressive Era.
17. Summarize governmental and legislative reform during the Progressive Era. I6. Explain the challenges to racial and sexual discrimination during the
18. Progressive Era.
19. Compare the policies of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson and determine which were the most effective for the country at the time.
20. Discuss the ideologies that led the country to expand its territories around the globe in the I860- I880s.
21. Summarize the events of the Spanish- American-Cuban-Filipino War and explain why the U.S. went to war to expand its empire.
22. Discus other American encounters in China and Japan and their significance on American foreign policy.
23. Describe the underpinnings and aims of progressive diplomacy.
24. Explain how the United States moved from neutrality to war between I9I4
25. and I9I7.
26. Describe Woodrow Wilson's war aims, and explain how they constituted a
27. New World order.
28. Describe how the federal government mobilized the economy and the public opinion on the home front during World War I.
29. Describe the merging Civil Liberties issue and its effect on the people.
30. Explain the post World War I "Red Scare."
31. Summarize the post World War I Peace Conference and how the postwar
32. world was shaped.
33. Describe the sources of economic growth and prosperity in the 1920s.
34. Explain the changes in business and advertising that occurred during the decade.
35. Explain the emergence of mass society and mass culture as well as the
36. reactions against them
37. Describe politics and public policies during the 1920s.
38. Describe the Great Bull Market and explain why it crashed.
39. Explain the weaknesses in the economy of the 1920s that led to the Great
40. Depression of the 1930s.
41. Describe the Hoover depression program, its successes and failures, and evaluate the leadership of Herbert Hoover.
42. Explain the rise of Franklin Roosevelt and his election in 1932.
43. Describe the approaches of the New Deal to recovery, relief and reform.
44. Describe the Second New Deal and explain why it was pursued.
45. Explain the impact of the New Deal on African-Americans, Hispanic
46. Americans and other minorities.
47. Evaluate the legacy of the New Deal.
48. Describe the World Economy and Cultural Expansion in the 1930s.
49. Explain why the United States was unable to remain isolated from the
50. German, Italian and Japanese aggression in the 1930s.
51. Summarize the effects of the Neutrality Acts, isolationism and Roosevelt's cautions foreign policy.
52. Explain how the Allies grasp of global military, diplomatic and economic strategy led to victory in World War II.
53. Explain how war work affected the lives of ordinary Americans, especially
54. women and children.
55. Describe how the end of the war forced Americans to confront the Holocaust,
56. the atomic bomb and deteriorating Soviet-American relations.
57. Discuss the origins of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United
58. States.
59. Explain the concept of containment.
60. Discuss the domestic consequences of the Cold War and the rise and decline of McCarthyism.·
61. Analyze the Civil Rights Movement in the 1940s and 1950s.
62. Describe the postwar Baby, business and bigness booms and their impact on the United States.
63. Discuss Eisenhower's "Modern Republicanism"
64. Describe the events that led to the Korean War.
65. Discuss the election of 1960 and the changing climate in domestic climate in the United States.
66. Explain the policies of the Civil Rights movement and the New Frontier.
67. Discuss the Great Society and the triumph of liberalism in the 1960s.
68. Explain how youth culture gave birth to a radical New Left and an apolitical counterculture.
69. Explain the steps taken that involved the United States more deeply in the
70. Vietnam War.
71. Describe the way Americans fought the Vietnam War and how the conditions of fighting differed from previous wars.
72. Explain why 1968 was such a pivotal year for both the Vietnam War and for
73. domestic politics.
74. Explain why Nixon widened the war as a way to end it, in the process of shifting some of the United States defense burdens to its allies.
75. Describe how inflation, an energy crisis, and the hostage crisis prevented Carter from creating a more efficient government and a new moral climate in politics.
76. Explain how the backlash to Watergate and Vietnam undermined Gerald Ford

and led to the election of Jinuny Carter.

1. Describe the concepts of Reaganomics.
2. Summarize the policies of George Bush and the effects they had on the United

States.

1. Describe the differences in policies of Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich and how they created a political stalemate.
2. Summarize the scandaimpeachment and political survival ofBill Clinton.
3. **TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS**
4. **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**
5. **METHOD OF EVALUATION**
6. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**
7. **COURSE OUTLINE**