



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

North America: From European Discovery to the National Period - 39155

Last update 06-10-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Menahem Blondheim
Ms. Rachel Funtowitz

Coordinator Email: america.survey@google.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:00-6:00, 6623 (Humanities bldg.)

Teaching Staff:

Prof Menahem Blondheim

Course/Module description:

The course offers an introductory survey of the history of North America. It begins with the settlement of the first Europeans in the New World, traces the development of the colonies through the establishment of the United States of America and its early years. We will analyze key dimensions of the American experience, including social and economic, political and ideological, communicative and cultural processes in the history of North America.

Course/Module aims:

The United States today is a super-power shaping the political and economic world order, as well as ideological, social and cultural processes worldwide. The course intends to provide insight into the American way by tracing its history. A secondary objective of the course is to provide students with basic knowledge and analytical tools that would serve more advanced inquiries into the American experience.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

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On successful completion of this module, students should be able to : Understand the historical process shaping the first "new" nation; identify major patterns and processes underlying the American experience; recognize historical forces that brought America to the role of world hegemon.

Attendance requirements(%):

to be explained in the first meeting.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: class lectures and discussions, unguided-reading according to the reading list.

Course/Module Content:

- 1.The American experience between past and present
- 2.A new world and the meaning of its discovery
- 3.Push and Pull: Early settlement in Virginia
- 4.Social and political institutions of early settlement

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5. *New England's Puritan theocracy*
 6. *Red, white, and black*
 7. *Slavery as an American institution*
 8. *Agriculture and Trade in the web of mercantilism*
 9. *Britain and its colonies on the slippery slope*
 10. *The Whig ideology and the American Revolution*
 11. *The Revolutionary Ideology and the Shaping of the Federal System*
 12. *Jacksonian Democracy as an age of ambiguity*
 13. *The Transportation, Press, and Communication revolutions*
 14. *Towards the big bang*

Required Reading:

See Hebrew reading list. The teaching staff will recommend parallel reading materials in English upon request.

Additional Reading Material:

recommendations available upon request

Grading Scheme:

Additional information:

Ms. Rachel Funtowitz
email: