

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**HIST-112**  
**American History Since 1877**  
3 Semester Hours

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

As a result of having taken this course, the student will be able to describe the major political, diplomatic, economic, and social developments in American history from the end of the Reconstruction period to the present. In particular, the student will study: the rise of industrial capitalism, the mechanization of agriculture; the end of the frontier and the wars with the Native-Americans; immigration; urbanization; the changing role of the family; the history of women; the history of Afro-Americans; the political party system; the Populist, Progressive and New Deal reforms; the impact of the New Deal on current domestic politics; and the impact of World War II and the Cold War on American Foreign Policy. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain why the United States emerged as the leading industrial nation in the world in the years from 1860-1920.
2. Identify and give the significance of the following terms: Social Darwinism, laissez-faire capitalism, Gospel of Wealth (Carnegie), pools, trusts, holding companies, horizontal integration, vertical integration, and economies of scale.
3. Describe the rapidity of merger mania by which corporations formed trusts in the years 1897-1904.
4. Trace the strengths of the labor union movement from the 1870s to the present. Include in your discussion the development of the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organization.
5. Examine the emergence of various forms of worker activism from the 1870s to the present and discuss the reactions of employers, government, and the public to this activism.
6. Compare, contrast and critically analyze the four major periods of immigration in American History: (1) 1607-1830; (2) 1830-1890; (3) 1890-1925; (4) 1968 to the present.
7. Examine the problems associated with the growth of American cities in the late nineteenth century and evaluate the successes and failures in responding to those problems.
8. Examine the major characteristics of and the reasons for the revolution which took place in agriculture since the 1960s.
9. Evaluate the myths and realities about the cowboys and Native-Americans in nineteenth century America.
10. Examine the "critical Presidential elections" of 1896, 1932, 1936, 1968, 1980 and 1992 which continually shifted the balance of power between the Republican and Democratic "party systems" of competition.

11. Examine the characteristics of the major reform movements in modern America: (1) Populism (1890s); (2) Progressivism (1897-1917); (3) New Deal (1933-1938); (4) Great Society (1964-1966); (5) Sub-Yupps (1993-2001)
12. Examine how the New Deal altered the role of the national government and created the modern "welfare state" and the strong Presidency.
13. Describe the major successes and failures of Afro-Americans from 1865 to the present.
14. Critically analyze the Civil Rights Revolution of the 1960s and the role played by Martin Luther King, Jr.
15. Describe the changes in women, youth, and the family in industrial America from the end of the Civil War to the present.
16. Examine the historical roots of America's traditional foreign policy of political isolationism in the nineteenth century.
17. Critically examine the foreign policy of the United States towards Asia and Latin America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
18. Describe the rise of the United States to world power status in the twentieth century through an examination of the Spanish-American War of 1898, World War I and World War II.
19. Analyze America's shift after World War II from a foreign policy of isolationism to internationalism.
20. Critically analyze the Cold War which polarized the world and lasted from 1945 to 1990.
21. Critically examine America's "containment" foreign policy from 1946 through 1990 as reflected in the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, NATO, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Detente, the limitation of Armament treaties, and the Gulf War.
22. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
23. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.
24. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
25. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
26. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

### **Major Topics**

- I. The Rise of Industrial America, 1860-1920
- II. Political Changes: From the Gilded Age to the Present
- III. Social Changes in America, 1865 to the Present
- IV. American Foreign Policy, 1877 to the Present

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty.

### **Writing**

Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2,500 words of formal writing. The papers required are intended to communicate with a specific audience and meet the minimum standards of proficiency. At least three exams will be required. Periodically students will use writing in class as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned, to review what they have learned, and to clarify their response to assigned works.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Science elective. This course fulfills the cultural diversity requirement.