JH001: Introduction to U.S. History

Course Description
This course prepares students for further work in the social sciences and the humanities through the study of major themes in United States history. Students learn how to think historically and how to read primary sources (e.g., letters, speeches, images, and artifacts). Assignments draw on a high-school level U.S. history textbook, selected primary sources, a variety of maps, and internet resources.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
• Outline the basic narrative of U.S. history from the nation's founding through the period of World War I.
• Create a timeline that highlights related events in U.S. history.
• Identify sources of significant conflict and debate in U.S. history.
• Analyze a primary source in relation to its historical contexts.
• Recognize the influences of geography on historical events and the development of institutions.

Major Topics
Semester One:
• The American Revolution
• The United States Constitution
• Antebellum reform movements
• American foreign policy
• The rise of sectional conflict

Semester Two:
• The American Civil War
• The period of Reconstruction
• Industrialization
• Westward expansion
• The Spanish-American War
• Reform movements of the early 20th century
• World War I

Major Assignments
Each semester, the final letter grade will be determined on the basis of the following types of assignments:
• participation in class discussions;
• quizzes on readings, lectures, and discussions;
• essays and brief written exercises
• a mid-semester examination
• a final examination.