

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: HIS 121

Credits: 3

Course Title: United States History I

Course Description: Surveys the United States history from its beginning to the present. History 121 and 122 need not be taken in sequence. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: (Who would benefit by taking this course?)

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Demonstrate an ability to select, from the materials offered in this course, the relevant information needed to explain their own interpretation of a particular historical question;
- b. Develop an appreciation of the fact that their values are not necessarily the values of other peoples, and that their values are not necessarily better or worse than those held by other peoples in other places and times;
- c. Integrate a study of Afro-American, Native Americans, and naturalized ethnic groups that have contributed to the development of a unique American civilization;
- d. Understand that the history in their textbook is not an infallible or comprehensive account of the past, but merely the selected arguments and interpretations of certain authors. There are no infallible interpretations of the past;
- e. Present an historical argument in good written or oral form;
- f. Demonstrate knowledge of the chronological development of the significant political, economic, social, military, religious, cultural and intellectual changes experienced by Americans during the times 1607 to 1865;
- g. Demonstrate in both oral and written exercises their ability to synthesize their knowledge of historical concepts and interpretation;
- h. Determine whether certain conclusions or consequences are supported by the information provided; and
- i. Evaluate the strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular question or issue.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. The Formative Years
- b. Birth of the Republic and the Federalist Era
- c. The Age of Jefferson and Jackson
- d. The House Divided
- e. Civil War and Reconstruction

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