

History PG

Semester: 1				
Programme : History				
Course : History of the United States of America				
Paper code:			Credits: 6	
Hours/week : 4				
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC : Core (Major)				
Theory / Practical / Composite : Theory				
No of Modules : 2				
<p>Course Overview: This postgraduate curriculum offers a rigorous interrogation of the American experience, moving beyond traditional narratives to explore the complexities of power, identity, and state-building from pre-colonial times to the Civil War. It critically examines the dialectic between democratic ideals and the realities of cultural genocide, systemic slavery, and gendered exclusion. Students will engage with the ideological catalysts of the Revolution, the constitutional debates of the early Republic, and the socio-economic upheavals of the industrial revolution. The course further investigates the expansionist logic of the Monroe Doctrine and Jacksonian democracy, contrasting these with the escalating sectionalism and moral crises of the 19th century. Through this lens, the syllabus bridges early settlement patterns with the eventual rupture of the Union.</p>				
Course Outcome:				
1. Recall and categorize the specific legislative milestones, diplomatic treaties, and constitutional debates—such as the Monroe Doctrine and the Compromises of 1819 and 1850—that defined the early American state.				
2. Interpret the intersectionality of class, gender, and race in the development of colonial and antebellum social structures, explaining how these factors influenced labor systems and self-governance.				
3. Execute an advanced historical analysis using primary ideological frameworks (Federalism vs. Republicanism) to explain the evolution of the American party system and the functional role of the Supreme Court.				
4. Deconstruct the causal relationship between industrialization, westward expansion (Manifest Destiny), and the systematic marginalization of indigenous and enslaved populations.				
5. Critically assess and debate the limitations of the "democratic experience" in the 18th and 19th centuries, weighing the rhetoric of liberty against the institutionalized realities of the Trail of Tears and the plantation economy.				
6. Construct a sophisticated historiographical argument that synthesizes sectional politics, slave resistance, and institutional ruptures to explain the inevitable collapse of political compromise preceding the Civil War.				
Prerequisites: <i>Basic knowledge about any prior course</i>				
SYLLABUS				
UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL

I.	<p>Unit 1 The indigenous people before colonization – Origins and migration, Pre-Columbian Population. Settlement and colonization by Europeans - Physical and cultural destruction, cultural genocide. Early colonial society and economy - Emphasizing the debates on religious freedom vs. religious intolerance, class structure and labor, self-government vs. imperial control, gender roles and family structures,</p>	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6
	<p>Unit 2 Ideological roots of the American Revolution The War of Independence and its aftermath – Nature of the movement The role of women in American Revolution. The evolution of the American constitution – debates and discussions</p>			
	<p>Unit 3 The early American Republic – the role of George Washington and others; the rise of the party system – Federalists and Republicans, the role of the Supreme Court The limitations of the democratic experience – the condition of black Americans, increasing marginalization of Native Americans, the condition of women in 18th century American society and politics.</p>			
II.	<p>Unit 4 The transformation of the American economy – industrialization and the development of transportation networks American society – urban and rural, peasants and workers; immigration.</p>	18	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	KI,K2,K3,K4.K5,K6

	The changing role of women, the new religious movements.			
	<p>Unit 5</p> <p>Foreign policy – the Louisiana purchase, the war of 1812 and the Monroe Doctrine</p> <p>Domestic transformations – the rise of Andrew Jackson, the exploitation and expulsion of indigenous Americans – the Trail of Tears, and westward expansion</p>			
	<p>Unit 6</p> <p>Slavery – origin and development, slave society and plantation economy, slave rebellions and the anti-slavery movement</p> <p>Sectional politics – the compromises of 1819 and 1850, increasing political ruptures and the drift towards secession</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln and the coming of the Civil War</p>			

Text Books

Essential Readings-

- Archana Ojha, History of the United States of America
- James T Patterson, Short History of the United States
- David Emory Shi, America: A Narrative History
- Mark C Carnes, The American Nation
- Peter Carroll and David Noble, Free and Unfree: A New History of the United States
- Daniel Walker Howe, What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America
- James M McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era
- Gordon S. Wood, The Creation of the American Republic
- Gordon S. Wood, Empire of Freedom: A History of the Early Republic
- Robert Middlekauff: The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution
- Gerald Horne, The Counter Revolution of 1776
- David B. Davis, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution.
- U. Faulkner, American Economic History.
- Robert Fogel, Railroads and American Economic Growth.

Suggested readings

- Eric Foner, America's Black Past.
- John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom
- Dorothy Schneider, Slavery in America
- Clive Webb, Race in the American South
- David Martinez, The American Indian Intellectual Tradition: An Anthology Of Writings From 1772 To 1972
- Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States
- Lee Benson, The Concept of Jackson Democracy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ray A. Billington, Westward Expansion
Web Resources
1.
2.
3.
4.
Evaluation : Theory CIA=30 Semester Exam: 70
Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam: End Semester Exam: 70 Two modules of 35 marks each. 2 questions of 15 marks from 4 options: 2X15=30 1 question of 5 marks from 3 options: 5X1= 5

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	Recall and categorize the specific legislative milestones, diplomatic treaties, and constitutional debates—such as the Monroe Doctrine and the Compromises of 1819 and 1850—that defined the early American state.	K1
CO2	Interpret the intersectionality of class, gender, and race in the development of colonial and antebellum social structures, explaining how these factors influenced labor systems and self-governance.	K2
CO3	Execute an advanced historical analysis using primary ideological frameworks (Federalism vs. Republicanism) to explain the evolution of the American party system and the functional role of the Supreme Court.	K3
CO4	Deconstruct the causal relationship between industrialization, westward expansion (Manifest Destiny), and the systematic marginalization of indigenous and enslaved populations.	K4
CO5	Critically assess and debate the limitations of the "democratic experience" in the 18th and 19th centuries, weighing the rhetoric of liberty against the institutionalized realities of the Trail of Tears and the plantation economy.	K5
CO6	Construct a sophisticated historiographical argument that synthesizes sectional politics, slave resistance, and institutional ruptures to explain the inevitable collapse of political compromise preceding the Civil War.	K6