

Syllabus

HIS214 – American History and Diplomacy in the 19th and 20th Centuries (Credit Units: 3)

Department of History and International Studies,
Faculty of Arts,
University of Delta, Agbor, Nigeria.

Lecturer: Dr. A. Ehimatie

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 11:00am – 5:00pm,
Tuesday & Thursday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Outside of the normal class hours, students are advised to take advantage of office hours to reach out to me for their questions on any difficult areas of their private studies. Such questions can also be channel to me through the above email address.

- **Meeting time and place:** Mon. 9am – 11am, Fri. 12pm – 1pm –
History Lecture Room, FOA Building.

- **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend every class. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to make up for the work that you missed. If you are going to be absent from any class, endeavour to notify the course lecturer in advance.

- **Method of Instruction:**

This syllabus contains an overview of what will be covered in class; for specific information, students are referred to the class web page maintained on University website. Assignment will either be posted on University of Delta LMS, or given in the class and should be submitted through University of Delta LMS. Students are advised to take their attendance to class, and homework/assignment seriously.

- **Overview**

American History and Diplomacy in the 19th and 20th centuries is designed to avail students, the opportunity to understand the background of American History since the exploration of the New World by Europeans at the end of the 15th Century. The course presents issues of conquest, colonization, and decimation of the indigenous society by Europeans, the development of the plantation system and the importation of African Slave labour; the independence of America and American influence through the growth of revolutionary movements. The course also exposes the students to the post-war reconstruction era, and American Diplomacy in the first and second world wars, and the eventual emergence of America as a super power nation.

- **Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to: (i) Trace, the background of American History (ii) examine the exploration and Colonization of America by Europeans (iii) explain the American Revolutionary and Civil Wars (iv) identify the post-war reconstitution efforts in America (v) discuss American Diplomacy in the first and second world wars (vi) highlight on the factors that led to the emergence of America as a super power nation.

- **Learning Outcome**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: (i) give a vivid account of the historical evolution of America (ii) comment on America's Colonial experience and the revolutionary wars that gave rise to American independence (iii) discuss in details the post-war reconstruction of America (iv) examine critically the principles that shaped America's diplomacy in the course of the first and second world wars (v) analyse the factors that aided America's emergence as a super power nation.

- **Course Contents:**

Background to American History, European Exploration and Colonization of America, American Revolutionary wars, American independence, post-war reconstruction era, factors that shaped American Diplomacy, the rise of Big Business and Industry in America, American Diplomacy in the first world war, economic depression in America, the New Deal, Emergence of America as a Super power nation, American Diplomacy in the second world war, America in the post world war era.

Lecture Schedules

WEEK	CONTENT	LECTURE NOTES/SLIDES
1	Background of American History	
2	European exploration and colonization of America	
3	American revolutionary wars	
4	American Independence	
5	Post-war reconstruction era	
6	Factors that shaped American Diplomacy	
7	The rise of Big Business and industry	
8	American Diplomacy in the first world war	
9	Economic Depression in America	
10	The New Deal in America	
11	Emergence of America as a super power nation	
12	American Diplomacy in the second world war	
13	America in the post-world war era	
14	Revision	
15	Final Exam	

Examination Schedule

- Attendance
- Homework
- Class Test
- End of Semester Exam

- **Grading**

- Homework: 15% of grade
- Midterm Exam: 15% of grade
- Final Exam: 70% of grade

- **Text and References**

Tim Weiner (2020). The Folly and the Glory. America, Russia and Political Warfare 1945 – 2020

Thomas, G.P. and Dennis, M. (Eds) (2000). Major Problems in American Foreign Relations. Vol. II: Since 1914 Lexington, MA:DC Health, fifth Edition

Norman, P. and Perkins, H. (2010). International Relations and the World Community in Transition. Third Revised Edition. New Delhi, A.I. T.B.S. Publishers, India

Zakaria, F. (1999) From Wealth to Power: The Unusual Origins of America's World Role. Princeton: Princeton University Press

- **Student Conduct**

All students are advised to avail themselves of the code of student conduct as enshrined in the student handbook, and comply with acceptable behaviour required in our learning environment.

For the avoidance of doubt, the University of Delta, Agbor frowns at indecent dressing and behaviour, cheating, plagiarism, indiscipline, and all forms of examination malpractice. As a matter of fact, appropriate disciplinary committees have been constituted to deal decisively with the above mentioned issues.