

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** US History Before 1865

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** HIS 1530

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will be introduced to the history of the United States from the European Encounter through the Civil War. Using the methodology of the social sciences, students will learn and evaluate the major political, social, cultural, scientific-technological, economic, and natural developments that shaped the United States during its formative years; when the American republic was founded, expanded, and tested by division. Students will give special attention to the unique contributions made by diverse peoples and institutions, and the responsibilities of educated citizens today.

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENG 1510.

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**General Education Requirements Met**

**SUNY**

American History

**JCC**

Cultural Understanding

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of a basic narrative of American history, political, economic, social, and cultural history in the period before 1865, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society. [SUNY Gen Ed – American History]
  2. Demonstrate knowledge of common institutions in American society before 1865 and how these common institutions have affected different groups. [SUNY Gen Ed – American History]
  3. Demonstrate understanding of the United States’ evolving relationship with the rest of the world in the period before 1865. [SUNY Gen Ed – American History]
  4. Demonstrate understanding of cultural similarities and differences and how cultural norms shape each person’s experience of the world. [JCC Gen Ed - Cultural Understanding]
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**Topics Covered:**

- Brief overview of the geography of the Western Hemisphere and the cultures of Pre-Colombian Native American societies.
  - Attention will focus on the European Encounter and the empire building of the late 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, colonial developments, the drive for independence, the Constitution, political developments, Manifest Destiny, war and conquest, economic divergence, sectional imbalance, the Antebellum era, the Civil War, and its aftermath.
  - Attention will also be given to social life, cultural achievements, technological advances, and economic developments in the 18<sup>th</sup> – mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
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**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

