



Course syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Cultural Sciences

1HI400 "American history X": samtida debatter om amerikansk historia, 7,5 högskolepoäng

American history X: Contemporary debates on American history, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

History

Subject Group

History

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved by Organisational Committee 2009-12-14

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2010

Prerequisites

Basic eligibility. English B

Expected learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge concerning broad lines of historical development and change in American history,
- demonstrate knowledge concerning debates about history in contemporary American society,
- discuss both orally and in writing the themes focused on in the course.

Content

American History X aims to introduce students to contemporary debates in American society. The course focuses on major political, social, and cultural themes. The course takes its point of departure in contemporary debates in the United States concerning the role of history, and history education in society. Various themes that emerge from these debates will then be followed back through the history of American society. Themes will include issues of race and ethnicity, gender, class, political governance, international relations etc. These themes are discussed within a context of how American historical experiences and their presentation are connected to global historical changes.

The theme for 2010 is: The Long 60s – Revolution or Adaptation in American Post-war History

The 1960s is often remembered as a period of upheaval during which a homogenous United States was splintered into different identity groups protesting against the very foundations of society and its political, social, and cultural organization. The Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, youth protest and youth culture, and the growth of feminism are among the most obvious examples of this challenge. The course deals with post-World War II-history from a perspective of the changes and debates that emerged in the 1960s and asks whether this period led to a revolution in American politics, democracy, and culture, and, if so, what its consequences were in the period that followed.

Type of Instruction

Teaching and instruction methods include lectures, seminars, group discussions, and individual projects. Attendance is mandatory at seminars and group discussions.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Examination consists of oral and written assignments, in addition to participation in group discussions.

A student who does not pass the examination on the first occasion is offered a maximum of four additional opportunities to sit the examination.

Students at Linnaeus University are entitled to have the course grade translated into the 7-step ECTS scale. A request to have the grades translated must be made to the teacher at the start of the course.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is performed and compiled into a report to be kept in the university school archives. The result and any measures taken are communicated to the course coordinator and presented to the students participating the next time the course is offered.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Lytle, Mark Hamilton *America's Uncivil War. The Sixties Era From Elvis to the Fall of Richard Nixon*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. (ISBN 978-0-19-517496-0) 416 pages

Charters, Ann, ed., *The Portable Sixties Reader*. New York: Penguin Books, 2003. (ISBN 978-0-14-200194-3) circa 300 pages

Individual readings and articles supplied by teacher circa 300 pages