COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: U.S. History, 1877 to the Present: HIST 1260
CREDITS: 3 (3 Lec/0 Lab)
PREREQUISITES: College-level reading ability is required.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
U.S. History, 1877 to the Present is a survey of U.S. history from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to the present. The events of this era are examined from political, economic, military, and social perspectives. Detailed attention will be given to industrial and political developments, urbanization, and immigration in the Gilded Age; the conquest of the Great Plains and the diverse western frontier; the Progressive Era and reform; the Roaring 20s; the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II and its aftermath; suburban life in the Cold War years (1945-1960); Cold War rivalries; the tempestuous 1960s and 1970s; a conservative shift in the 1980s and 1990s; America in the 21st century.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
I. Settlement of the Trans-Mississippi west
   A. The Indian wars and the reservation era, 1877-1890
   B. The mining frontier
   C. The ranching frontier
   D. The farming frontier
II. The industrial era
   A. The rise of industrial America and labor unions
   B. The second wave of immigration
   C. Urban life in Gilded Age America
   D. Cultural life in the Gilded Age
   E. America’s imperial empire
III. The Progressive period
   A. Politics in the 1890s and the age of reform
   B. Progressives and their goals
   C. Progressive reforms and life in the cities
   D. Two lives: Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson
IV. World War I and the 1920s
   A. From isolationism to involvement: America enters World War I
   B. The war’s impact at home
   C. Flappers, bootleggers, and the Jazz Age: daily life in the Roaring 20s
   D. Prosperity: the automobile, consumerism, and the rise of the
middle class

V. The Depression and World War II
   A. Hoover and the beginnings of the Depression
   B. FDR, the New Deal, and political and economic change
   C. Daily life during the Great Depression
   D. Isolationism gives way to war
   E. World War II: fighting a two-front war
   F. World War II: the war's impact at home

VI. America in the postwar world
   A. Truman's Fair Deal, the Cold War, and McCarthyism
   B. Eisenhower's America and life in suburbia
   C. Kennedy, Johnson, the New Frontier, and the Great Society
   D. The civil rights and women's movements
   E. America's involvement in Indochina
   F. Nixon and Watergate
   G. America since 1975

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
Students will
1. explain why wars occurred between the United States government and the Plains Indian nations.
2. describe the impact of the reservation system upon the Plains Indians.
3. describe the differences between the mining, ranching, and farming frontiers.
4. describe the adaptations to the environment that ranchers and farmers had to make.
5. explain what conditions were necessary for the Industrial Revolution to succeed in America in the 1870s and 1800s.
6. describe the growth, successes, and failures of labor unions in the Gilded Age.
7. identify the major immigrant groups to the U.S. in the Gilded Age and describe how they were treated once they settled in the U.S.
8. describe the problems created by rapid urbanization in the 1880s.
9. explain how increased leisure time created a new American culture during the Gilded Age.
10. explain how the U.S. acquired an empire after the Spanish-American War and why some Americans opposed U.S. imperialism.
11. identify the Progressives' goals for reform and assess in which areas they succeeded and failed.
12. explain why the U.S. entered World War I.
13. identify what created America's prosperity during the 1920s and explain how this prosperity changed the average American's life during the 1920s.
14. explain what caused the Great Depression and how Americans coped with this economic disaster.
15. identify the steps that led us gradually into World War II.
16. describe how the U.S. won a two-front war in Europe and the Pacific during World War II and the war's impact at home.
17. identify the causes of the Cold War and of McCarthyism.
18. describe how American family and economic life changed during the Eisenhower years (1952-1960).
19. list Kennedy’s and Johnson's goals in foreign and domestic affairs and assess their successes and failures.
20. identify the successes and failures the civil rights and women's movements experienced from the 1950s through the 1980s.
21. detail the course of events that drew us into Indochina, explain why America lost the war, and describe the war's impact on the American economy and American politics.
22. explain Nixon's successes and failures in foreign and domestic policy.
23. identify the challenges facing the U.S. as she entered the 1980s and 1990s.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Human Diversity

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Communicating Clearly & Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and be prepared to contribute to and participate in class discussions.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: (SPECIAL FEES, DIRECTIVES ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, ETC.):
None

AASC APPROVAL DATE: January 18, 2012
REVIEW DATE: January 2017