

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE– 3 (DSC-3): History of the USA: Reconstruction to New Age Politics**

**Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course title & Code DSC 3	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
<b>History of the USA: Reconstruction to New Age Politics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Pass</b>	<b>Should have studied History of the USA: Independence to Civil War</b>

### Learning Objectives

The course attempts to understand the changing political culture of the USA in the aftermath of the Civil War. The focus is not only to delineate the changes brought in during the phase of Reconstruction followed by the growth and expansion of industrialization and urbanization process with its inherent contradictions and complexities that had an impact on the gender roles giving way to the Feminist Movement and assisted in the mobilization of the African-Americans gravitating towards the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement. The course links the consolidation of American capitalism with the crystallization of American imperialism and its eventual emergence as a global power.

### Learning outcomes

Upon the completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Explain the reasons for the implementation of ‘Radical’ Reconstruction and the causes for its limited success
- Analyze the growth of capitalism in the USA
- Discern the history of Populist and Progressive Movements
- Describe the nature of the Women’s Liberation Movement and its changing contours from the nineteenth to twentieth centuries
- Trace the significance of the African-American Movement and how it eventually assisted in the emergence of Civil Rights Movement under Martin Luther King Jr.

### SYLLABUS OF DSC-3

#### Unit I: Reconstruction (12 Hours)

1. The Makings of Radical Reconstruction; Rise of New Social Groups in the South, Carpetbaggers, Scalawags, Ku Klux Klan and Free Blacks

#### Unit II: The Gilded Age - Economic, Social Divide and Reform (16 Hours)

1. Growth of Capitalism – Big Business; Competition, Consolidation, Monopolism
2. The Populist Challenge: Agrarian Crisis and Discontent

3. The Politics of Progressivism: Movement, Manifestations under Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson

**Unit III: Gender Roles and the Rise of African-American Movement (16 Hours)**

1. Cult of Womanhood in the nineteenth century: The White (Case study of Lowell Textile Mill Women Workers), Black and Indigenous Women
2. The Emergence of Black Leadership: Booker T. Washington; W.E.B. DuBois, NAACP
3. The Rise of the Civil Rights Movement: Martin Luther King Jr.

**Unit IV: USA in the World Politics (16 Hours)**

1. Imperialistic Ambition and Power: The Spanish-American War; Role of USA in East Asia and Latin America
2. USA in the First and Second World Wars

**Practical component (if any) - NIL**

**Essential/recommended readings**

**Unit I:** The Unit examines the reasons for the Radical Congressmen taking over the Reconstruction process and how the establishment of radical governments in the Southern states led to the rise of new social groups and the resultant consequences thereof.

- Boyer, P.S., H. Sitkoff et al. The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People. Vol. II. 5th edn. Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.
- Foner, E. Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877. New York: Harper Perennial, 2002.
- Foner, E. 'The New View of Reconstruction'. American Heritage, Vol. 34, Issue 6, October-November 1983.

**Unit II:** This Unit delves into the three most important aspects of American history. The rise of Big Businesses their methods and techniques to capture and monopolize markets and the impact these sweeping economic changes had on American society eventually led to the rise of two most significant movements, the Populist movement at the agrarian level and the Progressive movement at the urban and industrial level.

- Hicks, J.D. The Populist Revolt: A History of the Farmers' Alliance and the Peoples Party. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1981.
- Boyer, P.S., H. Sitkoff et al. The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People. Vol. II. 5th edn. Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.
- Foner, E. Give Me Liberty! An American History. Vol. II. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2nd edn. 2007.
- Grob, G.N. and G.A. Billias. Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives. Vol. II. New York: The Free Press, 2000.
- Mann, A. The Progressive Era: Liberal Renaissance or Liberal Failure. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1963. (Peter Smith Publication, Online Open Library, 2016).
- McMath, R. & E. Foner (ed.). American Populism: A Social History, 1877-1898. New York: Hill & Wang, 1993.

**Unit III:** This Unit takes into account the accepted patriarchal notions of being an 'accepted' woman in 19th century America and how they were established and resisted by the White,

Indigenous and Black women. The unit also explores the roles of two important leaders in the emergence of the African-American movement and reasons for the rise of Civil Rights Movement with the major role played by Martin Luther King Jr.

- Dublin, T. *Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826-1890*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993.
- Dublin, T. 'Women, Work and Protest in the Early Lowell Mills: The Oppressive Hand of Avarice Would Enslave Us'. *Labour History*, Vol. 16, No. 1, Winter 1975.
- Foner, E. *Americas Black Past: A Reader in Afro-American History*. New York: Harper Collins, 1970.
- Higginbotham, E.B. 'African-American Women's History and the Metalanguage of Race'. *Signs*, Vol. 17, No. 2. Winter 1992.
- Kerber, Linda & J. Sherron De Hart, *Women's America: Refocusing the Past*. 8th edn. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Welter, B. 'The Cult of True Womanhood, 1820-1860'. *American Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 1966. (Articles in *Journal of Women's History*. Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 2002 to debate Barbara Welter's Article).
- White, J. *Black Leadership in America, 1895-1968*. *Studies in Modern History*. London & New York: Longman, 2nd edn, 1990 (Digitized in 2008).

**Unit IV:** In this Unit importance is given to the understanding of the U.S. into global politics with its own brand of imperialism and its eventual role in the two World Wars

- Boyer, P.S., H. Sitkoff et al. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. Vol. II. 5th edn. Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.
- Carnes, M.C. & J.A. Garraty. *The American Nation, A History of the United States*. 12th edn. New York: Pearson Longman, 2006.
- Datar K. *America Ka Itihas*. University of Delhi: Directorate of Hindi Medium Implementation Board, 1997.
- Foner, E. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Vol. II. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2nd edn. 2007.
- Grob, G.N. and G.A. Billias. *Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives*. Vol. II. New York: The Free Press, 2000.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

- Bailyn, B., D. Wood, J.L. Thomas et.al. *The Great Republic, A History of the American People*, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Company, 2000.
- Boyer, P.S., H. Sitkoff et al. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. Vol. II. 5th edn. Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.
- Carnes, M.C. & J.A. Garraty. *The American Nation, A History of the United States*. 12th edn. New York: Pearson Longman, 2006.
- Datar K. *America Ka Itihas*. University of Delhi: Directorate of Hindi Medium Implementation Board, 1997.
- Faragher, J.M., M.J. Buhle et al. *Out of Many: A History of the American People*. Vol. II. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1995.
- Foner, E. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Vol. II. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2nd edn. 2007.
- Grob, G.N. and G.A. Billias. *Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives*. Vol. II. New York: The Free Press, 2000.

- Zinn, H. A People's History of the United States, 1492-Present. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.

### **Few Selected Films**

- 'King' (story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) Directed by Abby Mann, 1979.
- 'The Long Walk Home' (two women black and white in 1955 Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott) Directed by Richard Pearce, 1990.
- 'Boycott' (African-American boycott of the buses during the Civil Rights Movement) Directed by Clark Johnson, 2001.
- 'The Rosa Parks Story' (a seamstress story in 1955 bus boycott), TV Movie, 2002.
- 'Separate but Equal' (American court case that destroyed legal validity of racial segregation), 1991.
- 'The Colour Purple' (story of a young African-American girl and the problems faced by African-American women during early twentieth century) Directed and Co-produced by Steven Spielberg, 1985.
- 'Selma' (based on 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches) Directed by Ava DuVernay and Produced by Christian Colson & others, 2014.
- 'Frida' (based on the professional and private life of surrealist Mexican painter Frida Kahlo) Directed by Julie Taymor and produced by Sarah Green & others, 2002.
- 'Lowell Mill Girls' by Colleen G. Casey, YouTube, December 7, 2010.
- 'The Lowell Mill Girls (Student Film) by Laureen Meyering, YouTube, December 23, 2011.
- 'And That's How We did in the Mill'- Women in the Lowell Textile Mills, Historymemoryculture.org, YouTube, September 2, 2016.

**Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.**

