uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

History and politics of the United States

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020) Review date: 12/04/2018 12:26:25

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: History, Geography and Art Department, Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher:

Type: Electives ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: Semester:

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

PART 1: HISTORY

- 1. The creation of the United States. Revolution and independence of the Thirteen Colonies (1773-1815).
- 2. Border, migrations and reorganization of the system in the first half of the nineteenth century.
- 3. Secession and civil war (1861-1965). The end of slavery and the consolidation of contemporary American society.
- 4. Reconstruction and growth (1865-1914). International politics and birth of the American Empire.
- 5. United States and world wars in the twentieth century (1914-1945). Technological take-off and the welfare society (1945-1975).
- 6. Civil rights and social changes. The crisis of the American Empire in the last quarter of the 20th century (1975-1991).
- 7. The United States in the post-Cold War period. The reorientation of American hegemony in the face of the challenges of the new century (1991-2001).

PART 2: POLITICS

- 8. Electoral behaviour and party politics in the USA. Internal debates and conflicts in the Democratic and Republican parties. The growing level of politi- cal polarization in the USA.
- 9. US foreign policy since the Cold War. The political, economic and military power of the USA in global perspective. Evolution of US relations with mul- tilateral organizations such as the United Nations and NATO.
- 10. The evolution of the modern Presidency in the USA. Principal problems of relations between the Executive and Legislative branches of government.
- 11. Interest groups in contemporary US politics. The influence of the private sector, organized labour, and religious organizations on the legislative process.
- 12. The role of race, ethnicity and immigration in contemporary US politics.
- 13. Trends in economic and social inequality in the USA.
- 14. Judicial politics in the USA. Principal debates on the power and political role of the Supreme Court.

% end-of-term-examination/test:	60
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals):	40