**The Department of English**

**The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the University of Tunis**

**Second Year American Civilization Course**

**Academic Year 2018/2019**

**First Semester**

**Instructor: Mrs. Ida Saidani**

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**Course Title**

**The Birth of the American Nation**

**Course Description**

**Purpose:**

This course will introduce second year students to the major developments in the history of the United States, from the Colonial period to the drafting and ratification of the Constitution. It examines the context of the settlement of North America and explores how European life entered the American continent.

**Objectives:**

- Students will expand their knowledge about the revolutionary origins of the American government and American backgrounds of the Revolution.

- Students will become informed about issues and arguments in the Anglo-American conflict; colonial resistance and the beginnings of Republicanism; the Revolutionary War; The Declaration of Independence; and the Constitution of the United States.

- In this course students will develop skills of critical thinking and critical reading.

Readings emphasize history books, maps, pamphlets, correspondences, constitutional documents and debates, etc.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis.
2. Each student is required to write at least a one-page response to the readings for the week (if there is any)
3. Students should write at least a one five-paragraph essay per semester and send it by email to the instructor who will, in turn, send assignment feedback by email.
4. Attendance will be recorded. Students will be allowed five absences; subsequent absences will prevent the student from sitting for this Civilization Module’s exam in January and May (unless stated otherwise by the administration).

**Grading**

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the Final Exam (100%) to take place after Winter Break (i.e. January 2019).

**Class Schedule**

**Introduction (Week 1)**

History of Discovery & Exploration of North America

**Section I: The Colonial Period**

Week 2: The diverging cultures of New England and Chesapeake Colonies

Week 3-4: Puritan New England

Week5: The Puritans and the Native Americans

**Section II: The American Revolutionary War (1775–1783)**

Week5: Background and causes of the Revolution

Week 6: The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)

Week 7: The Articles of Confederation (1777–1781)

**Section III: The Establishment of the American Government**

Week 8: The Constitutional Convention and Ratification, 1787–1789

Week 9: The Federalist Papers

Week 10: The Constitution of the United States

Week 11: The Bill of Rights