INSTITUTIONAL SYLLABUS

(Check One)

___ New Course (OR)  Date of Last Review _____
___ X Substantive Change in Existing Course

I. Course Title: American Thought

II. Course Prefix/Number: HIST 436

III. Credit Hours: 3

IV. Prerequisites: None

V. Catalog Description: The interaction of religious ideas, practices, and aspirations in United States History, 1607 to Present (same as HIST 436 and Phil 436)

VI. Curricular Relationships: This course is cross listed as GOVT/HIST/PHIL 436. As HIST 436, it is part of the elective block of U. S. History courses taken by History/Government majors; It may also be taken by Government emphasis students as GOVT 436 as part of the political theory component of that emphasis; Philosophy minors and Religious Studies minors take the course as PHIL 436 as part of their fifteen hour block of upper division electives.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes: Through successfully completing this course, the student will:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the major bodies of religious thought, thinkers, ideas, practices and their impact on society and politics in the United States since 1607 through formal tests, class activities, and outside writing assignments.

• Identify in its scholarly context an appropriate research problem and demonstrate the ability to analyze, appraise, and understand historical scholarship and research by producing an acceptable research paper and scholarly book essays.

VIII. Content Outline: The course is typically apportioned into three units as follows: Unit A—Founding Beliefs, Visions, and Transformations, 1588-1800 Unit B—From Democratization and Reforms to Pluralism, 1800-1950; Unit C—From Cold War to Culture Wars, Religious Ideas in the Contemporary United States, 1950-Present.

IX. Course Procedures: Students stand for three in-class formal exams including a comprehensive final. Students are expected to attend class, having read critically the material assigned for the course, although this is not assessed directly.
X. Required/Recommended Readings: This course may consist of a standard survey text, edited anthologies, primary text documents, and scholarly monographs for the scholarly book essays; Below are examples:

**Core Texts:** Sydney Ahlstrom, *A Religious History of the American People.* Yale, 2004; or Edwin Scott Gaustad, *Religious History of America: The Heart of the American Story from Colonial Times to Today,* HarperOne, 2004


**Primary Text Documents:** Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,* (1741) http://edwards.yale.edu/major-works/sinners-in-the-hands-of-an-angry-god/


XI Any Issues Unique to this Course: N/A

XII Additional Issues of the Department's Choosing: N/A

XIII Syllabus Statement Regarding Course Adaptations or Accommodations:

Should the student require course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, the student shall provide the instructor with the appropriate documentation as specified by applicable law and institutional policy.