

HISTORY 11
SPRING 1996
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865

INSTRUCTOR: Randy Genera

Office: He 51 (Home Economics Building)
Office Hours: 11-12:30 MWF and
12:30-1:30 TTh

REQUIRED TEXT: The American People, Creating a Nation and a Society,
Vol. I, Third Edition, Nash, Jeffrey, et al.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course traces the evolution of the United States from the colonization of North America up to 1865. Topics covered include colonial society in the 1600's and 1700's, the American Revolution, American political institutions, westward expansion, slavery, and the Civil War.

The objective of this course is not to memorize (and then promptly forget) a bunch of historical trivia. Our goal is to gain an understanding of the broad forces that have shaped the economy, government, and rich, multicultural society of the United States. **BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE THEMES COVERED IN THIS CLASS DO RELATE DIRECTLY TO AMERICA (AND YOUR LIVES) TODAY!** Wars, social conflict, immigration, and economic development represent continuing trends in American history. Studying the past **CAN** help us understand the present, and that is the primary purpose of this course.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The overall course grade depends on the components outlined below. A point system will be used to calculate each student's grade for the semester.

- Examinations. There will be five examinations covering assigned readings and course lectures. Each examination counts for 100 points.
- Quizzes. There will be as many as eight brief quizzes and/or homework assignments during the semester. Total quiz points will equal up to 75 points.
- Term Paper. Each student will complete a brief (three to five pages) term paper concerning an issue of historical interpretation. This essay assignment will count for 100 points. **EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD PAPERS WILL RECEIVE BONUS POINTS.**
- History Notebook (Lecture notes and textbook homework assignments). Students will maintain a separate history notebook containing class lecture notes and a set of homework assignments for each chapter of the course textbook. Thorough lecture notes and completion of all study guide assignments will result in a score of 25 points. **EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD NOTEBOOKS WILL RECEIVE BONUS POINTS.**

- Demonstrating satisfactory progress. A basic expectation of this class is that students will do the required reading, come to class prepared for discussion, and show an adequate knowledge of the course material on quizzes and exams. Students who receive extremely low grades on the first two quizzes and first two exams (that is, low "F"s—scores below 50%) are not making a satisfactory effort in the class and are subject to being dropped.

HOW YOUR OVERALL COURSES GRADE IS CALCULATED

Total points: 500 (five examinations) + 75 (quizzes) + 100 (term paper) + 25 (history notebook) = 700 points for the semester.

Based on 700 points as the maximum for the class, students who earn 90% or more of the possible points will receive an A; 89 to 80% equals a B; 79 to 70% represents a C; 69 to 60% amounts to a D; 50% or lower translates into a failing grade.

BE AWARE OF THE DROP DEADLINE DATE!!! Students may withdraw from this course without a letter grade until the **NINTH WEEK OF THE SEMESTER**. After Friday, March 8, 1996, every student enrolled in the class **WILL RECEIVE A LETTER GRADE**.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (Read this carefully; it's critically important!)

Regular and prompt attendance is expected. **STUDENTS ARE LIMITED TO SIX ABSENCES FOR THE SEMESTER**. Absences for authorized reasons (verified illness, bereavement, or because of some required school activity) may be made up. To make up an absence, a student must complete a specific assignment identified by the instructor within one week of the absence. **NOTE!** There is a penalty for excessive absences. Students who have accumulated more than **six** absences before March 8, 1996 may be dropped from the class. After that date, a student will lose five points for every absence beyond the limit of six. **IN SHORT, COME TO CLASS AND BE ON TIME, PLEASE!**

KEYS TO SUCCESS

You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a history major to succeed in this class. You simply need to work steadily, consistently, and show some interest in the issues we cover. Come to class, take good notes on lectures, read the textbook carefully, and be ready to participate in class. If you do these things, you're bound to be successful.

FINAL COMMENTS

If you decide to stay with this class, welcome. I promise you my best effort to make this course stimulating, relevant, and challenging. In return, I expect you to show some intellectual curiosity and to put forth your best effort. Making this class a success will require a joint commitment from students and instructor. Let's do it. Good luck.

CLASS POLICY REGARDING TEST MAKEUPS

Tests represent the primary basis for your grade in this course. The instructor will notify you well in advance as to the date of an upcoming test. It is your responsibility to prepare for the exam and be present on the scheduled date.

Nothing should prevent you from being present for an exam except the most urgent kind of personal emergency. **Taking a scheduled exam on the assigned day and time is an absolute priority for this class.**

EXCEPTION:

In some cases, you may have a school activity or personal appointment which conflicts with a scheduled test. Typically, you will know about the time conflict beforehand. In this case, contact the instructor in advance and make arrangements to take the test at another time. Be sure to make these arrangements before the scheduled test.

IF YOU MISS A SCHEDULED EXAM:

- (1) You have made the instructor unhappy.
- (2) The exam must be made up **IMMEDIATELY** upon your return to class. Contact the instructor right away and schedule yourself for a makeup exam.
- (3) The makeup exam will be significantly different from the exam taken on the scheduled date. It will cover the same chapters, but it will consist mostly of essay and fill-in questions. In other words, this is not an easy alternative. It represents a more difficult alternative, and you are strongly advised to clear your calendar, give the test the priority it demands, and take the test on time.