

HISTORY 11

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865

FALL 1998 MWF 7:00-7:50

INSTRUCTOR: David R. Singer (Home phone: 626-0216)

REQUIRED TEXT: *American History, A Survey*, Vol. I, Ninth Edition,
by Alan Brinkley (bring to Class, please)

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 1600s and 1700s, the American Revolution, American political institutions, westward expansion, slavery, and the Civil War.

The objective of the 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. **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 EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Seating for this course will be, where ever you want to sit, except outside or on the floor. If you need to be seated near the front of the class, let me know and I'll take care of the situation, pronto.

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.

- I. *Examinations*: There will be three examinations covering assigned readings and course lectures. Each examination is worth 100 points. All exams must be taken!
- II. *Term Paper*: Each student will complete a brief (three to five page) term paper concerning a historical topic OF YOUR CHOOSING, which must deal with this course material. This paper is worth 100 points.
- III. *Quizzes*: There will be a total of twelve quizzes which will be based solely on the reading material in the text book chapters. Each quiz is worth 10 points, your

lowest two scores will be dropped, no make-up quizzes!! Thus the quizzes are worth a total of 100 points.

HOW YOUR GRADE IS CALCULATED

Total Points: 300 (three examinations) + 100 (term paper) + 100 (quizzes)
= 500 points for the semester.

Grades will be assigned on a straight percentage basis: 90%+ = A,
80%-89% = B, 70%-79% = C, 60%-69% = D, 59% and down = F.

Extra Credit is available on request, this will take the form of an assigned book review.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (Read very, very carefully)

Regular and prompt attendance is required. 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, but you must contact me (the instructor) within one week of the absence in question. Students will lose 25 points per absence beyond the six allotted! Note: a tardy is equal to half an absence.

DROP DEADLINE

Last day to drop this class... Friday, October 16th!

Holidays

September 7th Labor Day-Monday

November 11th Veteran's Day-Wednesday

November 26&27th . Thanksgiving Holidays-Thursday & Friday