

# HISTORY 12

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865

### SPRING 1998

**INSTRUCTOR:** Randy Genera

**Office:** HE 51 (Home Economics Building)  
**Office Hours:** MWF, 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
TTh, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *American History. A Survey*, Vol. II, Ninth Edition, by Alan Brinkley

**ALSO REQUIRED:** Set of textbook homework assignments prepared by the instructor. These are available for purchase in the KRCC Book Store.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course traces the evolution of the United States from the aftermath of the Civil War in 1865 up to the present. Topics covered include the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War, the settlement of the West, the Indian Wars, immigration, the First World War, and the Great Depression. We will also study America's involvement in World War II, the postwar economic boom, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the various historical developments of the last 20 years.

The objective of this course is **NOT** to memorize (and then promptly forget) a bunch of trivial facts about the past. Our goal is to gain an understanding of the broad forces that have shaped the politics, economy, and rich, multicultural society of the United States. **THE THEMES COVERED IN THIS CLASS DO RELATE DIRECTLY TO AMERICA (AND YOUR LIVES) TODAY!** Wars, crime, political conflict, social problems, all these aspects of contemporary life represent continuing trends in American history. Studying the past **CAN** help us understand the present, and that is the primary purpose of this class.

#### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Seating for this course will be assigned by the instructor. A seating chart, based essentially on alphabetical order, will be established by the end of the second week. Students who want or need to sit close to the front of the classroom will be accommodated.

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 is worth 100 points, and all five count toward the overall course grade. **NO EXAM SCORE WILL BE DROPPED.**
- **Term Paper.** Each student will complete a brief (three- to five- page) term paper concerning a historical topic assigned by the instructor. The paper counts for 100 points.
- **Additional Assignments.** There will be a variety of additional assignments consisting of quizzes, homework, or turning in class lecture notes for credit. These assignments will count for a maximum of 75 points.
- **History Notebook.** For this class, students should purchase a notebook or binder in which they will keep the materials required for History 12. This HISTORY NOTEBOOK counts for 25 points and consists of the following items:
  - Class lecture notes. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE NOTES ON LECTURES IN THIS COURSE.** Thorough notes are a critical aid to successful performance on course examinations.
  - Homework assignments for the textbook. The instructor has developed a set of homework questions for each chapter of the textbook; these are designed to help students comprehend the reading material and prepare for the exams. Students should read the appropriate chapter and complete the accompanying homework questions as they are assigned by the instructor.

Students should bring their History Notebooks, including the two items identified above, to every class session. The instructor will collect and grade the notebooks during the last four weeks of the semester. Thorough lecture notes and completion of homework assignments will result in a score of 25 points. **EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD NOTEBOOKS WILL RECEIVE BONUS POINTS.**