

## History 11

Fall 1999

Social and Political History of the United States From Early  
Colonization Through Reconstruction

Professor: Tim Springer

Time 6:00pm-8:50pm, Wednesdays, Selma Center, Reedley College.

Required Texts: *American History: A Survey*, 9th ed. Alan Brinkley.  
Other readings will also be required.

This course will be examining the history of the United States of America from the Colonial period to Reconstruction. Among the various topics and themes to be discussed and analyzed will be: the Age of Exploration, early New England, Religion in Colonial America, Slavery, Colonial Society, the American Revolution, The Constitution, the expansion of the American Nation, the Antebellum South, the Mexican-American War, The Civil War, and Reconstruction.

The structure of this course will be lecture and then discussion; you will be expected to participate in the discussion portion of the class. To facilitate this process, handouts will be distributed periodically.

The purpose of this course is to objectively analyze the past so that we might be given an insight into the present. History is more than just memorizing a bunch of names and dates; its purpose is to provide us with an understanding of the human condition --past and present. If we can gain an understanding of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the people who have lived before us, then maybe we can understand ourselves better and the world in which we live. It is in this sense that historical interpretation and analysis is relevant --what has happened in the past has a direct bearing on us today.

**GRADING:** Your grade will be determined by these criteria:

**EXAMINATIONS.** You will be given a total of 3 examinations on the main text throughout the semester, including the final. Each exam will consist of 25 matching identification questions worth 2 points each, plus a choice of one essay question worth 50 points.

Total possible points for exams: 100 pts. X 3 tests = 300 points.

**PRESENTATIONS** The class will be required to break up into small groups, each group giving a presentation on a particular subject covered within the scope of the class. **PRESENTATIONS WILL NOT LAST MORE THAN THIRTY (30) MINUTES EACH!!**

Total possible points for presentations: 100 points per

student, each student is responsible for his share of the presentation.

Total possible points for the presentation = 100 points.

GRADING SUMMARY: EXAMS = 300 points  
 PRESENTATIONS = 100 points  
 FINAL TOTAL = 400 possible points

Based on 400 points, your semester grade will be determined as follows: 90% and above = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79 % = C; 60 to 69% = D; 59% or lower = F.

ATTENDANCE: In order to succeed in this course, regular attendance is a must. Please note that **STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN THREE ABSENCES FOR THE SEMESTER WILL BE DROPPED!!** Students whose absences exceed the limit of three after the drop date (FRIDAY OCTOBER 15) will receive an "F" for the class. However, as a bonus, students with no more than 1 absence will earn 20 extra credit points.

FINAL COMMENTS: You do not need to be a history major to do well in this class. You simply need to work consistently; i.e., keeping pace with the reading assignments, taking notes on the lectures, being ready to participate in class discussions, knowing the material on the study guides, and doing the research of your group presentations EARLY --not the night before they are due! If you accomplish the above, you should do well. Finally, if you have any questions, --ask!!

#### TENTATIVE OUTLINE

AUGUST	16-20	Week 1	Introduction and Ch. 1
	23-27	Week 2	Ch. 2
	30-SEPT 3	Week 3	Ch. 3
SEPTEMBER	6-10	Week 4	Ch. 4
	13-17	Week 5	Ch. 5
	20-24	Week 6	EXAM on Sept. 22 on chapters 1,2,3,4,5 Ch. 6
	27-OCT 1	Week 7	Ch. 7
OCTOBER	4-8	Week 8	Ch. 8
	11-15	Week 9	Ch. 9
	15	FRIDAY,	DROP DEADLINE

	18-22	Week 10	Ch. 10
	25-29	Week 11	EXAM on Oct. 27 on Chapters. 6,7,8,9,10 Ch. 11
NOVEMBER	1-5	Week 12	Ch. 12
	8-12	Week 13	Ch. 13
	15-19	Week 14	Ch. 14 --GROUP PRESENTATIONS
	22-26	Week 15	Ch. 14 --THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
	29-DEC 3	Week 16	Ch. 14
DECEMBER	6-10	Week 17	Ch. 15
	13-17	Week 18	FINAL ON DEC. 15. Chaps. 11,12,13,14,15

\*NOTE: The professor reserves the right to change this syllabus as need arrises.