

# HONORS HISTORY 12

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865

### SPRING 2000

INSTRUCTOR: Randy Genera

Office: HUM 51 (Humanities Building)  
Office Hours: MWF, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
T/Th, 12:30PM - 2:00 PM

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *American History - A Survey*, Vol. II, Tenth Edition, by Alan Brinkley. In addition to the assigned text, there will be a number of supplementary articles and handouts.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course traces the evolution of the United States from the aftermath of the Civil War up to the present. The class will begin with an introduction to the academic discipline of History and examine how historical interpretations have changed over the years. Then we'll cover all the main features of American history from 1865 to 1996, touching on such themes as industrialization, modernization, immigration, race relations, economic development, wars, government, and so forth. The class will conclude with a look at American society today, focusing on the challenges facing the United States in the early 21st century.

Our objective in this class is to gain an understanding of the broad forces that have shaped the politics, economy, 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, crime, social problems, your standard of living now and in the future, the jobs available when you graduate—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 purpose of this class.

#### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The overall grade for this class depends on the elements outlined below.

- Three analytical papers based on topics assigned by the instructor. All papers will be three to five pages in length and typewritten. 100 points for each assignment.
- Two midterm examinations and a final examination. 100 points each.
- Quizzes and homework assignments. 100 points total.

#### HOW YOUR OVERALL GRADE IS CALCULATED

Based on 700 possible points for the semester, students with 90% or more of the total will receive an A; 89 to 80% equals a B; 79 to 70% represents a C; and so forth.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Be aware of the new drop date! Students may withdraw from a class without a letter grade until the **NINTH WEEK OF THE SEMESTER**. After Friday, March 10, 2000, everyone enrolled in the class will receive a letter grade.

Regular and prompt attendance is expected. Students are limited to six absences for the semester. Absences for authorized reasons (verified illness, bereavement, or a college-sponsored activity) may be made up by completing 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 Friday, March 10, 2000, may be dropped from the class. After that date, a student will lose five points for every absence beyond the limit of six. **PLEASE, DO NOT MISS MORE THAN SIX CLASSES.**

Final exam date

## **KEYS TO SUCCESS**

Strong writing skills, creativity, and the ability to think logically and analytically represent the real keys to success in this class. Class participation is also important. An Honors class should resemble a seminar more than a lecture class. Some lecture is inevitable in a history class, but discussion, interpretation, and the sharing of ideas are fundamental to the success of the course. This places a particular burden on each student to prepare consistently for each class session and participate in discussions. In other words, this class is too small and intimate for anyone to be apathetic, unprepared, or passive. Each one of us has an obligation to contribute something.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

I look forward to teaching this course. As a small, seminar-like classroom situation, it has the potential to be a great learning experience for all of us. I promise you my best effort to make the course stimulating, relevant, and challenging. In return, I expect a similar level of involvement on your part. Making this class a success requires a joint commitment from all participants. Let's do it. Welcome and good luck.