Course Syllabus

HISTORY 11.  Section #54476 Syllabus

U.S. History to 1877

Fall 2023

Instructor:  Ron Froese

Email:  [ron.froese@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:ron.froese@reedleycollege.edu).  Messages should be sent either via email or through Canvas.

Required text: *U.S. History*. Contributing authors are P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, and Paul Vickery. This textbook is published by Open Stax.  Accessed by using the following link:  https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history

Course Description and Objective

Before we leave on our trip, we will need to learn how to read maps and determine the values of primary and secondary maps. The first leg of our journey will start with stops in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans, and in Europe before its age of exploration and expansion. Then we will head across the Atlantic to view the interchange of cultures and ethnicities between the native Americans and the encroaching Europeans. The next exit on our trip will observe the development of and differences between various colonial experiments. Then we will head to our ultimate destination: British North America and the relations and differences between the mother ship and the its offshoot daughter communities. The strained relations ultimately lead to the creation of a first European-based independent nation outside of the eastern hemisphere. The road will then follow the curves of this growing nation and the various challenges that it faced both internally and externally. We will then visit the growing disparity and divergence of the northern and southern sections of the country that lead to a disastrous and devastating conflict. This journey will end with efforts to bind the wounds that were both systemic and self-inflicted, wounds that are enduring and still surface today in the country.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1.  Identify the origins of America’s distinctive political traditions and governmental institutions.

2.  Analyze the fundamental changes in the American economy from pre-industrial times to the late 1800s.

3.  Identify the key trends and movements in American cultural, social, and intellectual life through 1877.

4.  Analyze the causes and consequences of America’s foreign policy, wars, and territorial expansion through 1877.

5.  Identify the contributions and changing roles of gender, ethnic, and racial groups in American history through 1877.

6. Demonstrate the ability to interpret primary and secondary sources, discern between the two and to compose an argument that uses them, as appropriate, for support.

Course Assignments

1. Introductory Video. Take an introductory video of yourself and upload it in the assignment section of Canvas [5 points].
2. Read the text and watch the PowerPoint video lectures. Being prepared for class video lectures will improve comprehension and enhance test scoring performance. It will also promote more contributions to the discussions.  There will be weekly quizzes based on the PowerPoints/lectures.
3. Attendance and Participation.Student attendance is monitored by the submission of assignments, tests, papers, and the viewing of lectures. Although grades are not given for attendance, regular/weekly visits and submissions in the Canvas portal will indicate a student’s intent to continue in the class. If a person is unable to maintain a steady pace throughout the class, please advise the instructor of any extenuating circumstances so that late penalties may be waived.  **If a student fails to do any assignment within the first week, the student will be dropped from the class**. However, if the student notifies the instructor of the reason for his/her failure to participate, the student may not be dropped from the class. Student inactivity for a prolonged period [two weeks or more] may result in the student being dropped from the class.
4. Writing Assignments/Discussions. There will be discussions/writing assignments associated with the first five modules [60 points].
5. Tests/Quizzes. There will be tests/quizzes each week associated with the lectures.  Module 2 has a 5-point quiz to be completed after watching the PowerPoint video lecture #1 and then there is a 12-point quiz at the end of the same module [Module 2].  Every other module will have quizzes associated with the video lecture that will be due at least weekly.  Remember to take the quizzes on time, because there is a 10% reduction per day until day five. If the test is taken between five and ten days after the due date, there will be a 50% grade reduction/penalty. After day 10, zero credit will be given.  If a student receives a deficient overall grade [D/F] at any point in the semester, the Starfish Alert system may be notified.  Reedley College is desirous to see all students succeed academically and will provide any assistance deemed necessary to that end.  Such services may include getting help from a history tutor at the Tutorial Center [33 quizzes=204 points].
6. The Research Project.This assignment will consist of 4 parts:  the first assignment will be to **analyze the evidence** in two primary documents [10 points]. Everyone will be comparing the American Declaration of Independence to the Dutch declaration which was posted almost 200 years earlier.  This is **due on Sunday, 1 October**.  The second part, due on Sun**day, 15 October**, is to **formulate a thesis** [5 points]. The third part is to create an outline [5 points]. The **outline** is due on Tues**day, 31 October**.  The fourth part is **the final 1,200 word draft**, complete with footnoting and a bibliography [80 points], which is due on **Thursday, 30 November**.  The final draft must be submitted to the Assignment/Turnitin section of Canvas. If your paper lands in the red zone of Turnitin and has a score of 75% or more in the similarity index/score, the assignment will not be accepted, will receive a zero grade, and the offence will be reported to the dean’s office.  If your paper lands between 50% and 75% in the similarity index, your paper will be downgraded.
7. Office Hours + Extra Credit. A student may seek assistance regarding anything related to this course. I will hold office hours via Zoom at the following time slot: 1.00pm-2.00pm on Wednesdays. However, if a student needs to contact me outside of this time frame, because of a conflict with this office hour schedule, the instructor is available for a Zoom session at any mutually-agreed-upon time. Extra credit is given for two person-to-person Zoom conferences over the course of the semester [up to 2%], but the value will only be added at the end of the semester. Another opportunity for extra credit will be available during the semester. During Constitution Week, our local congressional representative, Jim Costa, elected last November to represent California District #21, will be on the Reedley College campus. Jim Costa is tentatively scheduled to speak at 11.00am on Friday 22 September. Participation is purely voluntary but will result in a one per cent jump in one’s final grade. Total possible extra points available= 2 percentage points.

Grading

The total number of points to be awarded is 369.

Grade Distribution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Final Grade | Final Percentage |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

If a student has a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media [i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.] per the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.  If a student thinks that he/she might qualify because of an existing disability, contact Disabled Students Programs & Services at 638.0332.  Reasonable accommodation will be made for those with legitimate disabilities.

Everyone who participates in the educational process at Reedley College is expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work.  Cases of academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism) may have serious consequences that range from partial credit after work is redone to zero credit (if it is an egregious offence).

Communication Policy

1. It is very important that I am in constant contact with you throughout this semester. If you are doing well and doing every assignment in a timely fashion, I still would like to hear from you. If you are struggling with an assignment and/or lagging in the weekly readings and assignments, feel free to ask me how I can encourage you to strive on.
2. My preferred mode of communication is through the course’s Canvas Inbox. In that window, you will click on the ‘pencil’ icon on the top of the screen to open a dialog box. I will usually respond to these messages within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me within that time frame, please try to resend the message, because I may not have received the message or may have accidentally deleted it!
3. You can also communicate with me through email. My email address is: [ron.froese@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:ron.froese@reedleycollege.edu). Again, you should hear back from me within 24 hours.
4. You can also visit with me during Office Hours. This will be through Zoom and there will be a waiting room where you will wait until admitted into my ‘virtual office’. Since I am an adjunct instructor, my office hours have not been awarded yet, but they usually start in the 6th week of the semester. Tentatively they will start on Wednesday, 17 February and will take place on Wednesdays at 1.00pm for one hour.
5. Another way that you can communicate with me or with other students in this class, is through the Question and Answer Discussion Board. Here you can ask questions about anything relating to History 11, and I or your colleagues will share our insights.

Drop Policy

1. If a student does not complete the introductory video/written assignment [birthplace, high school, academic goals, ultimate destination for work] by the end of the first week, the student will be dropped from the class unless the instructor has been notified with a valid reason for a late submission.
2. If a student fails to participate in the class, submit any work or contribute significantly to any discussion, for more than two weeks, then that student will be dropped from the class unless the student has notified the instructor of the reason for the hiatus. Valid absences may include illness or injury.
3. After the mid-way point in the semester, at the end of the 9th week, if the student is failing and has not withdrawn from the class, the student will be unable to withdraw from the class without receiving a deficient letter grade.

Late Work Policy

1. If a student submits work after the due date, Canvas will assess a late submission penalty. If this submission is only a few minutes late [no longer than 15 minutes], the instructor may waive the penalty.
2. For each day that the assignment is past due, the student will lose 10%. After ten days, there will be no credit given for the assignment.  It is extremely important that each student keeps up with the weekly assignments in order not to incur late penalties.

Important Dates

1. Last day to drop this course and qualify for a refund:  **Friday, 18 August**.
2. Last day to register for a full-term class:  **Friday, 25 August.**
3. Last day to drop this course on WebAdvisor and avoid a “W” on one’s academic record:  **Friday, 25 August**.
4. Last day to change to/from pass/no pass grading basis:  **Friday, 8 September.**
5. Last day to drop this course and avoid a letter grade on one’s academic record:  **Friday, 6 October.**
6. End of the semester:  **Friday, 8 December**.

Module Schedule

*Week 1. Syllabus & Research Paper quiz and introductory video/PowerPoint due on 9 and 11 August [Module 1].*

*Weeks 2-3. Discussion on La Reconquista is due on 16 August. Discussion on the Fall of Constantinople is due on 19 August. The Astrolabe assignment is due on 22 August. Quiz 1 on the Pre-Columbian Americas is due on 24 August. Quiz 2 on Colonizations is due on 27 August [Module 2].*

*Week 4. Servant and Slave Codes assignment due on 30 August. Quiz 3 on English Colonizations due on 3 September [Module 3].*

*Weeks 5-6. The First Religious Awakening is due on 6 September. Quiz 4 on the American Colonies due on 9 September. Quiz 5 on the French and Indian War and the Road to Revolt due on 12 September [Module 4].*

*Weeks 6-7. Discussion on the effect of the war for independence on slaves due on 15 September. Quiz 6 on the road to independence due on 18 September. Quiz 7 on the war for independence due on 21 September. Quiz 8 on America in the 1780s due on 24 September [Module 5].*

*Weeks 8-9. Quiz 9 on New Beginnings due on 27 September. Quiz 10 on the Constitutional Convention due on 29 September.* ***Part 1 of the writing assignment comparing the Dutch and American declarations due on 1 October.*** *Quiz 11 on the Struggle for Ratification on 2 October. Quiz 12 on the 1790s due on 5 October [Module 6].*

*Weeks 9-10-11. Quiz 13 on the Jeffersonian Era due on 8 October. Quiz 14 on the War of 1812 due on 10 October. Quiz 15 America from 1815 to 1819 due on 13 October. Quiz 16 on 1820s America due on 15 October.* ***Part 2 of the writing assignment: formulating a thesis on the document comparison due on 15 October.*** *Quiz 17 on Political Partisanship due on 17 October [Module 7].*

*Weeks 12-13. Quiz 18 on Power to the People due on 19 October. Quiz 19 on Jacksonian Democracy due on 22 October. Quiz 20 on the Emerging Whigs due on 25 October. Quiz 21 on Infrastructure, Immigration and Infighting due on 28 October.* ***Part 3 of the writing assignment: outlining your research paper comparing the documents due on 31 October.*** *Quiz 22 on Capitalism and Labor (1820s-1850s) due on 1 November [Module 8].*

*Week 14. Quiz 23 on Cotton due on 4 November. Quiz 24 on the Slave System, Parts 1 and 2 due on 7 November [Module 9].*

*Week 15. Quiz 25 on Antebellum America due on 10 November. Quiz 26 on Public Policy on Education, Alcohol, etc. due on 14 November. Quiz 27 on Abolition vs. Free Soiling due on 16 November [Module 10].*

*Week 16. Quiz 28 on Aggressive American Expansion due on 19 November [Module 11].*

*Week 16. Quiz 29 on Popular Sovereignty due on 22 November [Module 12].*

*Week 17. Quiz 30 on Civil War, Part 1 due on 26 November. Quiz 31 on Civil War, Part 2 due on 29 November [Module 13].* ***Part 4 of the writing assignment: the research paper due on 30 November****.*

*Week 18. Quiz 32 on Repairing the Divorce due on 3 December. Quiz 33 on Deconstructing Reconstruction due on 6 December [Module 14].*

Course Aids

SELF-SERVICE has replaced WEBADVISOR for Students

**To access Self-Service, use must log in through your portal at the Reedley College website.**

**From this point, you can go to Canvas, Self-Service, your college email, Starfish, etc.**

**The helpdesk hours are 8-5 Monday thru Friday.  
The email address is**[helpdesk@scccd.edu](mailto:helpdesk@scccd.edu)**-- try to use this first  
The phone number is 244-5960 -- try to use this for emergencies only.**

Instructors and students can access Canvas by going to [https://scccd.instructure.com](https://scccd.instructure.com/)

**Students** – log in using the following procedure:

**Username**: Your 7-digit student ID number.

**Password**: If you have not previously changed your password, it is:  
*First name initial* (upper case) + *last name initial* (lowercase) + *date of birth* (mmddyy)  
**Example**: John Smith born on July 9th of 1988     Password =Js070988