History of the United States to 1877 Syllabus

Mountain View College

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: History of the United States to 1877
Course Number: HIST 1301
Section Number: 62400
Semester/Year: Winter/2019-2020
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: Online
Certification Date: Dec. 18, 2019
Last Day to Withdraw: Jan. 4, 2020

Course Prerequisites

Developmental Reading 0305 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Description:

This is a general survey of American history from colonization through the Civil War. Its goals are to provide an introduction to the major themes and historical developments that took place during this period, as well as introduce students to the methods used in historical research, analysis, and writing. Topics include Native American and European contact, the development of the colonies, the rise of slavery, the American Revolution, industrialization, reform movements, westward expansion, and the Civil War. The course will consist of both lecture and group discussion. Students are expected to approach the course material in a critical and professional manner. This includes attending lecture and section discussion, and by completing all assignments on time. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your final grade. All exams must be completed or the student will automatically fail the course.
Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of History 1301 students should be able to:

1. Examine the social, political, and economic developments in the major colonial regions in North America.
2. Analyze and explain the social, economic, and political causes and consequences of the American Revolution.
3. Describe and evaluate the political, diplomatic, social, and economic developments occurring in the United States during its early national period.
4. Describe and assess the significant causes and consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction.
5. Apply historical perspective to contemporary issues in the United States.
6. Assess the significance of geography in shaping America to 1877.
7. Analyze the meanings of freedom, equality, and American identity to 1877.

Texas Core Objectives

The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Required Course Materials

Paul E. Johnson, *Sam Patch, the Famous Jumper*, ISBN: 0809083884
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Discuss. Forums</td>
<td>5 @ 3 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>6 @ 3 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Quiz 6 is optional, extra credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>2 @ 10 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>1 Midterm @ 25 points</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Final @ 25 points</td>
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**Final Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92-100</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-91</td>
<td>80-91%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Description of Graded Work**

1. Participation (15 points) is an important part of this course. Each week students will be asked to participate in one (1) discussion forums. There are a total of fifteen (15) forums for the semester. These forums will pose a question and ask students to weigh in on it. The question will involve a topic under examination for that week. Students are to respond in detail to the question but it is also important to engage classmates’ opinions, observations, and/or perspectives in these discussions. A detailed overview of each forum can be found in the DISCUSSION section of Blackboard. Participation in these forums is **MANDATORY**. If students do not respond to the discussion questions by the specified due date, their grade will suffer as a consequence. Also the content and quality of students’ participation will be taken into account. Generally speaking, discussion posts that fully engage the central question and respond to classmates/professor’s perspectives will receive full credit for this portion of the course.

2. Take-Home Quizzes – There will be five take-home quizzes that will be assigned throughout the course of the semester. These quizzes will ask you to address a specific issue within the assigned readings. The point of these quizzes is to ensure that students engage the readings and connect the themes and insights to the general historical narrative. You may work on these individually or in groups. If you choose to work in a group, however, you MAY NOT turn in word-for-word replicas. In other words, each student should have a relatively unique response to the questions posed in the quizzes. Please note well: **late quizzes will NOT be accepted**. If you fail to submit the quiz by the specified due date, it will result in a zero.

3. Papers – You will be asked to write **two** short papers, each approximately 2-3 pages in length and valued each at 10% of your overall grade. These papers will ask you to put an assigned novel into “conversation” with the rest of the course materials – assigned readings out of TAN as well as lecture materials. These papers are to be no shorter than two full pages and no longer than three.
All papers must be typed, in 12-point font, with one inch margins on all sides. For each day a paper is late, 2.5 points will be deducted from the final grade.

The theme around which these papers will be organized will be distributed at a later date, approximately one week prior to when the papers are due.

4. Midterm – There will be one midterm in this course. It will consist of a series of identification/short answer questions and longer essay questions. Students will be given a study guide one week prior to the exam. There will be no make-up exams for the midterm.

5. Final Exam – The final exam format will be similar to the midterm. It will cover the second half of the course with one exception. One of the essay questions will demand that you draw together major themes over the entire course. In other words, one of the required essays is cumulative. Students will be given a study guide one week prior to the exam. There will be no make-up exams for the final.

**Attendance and Your Final Grade**

Repeated tardiness and frequent absence will negatively affect your participation grade. You cannot fully participate in the course if you frequently miss all or part of class sessions, and you are disrupting the flow of the class as a whole when you come in late. Therefore, even if you actively participate in class discussions when you are in class, your participation grade will suffer if you are chronically late and/or absent. Each student will be granted two (2) unexcused absences throughout the semester and thereafter, each additional absence will have an adverse effect on her/his grade.

**Late Work Policy**

Late discussion forums and quizzes will NOT be accepted.

For every day an assigned PAPER is late, 2.5 points will be deducted from the final score.

If a student is unable to take an exam in the specified date, the responsibility falls on the student to find a date/time to complete that exam.

**Institutional Policies**

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

Mountain View Institutional Policies ([http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/syllabipolicies](http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/syllabipolicies))
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number/Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Dec. 16-21</td>
<td>Worlds Collide</td>
<td>Sources for America's History (SFA), Ch. 1-5; Watch Video Lectures 1-11; Watch Shaping America, Lessons 1-8; read Douglass</td>
<td>Complete Discussion Forums 1 &amp; 2 by Dec. 20, 11:59 p.m. Complete Quiz 1 by Dec. 17 Complete Quiz 2 by Dec. 18 Submit Paper 1 in Blackboard by Dec. 21, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>2: Dec. 23-28</td>
<td>Creating American Society</td>
<td>SFA, Ch. 6-9; Watch Video Lectures 12-20; Watch Shaping America, Lessons 9-12</td>
<td>Complete Discussion Forums 3 &amp; 4 by Dec. 27, 11:59 p.m. Complete Quiz 3 by Dec. 26, 11:59 p.m. Complete Midterm Exam in Blackboard by Dec. 28, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3: Dec. 30 – Jan. 4</td>
<td>Republican Culture and Economic Development</td>
<td>SFA, Ch. 8-11; Watch Video Lectures 21-30; Watch Shaping America, Lessons 13-18; read Johnson</td>
<td>Complete Discussion Forums 5 Complete Quiz 4 by Jan. 2, 11:59 p.m. Submit Paper 2 in Blackboard by Jan. 4, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4: Jan. 6-9</td>
<td>Crisis in the Union and the Reconstruction of a Nation</td>
<td>SFA, Ch. 12-14; Watch Video Lectures 31-41; Watch Shaping America, Lesson 19-26</td>
<td>Complete Quiz 5 by Jan. 7, 11:59 p.m. Complete Quiz 6 (optional) by Jan. 9, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5: Jan. 9</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Complete the Final Exam in Blackboard by Jan. 9, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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