

# HISTORY 121

US: 1877 to Current

Fall, 2013

Imperial Valley College

**Lisa Solomon, M.A.**

Office: Room 807C

Phone: 760-355-6453

Email: [lisa.solomon@imperial.edu](mailto:lisa.solomon@imperial.edu)

## Food for thought

"We shall never have equal rights until we take them, nor respect until we command it." (Belva Lockwood)

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." (Gandhi)

"Education is a vaccine for violence". (Edward James Olmos)

## IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

**HIST 121:** U.S. History since 1877  
**Time:** TR 7:00am - 8:25am (CRN 10593)  
TR 8:35am -10:00am (CRN 10596)

**Term:** Fall, 2013  
**Room:** 208  
“ “

**Office Hours (subject to change):**

MW	10:30am – 11:30am
T	10:30am – 11:45am
Th(R)	10:30am – 12:00noon

**Appointments:** I am available for meetings beyond the office hours. However, because of other obligations, students should contact me to set up an appointment. Contact can be made before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

**Course Description:** The major events of United States history from 1877 to the present will be studied. This examination will include the social, political, economic, racial, gender, cultural and intellectual changes that have occurred, and their relevance to current events. Of special note will be an examination of America's rise to global power.

**Course and Student Outcome:** Upon the successful completion of the course, students will have a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events of the modern period, articulate the roles played by various ethnic and gender groups, as well as be able to describe some of the recurring themes during this time in U.S. history. Students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) evaluate a primary or secondary source by the end of the course.

**Text:** *Created Equal* (Volume II), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is available at the IVC Bookstore. There is also a reference copy available in the library. ISBN 0-205-58584-1.

Additional readings/articles may be presented or assigned by the Instructor as deemed relevant.

**Exams:** There will be four tests, a midterm exam, and the final exam. All tests will be based on the text, any additional readings, lectures (which includes Power Point presentations), and videos. **Any student caught cheating (which includes plagiarism/copying) on a test will receive a 0 for that entire exam, and no make-up test will be allowed. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of one letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). If a student is caught cheating a second time, I will file a complaint with the Dean of Student Development for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.**

Only one make-up exam will be given to a student during the semester, and must be scheduled with me. Make-up exams may be used only if the original exam was not taken at the scheduled time due to illness or verified family or work emergency, and I am notified before the test. Any make-up exams scheduled for more than a week after the original test date face a point reduction of 25%. I will not approve any make-up test scheduled later than two weeks after the original test date.

**Writing Requirement:** Students will be required to complete four written assignments. Information on these assignments will be presented by the Instructor. ***Plagiarism is the act of taking someone, anyone, else's work and passing it off as your own. Any paper found to contain plagiarized material will be returned with a 0 and no substitute or rewritten paper will be accepted. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of a letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). If the student is caught using plagiarized material a second time, I will file a complaint with the Dean of Student Development for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.***

**Grading:** The course maximum is 1000 points, based on the following:

Discussion/participation	100 points
Exams (four @ 50 points each)	200 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Assignments (four @ 50 points each)	200 points
Final exam	350 points

Discussion points will be deducted when a student is late (1 point each time), and/or when a student disrupts the class by talking during the lecture or videos, plays games or text messages on a cell phone, has a cell phone ring during class, etc. (1/2 point each time). Points can only be earned by a student who asks questions and/or participates in classroom discussions. *Points are not earned simply for attendance.*

I reserve the right to have students complete additional work in class. Any such work will have points added to what is shown above. I do NOT offer extra credit.

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 851 – 1000	C = 701 – 775	F = 0 – 400
B = 776 -- 850	D = 401 – 700	

Letter grades will not be included on tests and assignments. They will only be used for the final course grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled. While participation in classroom discussions is

not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged and can affect your final grade. *At all times, your questions are encouraged and welcomed.*

*Do not assume that I will drop you from the class because of poor attendance and/or poor test scores.* If you decide to drop the course, take the responsibility of notifying Admissions and Records.

Students who practice inappropriate behavior will likely be asked to leave the classroom. That includes talking during videos and/or lectures. Such disruptive behavior can also result in points being deducted from those available for Discussion/participation. Continued practice of inappropriate behavior will result in a complaint filed with the Dean of Student Development's Office and removal from the class.

**Important Dates:** This information is also available in the Fall, 2013 Schedule of Classes (available on the IVC website).

Aug. 31	Last day to drop without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund
Sept. 02	Last day to drop without a "W" or course showing on your transcript – no refunds available after this date
Nov. 09	Last day to drop full-term classes

AFTER THIS DATE, A LETTER GRADE WILL BE GIVEN AND ENTERED ON YOUR TRANSCRIPTS.

**Miscellaneous:** Please make every effort to be in the room and ready at the starting time. Being late may be beyond a student's control; if you are late, please attempt to enter the room as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting the class.

If you know that you are going to have to miss a class or leave a class early for an appointment, the appropriate thing to do is notify me in advance and, if leaving early, sit by the door so that your departure will cause as little disruption as possible.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PAGERS AND/OR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Any student whose cell phone and/or pager disrupts the class will be asked to leave the room for that interrupted session. **Any device that interrupts an exam will be confiscated and held until the end of class (not when the student completes the exam).**

Students who engage in disruptive behavior, or leave the room while class is in session, will have points deducted from the total possible for Discussion/participation (see previous page). Make sure you handle all personal needs (restrooms, food, phone calls, etc.) *before class begins*. If the Instructor determines that there is no attempt to correct the disruptive behavior, the student may be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the day and to meet with me and/or the Dean of Student Development before returning to the classroom.

As per campus policy, food is NOT allowed in the classroom. Beverages will be allowed only if they are in secure containers.

Students with disabilities at IVC are eligible for accommodations related to their disability. If you have 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 me or a counselor at DSPS as soon as possible.

*The required readings should be done before the class.*

**The schedule (subject to change):**

Aug. 19	<i>Introduction</i>
Aug. 21	<i>Late 1800s (chaps. 16-17)</i>
	<b>Assignment #1 on Blackboard</b>
Aug. 26	<i>Late 1800s (pp. 556-576)</i>
	<b>Assignment #1 due</b>
Aug. 28	<i>Empire (pp. 576-579); Spanish-American War (pp. 579-586)</i>
Sep. 03	<i>Spanish-American War (pp. 588-609, 610-626)</i>
Sep. 05	<i>Spanish-American War</i>
	<b>Test #1 – last hour</b>
Sep. 10	<i>To 1914; World War I (pp. 628-649)</i>
Sep. 12	<i>World War I; To 1920 (pp. 609-610, 626-628)</i>
Sep. 17	<i>“Roaring and Boring 1920s” (chapter 21)</i>
	<b>Assignment #2 on Blackboard</b>
Sep. 19	<i>Market crash; to the Depression</i>
	<b>Assignment #2 due</b>
Sep. 24	<i>Great Depression (pp. 680-693)</i>
Sep. 26	<i>New Deal (pp. 693-712)</i>
	<b>Test #2 – last hour</b>
Oct. 01	<i>1920s and 1930s abroad</i>
Oct. 03	<i>Lead-up to World War II (pp. 713-720); World War II at home (pp. 721-725, 731-738)</i>
	<b>Midterm questions on Blackboard</b>
Oct. 08	<i>Zoot Suit riots</i>
Oct. 10	<b>Midterm exam</b>
Oct. 15	<i>World War II abroad (pp. 720-721, 725-731, 738-744)</i>
Oct. 17	<i>Truman’s choice</i>
	<b>Assignment #3 on Blackboard</b>
Oct. 22	<i>1945 to 1950; Korea (chapter 24)</i>
	<b>Assignment #3 due</b>
Oct. 24	<i>Cold War; “Nifty ‘50s” (pp. 774-787, 793-802)</i>
Oct. 29	<i>Early civil rights movements (pp. 787-793)</i>
	<b>Test #3 – last hour</b>
Oct. 31	<i>Kennedy years (pp. 802-807)</i>
Nov. 05	<i>1964 to 1967 (pp. 808-819)</i>

Nov. 07      *Activism; 1968* (pp. 820-832)  
                 **Assignment #4 on Blackboard**

Nov. 12      *1969-1970; Early 1970s* (pp. 832-840)  
                 **Assignment #4 due**

Nov. 14      *Ending the war* (pp. 840-842)

Nov. 19      *Watergate* (pp. 842-844)  
                 **Test #4 – last hour**

Nov. 21      *Mid 1970s* (pp. 846-853)

Nov. 26      *Memorial*  
                 **Final exam questions on Blackboard**

Nov. 28      NO CLASS – Thanksgiving holiday

**Dec.03**      **Final exam**  
**& 05**