

Syllabus**History 121 – United States History from 1877 (3 units)**

CRN: 20907 Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 – 2:55 p.m. Room 204

CRN: 20521 Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:05 – 4:30 p.m. Room 204

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second semester in a two-semester survey of American History from Prehistoric to Present times. (You do not need to have taken the first half to take this course.) During this semester we will be looking at the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the present. This course will cover the major political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural and intellectual transformations of the modern American era. In this course we will be exploring American history not merely as a review of the presidents and wars. Though an understanding of “what happened when” is critical as a foundation, we will go beyond names and dates. Instead, we will look at the social bonds and conflicts created by culture, religion and trade. We will discuss the patterns of government that our ancestors developed in order to meet their desire for political and social stability.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from an historical text and/or documentary film; (2) describe the causes of and/or the impact of an historical event; and (3) explain the significance of an historical text. This will be demonstrated through appropriate examinations or assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKKeene, Jennifer D., et al, *Visions of America: A History of the United States*, Vol. 2, 2nd Edition, Pearson, 2013.

ISBN: 978-0-205-09268-0

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

Notebook with paper and pens or pencils – for taking notes in class

3 Scantron forms #882 – for the exams

#2 pencil – for the exams

Colored pencils, markers or crayons for map exercises

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

I am very interested in hearing from you if you have any problems, questions or concerns about the course. I am available to meet individually with each student to ensure adequate understanding of course requirements and to offer assistance and suggestions. There are a number of ways you can contact me. You can make an appointment to meet with me at the hours listed below or at another mutually convenient time. You can leave me a message on my voice mail; during the week I try to return calls within 24 hours. You can also send me an email message that I will also try to respond to within 24 hours. My complete class and office hour schedule is posted on my office door.

Office: 1710 (located between the Campus Center and the Gym)

Office Hours: Mon. & Weds. 3:30 – 4:30 pm and Tues. & Thurs. 12:00 – 1:00 pm (Tues/Thurs office hours may take place in classroom 204 if announced)

Phone: 760-355-6492 (on campus extn. 6492)

E-mail: suzanne.gretz@imperial.eduWebsite: <http://faculty.imperial.edu/suzanne.gretz>

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

The study of history requires an understanding of the contrasts and interconnections of times, peoples and places. Therefore, attendance, participation, and preparation are critical for success in this course. I may take roll during the class period. If you are late please check in with me at the end of class or you will be marked absent. All persons who are attending the class must complete the enrollment process promptly in order to remain in the classroom. If you miss either of the first two class sessions you will be dropped and your place will be given away to another student.

Reading Assignments

Reading the textbook is critical for success in this course. The reading assignment for each class is listed in the course schedule section of this syllabus. Basically, you will be reading one chapter in your textbook each week. You are expected to read the material before the day that is listed in the schedule and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class. Students who complete the reading assignments before class are better able to ask questions or get clarifications during class and consequently often get better grades in the course.

Each chapter in the book is about 25 pages long and we are discussing one of those chapters each week. Each week you will spend about 3 hours in class and at least 6 hours outside of class reading, studying, and reviewing. Please be ready to invest the amount of time required to read, reflect on, comprehend, and review the material.

Classroom Activities

Each class period will consist primarily of lecture and discussion. Interesting and informative discussion requires that students be prepared for class by having read the material. During the class period we may also have some class activities that require participation by all students. These activities will usually require the use of your textbook so please bring it to class with you so that you can be equipped to participate in any activities.

During some classes we will have video presentations. These videos have been chosen to highlight a particular aspect of history, or present a viewpoint that adds to our understanding of past attitudes and concerns. Videos, therefore, are an integral part of the classroom experience; they are not entertainment or time wasters. You will see questions on the quizzes that refer directly to information from the video presentations. Please take notes accordingly.

Exams

There will be 3 exams during the semester covering the material in the textbook, as well as all the material presented in class. Each exam will be worth 150 points and consist of objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching, and map identification), short answer, and/or essay questions. You will need to bring a Scantron for each test and each student may bring a page of notes (a single 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper, hand written only, on one side of the paper, no typed, no electronic, no photocopies) to refer to during the exam.

Make Up Exams

Exams can be made up only for serious reasons that are beyond the ability of the student to control (for example: military service, hospitalization of the student, etc.). You MUST contact me no later than the day of the exam, preferably sooner, if you will miss a test. You must provide proof that you could not come to school (doctor's note, court appearance notice, service orders, etc.) in order to be eligible for a makeup exam. Make up exams must be completed within 1 week of the student's return to school from absence.

Please note that each exam represents 25% of your final course grade. Therefore, if you miss an exam and do not make it up, the best grade you can get in the course is 75%, a C, and that is only if you achieve 100% on the other two exams. Obviously, if you intend to pass the course, you must take all of the exams.

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Homework Assignments

There will be 3 homework packages during the semester. Each package will be worth 50 points and will consist of a number of different activities such as: map activities, additional readings or videos, practice objective exams, short answer and/or essay writing. The assignments will be posted in Blackboard. You will have about 2 weeks to work on the homework package and it will be due in class on the date listed on the assignment (approximate due dates are indicated on the schedule). Please give yourself plenty of time to work on these homework packages. They are not designed to be completed in one evening but instead, will require an extended amount of time and effort; please plan accordingly.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are accepted but are strongly discouraged. Assignments that are turned in late for any reason will have 10% deducted for each calendar day the assignment is late. Example: Homework package #1 is due on Feb. 19. A late assignment is turned in on Feb. 21. Since that is 2 calendar days late, there would be a 20% deduction (10 points) before the work is graded. Since 10% is deducted for each day an assignment is late, after 10 days there is no point in turning in anything late since it will be worth nothing.

Extra Credit

Throughout the semester I may offer students the chance to earn extra credit points for participating in educational opportunities outside of class. If and when these are available I will announce them in class and on Blackboard. **However, regardless of the number and type of activities a student participates in, each student may earn more no more than 30 points in extra credit.**

Grading

Students earn grades based on the level of achievement of course material mastery and not on the level of effort expended. My grade of any assignment or exam is final without evidence of fraud, bad faith or error on my part. I will be happy to meet with you privately should you wish to discuss the criteria and reasoning I used to assign a particular grade on your work. I have been known on rare occasions to make mathematical miscalculations of grades. If this should occur the error will be corrected immediately upon presentation by the student.

There are a total of 600 points possible for this course; therefore, final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

600 – 540	100% - 90%	A
539 – 480	89% - 80%	B
479 – 420	79% - 70%	C
419 – 360	69% - 60%	D
359 – 0	59% or lower	F

Point Value for Assignments and Exams

Assignment	Approximate Due Date	Points Possible	Points Earned
Exam 1 Chapters 15 – 19	Feb. 25	150	
Exam 2 Chapters 20 – 23	April 1	150	
Exam 3 Chapters 24 - 29	May 15	150	
Homework Package #1	Feb. 18	50	
Homework Package #2	March 25	50	
Homework Package #3	May 6	50	
TOTAL		600	

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CLASS RULES, REGULATIONS and GENERAL INFORMATION

Accommodations for Students

I am happy to work with all students so that each can achieve his/her educational objectives. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible (DSP&S, Health Sciences Bldg. 2100, 355-6312).

Student Health Center

All students at IVC have access to basic health services, including mental health assistance. The student health center can provide you with basic first aid, help with minor illnesses, and screening and referral to outside health care providers for more serious conditions. You can also access a mental health counselor for psychological assistance in an emotional crisis or for long-term issues. All health services are absolutely confidential. The Student Health Center is located in the Health Sciences Bldg. 2100, in the rear of the Mel Wendrick Disabled Student Center. You can get more information on the Student Health Center by clicking on their link in the Student section of the main IVC website.

Dropping the Course

If for any reason you decide not to complete the course, remember that it is your responsibility to drop the class. If you simply stop coming to class and do not log on to WebSTAR and officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an "F" as a final grade.

Notification of Absences

It is not necessary for you to call me if you will be absent unless you will be gone from class for longer than two consecutive class periods. There are no excused absences except for official, documented college related activities. Please make all counseling, financial aid, or non-emergency doctor appointments for times when you are not scheduled to be in class.

If a serious illness or problem arises during the course that will cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can determine if you will be able to finish the course. I am more than willing to work with students to resolve problems if I am promptly informed about them.

Blackboard, Student Email Accounts and Web-Based Services

IVC now provides all students with an email account for you to use, free of charge. You have the ability to link this campus email to a personal email account that you already use. It is important that you check this email on a regular basis for class notices. For example, if I am ill you will be notified in advance (as soon as I know I will be unable to make it to class) through this email account so that you do not have to come to class that day. In addition, I may send last-minute information regarding homework or exams so it is important that you check this account frequently.

In addition, the college is providing access to all students to web-based versions of Microsoft office programs and storage space for class assignments. Please check the IVC website and/or the Student Portal for more information about the student email and other web services available to students.

IVC has linked all classes to the Blackboard course management system. Throughout the semester I will be posting course information, such as the syllabus, homework assignments, supplemental materials, grades, etc. to Blackboard.

Children in the Classroom

Due to college rules and state laws, un-enrolled children are not allowed in the classroom during the class session under any circumstances.

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Phones, Computers, Tablets, iPods & Other Electronic Equipment

Students are not allowed to text, email, or telephone during class time. Out of consideration for others, please turn your cell phones and any other electronic equipment off at the beginning of class. These items distract other students and me when they ring or beep during class. Students who are checking email or texting during class time will be asked to leave the class. Repeated use of computers or phones for personal communication will lead to expulsion from the class.

You may use a tablet or laptop in class to take notes or access an electronic version of the textbook. However, if I find that during class you are using your computer for anything other than World History related activities (games, videos, chatting, etc.) you will not be allowed to use your computer in my class ever again.

Absolutely no laptops or phones are allowed on or within view during exams; ringing phones will be confiscated for the duration of the exam. Anyone who answers or uses a cell phone or any other type of electronic equipment during a test without my permission will receive a zero on that test.

Course Interruptions

It is expected that you will be present, in your seat, and participating in class for the entire course period. Please take care of any personal needs (phone calls, restroom breaks, beverage needs) before or after class. Every time you step out in the middle of class it is disrupting the learning of the entire class and this is not acceptable. If you have a serious medical or other problem that makes it impossible for you to remain in your seat for the entire class period, please inform me as soon as possible and accommodations will be made.

Anyone who leaves the room during a test without my permission will be assumed to have finished the test and will not be allowed to continue.

Behavioral Expectations

In college it is assumed that everyone is an adult and has chosen to be here in order to better his/her knowledge, experience, and job opportunities and for personal growth and development. This is a large class and therefore it is imperative that each student show respect for your fellow students and not engage in behaviors that will make it difficult or impossible for other students to learn effectively. I will not tolerate any behavior that interferes with another student's opportunity to learn.

At all times, each member of the class will attempt to comport him or herself in a professional manner. That means, in a manner consistent with a professional setting such as a business office or place of worship. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions regarding the material under consideration. However, disruptions that tend to diminish or extinguish learning will not be tolerated. The following behaviors are NOT appropriate in a college classroom:

1. Personal conversations between students during class, regardless of the topic, including phone calls;
2. Classroom interruptions due to tardiness, coming and going from class, or leaving early;
3. Writing and passing notes to one another;
4. Completing assignments for other classes during lecture or discussions;
5. Sleeping, particularly if you snore or drool;
6. Reading magazines, playing games, listening to music, watching personal videos, or other disruptive, immature actions;
7. Disrespectful, argumentative or combative behavior;
8. Harassing or irritating another student.

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Academic Honesty

The college and I take the issues of student dishonesty, cheating and/or plagiarism very seriously. There are severe penalties attendant upon acts of academic dishonesty and student misconduct, up to and including dismissal from the college. Cheating may include: looking on another student's paper during an exam, test or quiz; using extra notes or materials beyond those allowed for the exam; using another student's notes during an exam; and acts of plagiarism. Plagiarism is deliberately copying the work of someone else and claiming that it is your own original work. This also refers to downloading a paper or article from the internet and turning it in as though you wrote it yourself, which is completely unacceptable.

Discipline Penalties

If your behavior is disruptive to the class or to other students I will first give you a verbal warning in class. If the disruptive behavior continues I will then give you a second and final verbal warning to stop the immature behavior. Please take these verbal warnings seriously, because if the disruptive behavior continues, I will immediately dismiss you from the class, I will turn your name over to the Dean of Student Affairs and you will not be able to return to class until after you have met with the Dean. The Dean will outline for you the penalties if you continue to display disruptive and immature behavior in class. If you return to class and continue the disruptive behavior I will again refer you to the Dean. At that point, he may choose to drop you from the class, or if your behavior has been disruptive in other classes, suspend you from the college for the remainder of the semester. In extreme cases of dangerous, threatening, or abusive behavior you may be expelled from the college.

If you cheat on a quiz, test or assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment and will not have the opportunity to make up those points. Please take this seriously, because if you are caught cheating a second time, you will again receive a zero but I will also dismiss you from the class and turn your name over to the Dean of Student Affairs. The Dean will outline for you the penalties if you continue to cheat. If I catch you cheating again I will again refer you to the Dean. At that point, he may choose to drop you from the class, or if you have been caught cheating in other classes, suspend you from the college for the remainder of the semester. In extreme cases of cheating, you may be expelled from the college.

Some Final Thoughts

Welcome to United States History. I am looking forward to a fun and interesting course and I hope you are too. Good luck in all of your classes, and if there is anything I can do to help you to successfully complete this course, please do not hesitate to ask.

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Estimated Course Schedule

Days	Date	Topics	Reading in Textbook	Assignments & Readings in Atlas
Week 1				
Tues.	Jan. 21	Introductions		
Thur.	Jan. 23	Natives Americans & Migrants in the West		
Week 2				
Tues.	Jan. 28	Economic Transformation of the West	Chap. 15	
Thur.	Jan. 30	Emergence of Big Business	Chap. 16	
Sat.	Feb. 1	<i>Last Day to Add Classes</i>		
Week 3				
Tues.	Feb. 4	Consumerism & Capitalism	Chap. 17	
Thur.	Feb. 6	American Urban Life		
Week 4				
Tues.	Feb. 11	America in the Gilded Age	Chap. 18	
Thur.	Feb. 13	Progressivism		
Week 5				
Tues.	Feb. 18	Imperialism	Chap. 19	Homework #1
Thur.	Feb. 20	America Wins an Empire		
Week 6				
Tues.	Feb. 25	Exam 1 – Chapters 15 - 19		Exam 1
Thur.	Feb. 27	Rise of World Conflict & World War I	Chap. 20	
Week 7				
Tues.	March 4	The Great War: At Home, on the Front, Peace		
Thur.	March 6	The 1920's: The Birth of the Modern	Chap. 21	
Week 8				
Tues.	March 11	Expansion & Repression		
Thur.	March 13	Great Depression	Chap. 22	
Week 9				
Tues.	March 18	The New Deal		
Thur.	March 20	The Coming of World War II	Chap. 23	
Week 10				
Tues.	March 25	America in WWII: Germany & the Homefront		Homework #2
Thur.	March 27	America in WWII: Japan		

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Week 11				
Tues.	April 1	Exam 2 – Chapters 20 - 23		Exam 2
Thur.	April 3	Origins of the Cold War	Chap. 24	
Week 12				
Tues.	April 8	Fighting Communism at Home & Abroad		
Thur.	April 10	1950s: Contentment & Discord	Chap. 25	
Sat.	April 12	<i>Last Day to Drop with a "W"</i>		
Week 13				
Tues.	April 15	Civil Rights		
Thur.	April 17	Conflict in Asia	Chap. 26	
		SPRING BREAK APRIL 21 – APRIL 27		
Week 14				
Tues.	April 29	Vietnam War		
Thur.	May 1	Challenges of the 1960s	Chap. 27	
Week 15				
Tues.	May 6	The New Left & Counterculture		Homework #3
Thur.	May 8	1970s & 1980's - The Rise of the Right	Chap. 28	
Week 16				
Tues.	May 13	Building a New World	Chap. 29	
Thur.	May 15	Exam 3 – Chapters 24 - 29		Exam 3