

History 1700 American Civilization

SPRING 2016

CLASS SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

Instructor Information:

Alexandria Waltz, alexandria.waltz@utah.edu

Department of History

Office Hours: by appointment, please email me for times.

Class Meeting Times/Location:

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.

Bountiful Campus, Room 302.

Course Objectives:

This course offers an overview of American history from the colonial period to the present. Students should gain an understanding of how major historical events, actors, and trends have impacted and shaped the United States over time. Instead of viewing U.S. history as a series of isolated occurrences, this class emphasizes how the combination of various places, circumstances, eras, and people create an overarching historical narrative, one that brings added depth and nuance to the American story.

Throughout the ensuing semester, we will also explore diverse groups of “Americans,” a term that takes on complex connotations in light of the nation’s history. Who has been considered “American”? How and in what periods has this definition changed? Understanding the role diversity has played over time helps historians identify and analyze these changes and the impact they have had on various groups of people.

Required Textbook:

The required text for this course is Eric Foner’s *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Brief, Fourth Edition*. All additional readings not from the textbook will be made available to you in class or via Canvas. You can purchase the paperback copy of the book at the bookstore or online. Having regular access to this textbook is a necessity for participation in this course.

Class Expectations:

Your grade in this course will be determined by a combination of exams, quizzes, papers, and participation points.

Since we only meet once a week, attendance is vital for success in this course. You will receive 50 points towards your overall grade for coming to class and participating in discussions. If you have a planned absence, let me know at least one week **before** the day you will be gone. More than three class periods missed will result in a deduction of one half letter grade (for example, if you have an A, you will drop to an A-).

Completing the reading assignments is also a requirement for this course. I will expect you to read two chapters of the textbook (and, in a few cases, some supplementary

primary sources) every week before our class meeting time. This assigned reading is listed in the course schedule below. If you do miss class, be prepared to read extra chapters in the textbook to catch up on what you missed. Please get with me to find out what chapters would best help you prepare for subsequent assignments and quizzes. We will have three quizzes on the reading that occur at various points throughout the semester. These quizzes are worth 50 points each for a total of 150 points.

You will be expected to submit two formal papers pertaining to topics we discuss in class. The specific assignment descriptions for each will be provided to you at least a week before the due date. These papers are worth 50 points each for a total of 100 points.

There are two exams in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points. Both exams will be held in-class (unless you are notified otherwise). The tests will consist of both identifications and short answer essays.

With the exception of readings (which are due every week), you should expect a quiz, paper, or exam roughly every other class period. Again, please let me know at least a week beforehand if you plan on missing any of these days.

Assignment	Points Possible
Participation	50 points
Quizzes (3):	150 points
Papers (2):	100 points
Exams (2):	200 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 500. For a letter grade of “A” you need 93% of the total points, or 465 points; an “A-“ requires 90% or 450 points; a “B+” requires 88%, or 440 points; a “B” requires 83%, or 415 points; a “B-“ requires 80%, or 400 points; a “C+” requires 78%, or 390 points; a “C” requires 73%, or 365 points; a “C-“ requires 70% or 350 points; a “D+” requires 68%, or 340 points; a “D” requires 63%, or 315 points; a “D-“ requires 60% or 300 points; an “E” is awarded for anything less than 60% of the total points.

Courtesy & Communication Policy:

Extreme consideration for the feelings of others is expected. This class encourages open discussion, but all opinions must be expressed in a kind and considerate way. Use of profanity or direct/indirect insults which defame a person’s character, race, ethnicity, religion, etc. are inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

Laptops are allowed in the classroom, but they should be used only for note-taking. All devices – cell phones, tablets, and laptops – must be put away during exams or quizzes. Students seen browsing the web or messaging during these periods will be reported for academic misconduct (see following section).

Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism:

Cheating is not tolerated in this course. Anyone caught cheating will be reported to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, in accordance with the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Successful students always make sure that their work is original. This is important because the instructor must be able to gauge what the student has learned. Therefore, copying the work of another person, whether an essay, answers on your assignments or during a test, is considered plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else's work and does not give that person credit, it is plagiarism. Anyone who plagiarizes will receive a failing grade on the assignment. If this is repeated, the student will fail the course and can be expelled from the university. If you are "suspected" of plagiarism, you will bear the burden of proof. You must be able to present rough drafts or related materials and discuss the topic intelligently. Refer to the University of Utah Plagiarism Policy for more details and/or the University of Utah - Policy and Procedures Manual.

<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

University Policy for Incomplete Grades

University policy states that the "I" grade may be given—at the instructor's discretion—whenever a student has satisfactorily completed at least 80% of the coursework, but is unable to complete the remainder due to extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. The instructor will stipulate the particular work to be completed before a new, replacement grade can be submitted. If the work is not completed within one calendar year, the "I" grade will change to an "E" (failing) grade.

ADA Policy:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the course, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disabilities.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE/MODIFY

THE CONTENTS OF THIS SYLLABUS

*Copyright Notification. Notice to students that materials used in connection with the course may be subject to copyright protection. TEACH Act Copyright Notice. The materials on this course web site are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Schedule:

The following is a rough curriculum schedule for the semester.

January 13th

A “Pristine Wilderness”: Pre-Contact America and European Empire Building in the New World

January 20th

Stirrings of Revolution: America’s War for Independence

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 4 & Chapter 5

January 27th

Debates and Compromise: The Establishment of a Nation and the Early Republic

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 7 & James Madison and Patrick Henry primary documents (on Canvas)

*QUIZ 1 TODAY IN-CLASS.

February 3rd

A Burgeoning Nation: The War of 1812 and The Jacksonian Era

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 8 & Chapter 10

February 10th

Gold and “Manifest Destiny”: Slavery, America’s Westward Expansion, and the Road to the Civil War

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 11, Chapter 13 (skim) & selections of Frederick Jackson Turner’s “The Significance of the Frontier” (on Canvas)

*PAPER 1 DUE BY BEGINNING OF CLASS.

February 17th

“War is Hell”: The American Civil War and Southern Reconstruction

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 14 & Chapter 15

February 24th

*MID-TERM EXAM TODAY IN-CLASS.

March 2nd

Into the Twentieth Century: The Gilded Age and American Imperialism

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 16 & Chapter 17

March 9th

Reform at Home and Abroad: Progressivism and World War I

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 18 & selections of Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* (on Canvas)

*QUIZ 2 DUE TODAY IN-CLASS.

NO CLASS MARCH 16TH – HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!!

March 23rd

Flappers and “Hooverilles”: The “Roaring” 1920s and the Great Depression

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 20 & Chapter 21

*EXTRA CREDIT: U OF U HISTORY CONFERENCE, MARCH 24-25

March 30th

The Start of the Atomic Age: World War II and the Cold War

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 22 & Chapter 23

*PAPER 2 DUE BY BEGINNING OF CLASS.

April 6th

America At Home in the 1950s: Domestic Consumerism and Civil Rights

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 24, Elaine Tyler May reading (on Canvas), & *Brown v. Board of Education* reading (on Canvas).

April 13th

Hope and Disillusionment: 1960s Student Activism, the Vietnam War, and Watergate

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 25 & various primary documents on the 1960s (on Canvas).

*QUIZ 3 TODAY IN-CLASS.

April 20th

Into the 21st Century: 1980s Conservatism, The Nineties, and a Post-9/11 World

*READINGS: Foner, Chapter 26, Chapter 27, & Chapter 28 (read at least two of these three chapters).

*FINAL EXAM TBA.