

## HIS 103: United States History to 1870

Class #15532  
Glendale Community College  
Fall 2009  
MWF 9:00-9:50  
Center for Learning 12

Instructor: Jon Flashnick  
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Office Hours by appointment only

**Course Description:** This course explores United States history and tracks the growth of the Republic from the colonial period through the Civil War. Students will consider political, economic, cultural, and social aspects of life on the North American continent to evaluate changes in boundaries, culture, and government from 1492-1870. This course will emphasize history as a complex network of social processes and personal interactions rather than as a series of people, events, and dates. Through course readings, writing assignments, discussions, and exams, students will practice and develop critical thinking skills, distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and analyze the many themes, continuities, and contrasts that characterize the history of the United States.

### Required Reading:

Davidson, et al., eds. *U.S.: A Narrative History, Vol. I*, 2009.

<b>Grading:</b>	Attendance/Participation	unannounced	150 pts.
	Quizzes (10 pts. each)	Fridays	100 pts.
	Midterm Exam	September 28	150 pts.
	Midterm Essay	October 23	150 pts.
	Final Essay	December 11	200 pts.
	Final Exam	December 16, 9:00-10:50am	<u>250 pts.</u>
			1000 pts.

**Grading Scale:** Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

A+	=	975-1000 pts.	C+	=	775-799 pts.
A	=	925-974 pts.	C	=	725-774 pts.
A-	=	900-924 pts.	C-	=	700-724 pts.
B+	=	875-899 pts.	D	=	600-699 pts.
B	=	825-874 pts.	E	=	below 600 pts.
B-	=	800-824 pts.			

## Course Policies:

Grading Policies: In this class, students will demonstrate analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills. Assignments will be graded for clear arguments and organization in addition to content. Students will be provided with a grading rubric for writing assignments (posted on Blackboard and attached to this syllabus) so that they can clearly understand what is expected in each assignment. A very limited number of extra credit points will be available during the semester.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance and participation make up 15% of your grade. Students are required to attend class. Attendance will be documented with short in-class assignments on 3x5 index cards. **Each student is required to supply these index cards for him/herself. You will need about 50 index cards for the semester.** Absences will be excused only in documented instances of extenuating circumstances. Each student is allowed three (3) unexcused absences before his or her grade is affected. Each subsequent absence will result in a five (5) point penalty. Students should arrive to class on time, with all assignments completed, as class lectures will be structured to allow student participation. Participation will be measured not only by participation in class, but also with unannounced assignments in class, including but not limited to pop quizzes, short writing assignments, and participation in small group discussions.

Late Work & Make-Ups: Late work and make-ups will not be accepted except in documented instances of extenuating circumstances.

Behavior: Students are expected to arrive on time to class and stay for the entire period. Late arrivals and early departures are distracting to students. If you need to leave early, please notify me and sit near the door. Do not read newspapers, magazines, or homework for other classes. **Make sure your cell phone is turned off.** Failure to behave in an appropriate manner will result in a negative effect on a student's attendance/participation grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism and/or cheating **WILL** result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in your immediate removal from the class for academic dishonesty. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask **BEFORE** handing in the assignment.

**Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class.** I encourage you to view the College's policy on plagiarism at [http://www.maricopa.edu/gvpolicy/adminregs/students/2\\_3.htm#academic](http://www.maricopa.edu/gvpolicy/adminregs/students/2_3.htm#academic).

Communication: E-mail is the best way to contact me. Please allow 36 hours for a response. I have listed my office phone number on the syllabus, but it is unlikely that you will be able to reach me there except during my office hours. I will be available to meet on campus by appointment. Be sure to keep some space open in your GCC e-mail account and check it regularly (or have it reliably forwarded to an account you check regularly), as Blackboard only allows me to e-mail you at your GCC extension. If you have any questions about any assignments, ask me about it **BEFORE** the assignment is due.

If you are a student with a disability the College has resources to assist you. For more information please see the Disability Resources and Services:

<http://www.gccaz.edu/FutureStudents/StudentSupport/Disabilities.htm>.

## **Description of Assignments:**

**Blackboard:** The course Blackboard site, available at <http://www.maricopa.edu/blackboard>, will be an important part of this course. All announcements, assignments, grading rubrics, and the course syllabus will be posted on Blackboard (you will also receive hard copies in class). Your grades will also be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

**Quizzes:** Ten weekly quizzes make up 10% of your grade. **Quizzes will be administered on most Fridays throughout the semester.** You will know ahead of time which Fridays will and will not have quizzes. Quizzes may include multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and other types of questions (you will know which types of questions will be on each quiz before you begin) that cover the week's assignments. You will be allowed take the quizzes with open notes and open books. You should have enough time to use books and notes to check a few facts, but you will not have enough time to search for each answer.

**Essays:** Two essays make up 35% of your total grade. You will have at least two weeks to complete the midterm essay, and you will receive the question for the final essay by the end of the first week of class. Each of these essays will cover information included in class lectures, the textbook, and one of the other books you are assigned to read. More specific information will be available as the due date for each essay approaches.

**Exams:** Two exams make up 40% of your total grade. The midterm is in class on **September 28** and will be a blue book exam including multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions covering the first six weeks of reading and class material. The final will be a blue book exam (with the same types of questions as the midterm) covering all material after the midterm on **December 16 from 9:00-10:50am**, in our regular classroom. You are required to supply your own blue books. So no one forgets and to prevent cheating, each student is **required to turn in two blank blue books by September 11** to avoid a ten point penalty. If you **bring both by August 31, you will receive ten extra credit points.**

## Grading Criteria for Essays of Every Length

### Guidelines for Writing Success:

1. Turn in both copies of the paper (electronic and paper) on time. Late assignments are not accepted.
2. Adhere to all length, font, spacing, and margin requirements.
3. Avoid spelling, typographical, and grammatical mistakes.
4. Provide a clear, well-defined thesis and introduction to your main points in the first paragraph.
5. Fully develop your ideas and argument. The paper should flow well and not contradict itself.
6. Carefully choose vivid and specific examples to support your thesis and main points.
7. Avoid passive voice, long quotations, and writing in the first person.
8. Offer your own ideas, not a rewording of someone else's.
9. As always, **when using someone else's ideas, whether in direct quotes or paraphrasing, YOU MUST USE CITATIONS.**
10. Tie all evidence to the questions asked. Do not give long narrative summaries of course material.
11. Reiterate your thesis and main points in a concluding paragraph.
12. Proofread the paper and have someone else proofread it.

Grading Rubric: All written work will be assessed using the following criteria:

	A	B	C	D	E
Argumentation (40%)	Clear thesis supported consistently by the argument	Thesis a little unclear or argument a little unclear	Thesis and argument a little unclear or one very unclear	Thesis and argument very unclear	No real thesis or argument
Evidence (40%)	High quality examples used thoughtfully to support the argument	Sufficient evidence used effectively to support the argument	Evidence is sufficient but does not consistently support the argument	Insufficient or consistently poorly used evidence	No or entirely irrelevant evidence
Completeness (20%)	All parts of the question answered completely	One part of the question not addressed	More than one part of the question not addressed	More than one part of the question not	Assignment does not address the question asked

## **Weekly Themes and Assignments:**

Each week will correspond roughly to a chapter in *U.S.: A Narrative History*. The reading assignments should be completed no later than the date listed. The instructor reserves the right to add, subtract, or adjust assignments at any time.

### Week One: Introduction to Course and Continent

8/24 First Day of Class

8/26 Read Chapter 1

### Week Two: Old Worlds, New Worlds

8/31 Read Chapter 2

### Week Three: Colonization and Conflict in the South

9/7 **NO CLASS – LABOR DAY**

9/9 Read Chapter 3

### Week Four: Colonization and Conflict in the North

9/14 Read Chapter 4

### Week Five: American Culture in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

9/21 Read Chapter 5

### Week Six: Towards Independence

9/28 **Midterm Exam**

9/30 Read Chapter 6

### Week Seven: The Revolution

10/5 Read Chapter 7

### Week Eight: Building a Government

10/12 Read Chapter 8

### Week Nine: The Early Republic

10/19 Read Chapter 9

10/23 **Midterm Essay due**

### Week Ten: The Early Economy

10/26 Read Chapter 10

### Week Eleven: Jacksonian America

11/2 Read Chapter 11

### Week Twelve: Reform

11/9 Read Chapter 12

11/11 **NO CLASS – VETEREN'S DAY**

Week Thirteen: The Old South

11/16 Read Chapter 13

Week Fourteen: Manifest Destiny: Ideology and Expansion

11/23 Read Chapter 14

11/27 **NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING**

Week Fifteen: Towards Civil War

11/30 Read Chapters 15 & 16

Week Sixteen: Civil War and Reconstruction

12/7 Read Chapter 17

12/11 **Final Essay due**

**Final Exam: December 16, 9:00-10:50am**