SYLLABUS

History 104
UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1877
Glendale Community College
Instructor: Gilbert R. Cruz, Ph.D.
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:00 a.m.
TR 7:00-8:00 a.m.
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Purpose and Benefits: Why this American History Course is Important to You. (1) Provides the larger informational base for other academic courses. (2) Serves the requirements at virtually all four year universities. (3) Excellent preparation for any career emphasizing communication skills, e.g. public relations in the market place and in journalism and publishing. (4) Contributes to an academic foundation for those as aspiring for degrees in education, law, global studies, civil service and other professional careers. (5) An important component in a baccalaureate degree in History from the School of Liberal Arts.

Significance: In 1865, the Civil War culminated with these United States as one nation. All men were now assured –at least in theory- of their political rights under the Constitution. However, the struggle for the rights of women and minorities was yet another story. This course unfolds the series of events reflecting the turmoil and the triumph that shaped this nation as we know it today, -most notably by new generations of Americans in pursuit of human rights under the law during the 20th century. The Westward Movement in the late 1800s unleashed a stream of emigrants on covered wagons seeking their fortunes beyond the Mississippi River. Ranching, mining and farming and the railroad industry, fueled by capital from the East, increased and further strengthened the national economy.

This was the age when the American Industrial Revolution laid the basis for the most spectacular inroads in technology, a prelude to our high standard of living today. Fueled by the abundance of coal, iron and timber, petroleum and water-power, steel factories and assembly plants propelled a swift movement in an industrial and urban society. The dark side, however, was the abuse of factory workers and the injustices in women employment and child labor. The clash between Management and Labor became inevitable. This struggle will provide the student with better insight to present day job security, just wages, benefits and labor strikes.

The Civil Right Movements of the 1960s brought in a new age of Social Justice. World War I and World War II initiated America to its new global role. The nuclear threats and ideological wars that America and other nations endured during the Cold War have accelerated the need for world understanding. As the Industrial Age became the basis for our Electronic Age so too ours will build the foundation for the Space Age and to colonies on the planets of the Universe. American History provides the student with an important synthesis of events on what has created his world and, he how he can best forecast what his age is preparing for the world to come.

Text Books


**Attendance.** This requirement is important for the student to reach maximum benefit from the course. When a reasonable excuse requires a student to miss class, the student remains responsible for the information and materials presented on that class day. Excessive absences make the student liable for dismissal from the course. Contact the instructor when circumstances compel a student to be absent.

**How is the student’s final grade determined?** The final grade for the semester will be assigned based on the total number of points the student accumulates during the semester. The total points will be transferred into a letter grade according to the following scale. There is a ratio of 50 points between each letter grade.

\[
\begin{align*}
375 \text{ or more} & + A \\
323 \text{ – } 273 & = C \\
374 \text{ – } 324 & = B \\
272 \text{ – } 222 & = D
\end{align*}
\]

**How can the student accumulate points?** There are six grade activities from which the student’s four best grades will be selected. The student’s total number of points will be determined from the four best grades over the semester. The student may participate in all six activities or select four are more. Note that the more the student participates in all six activities, the more options there are for a better final grade. This arrangement **ELIMINATES** the need for make up tests.

**What makes up the six grade activities?** These course exercises consist of

- Four class room examinations
- One classroom Presentation
- One Book Report

**What does the student do to gain extra points?** Here is how. Three tape documentaries will be presented in class at the instructor’s discretion. The student will be provided with a one-page explanation of the documentary just before the presentation. The student will return the handout the next class day with his/her written assessment of the documentary on the back page of the handout. Each report submitted to instructor will earn a maximum of 10 points. The three classroom documentaries can provide a maximum total of 30 extra points. **These are class-room exercises and the student must be in class to participate. No make up conditions.**

**What are the dates for the classroom examinations?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>TTH</td>
<td>Thursday February 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>TTH</td>
<td>Thursday March 22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>TTR</td>
<td>Thursday April 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Spring 2004 GCC schedule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does the student go about preparing for participation in the group project? Students will gather into groups of four to fine persons at the beginning of the semester. Students will introduce themselves and select a group coordinator. The coordinator will oversee the organization and the group’s project at the time of the presentation. Student must be present at the time of the presentation to earn 100 points. Presentation will be graded on the amount of research and preparation in the delivery. Students are to use whatever notes, outlines, illustrations, graphs or excerpts from tapes that they may wish to implement. Papers are not to be read. The time for the entire group presentation is between 30 and 35 minutes. A one-page program outlining the performance will be distributed to the class enabling them in understanding the group presentation.

**BIOGRAPHICAL BOOK REPORT.** 100 points for the student who submits a report on following book according to the guide lines indicated in points (2) and (3).

**Harold C. Livesay. Andrew Carnegie and the Rise of Big Business.**

(2) The book report will consist of five pages not to exceed 6 pages. It must be double spaces (1.5 font) and not more than one inch vertical and horizontal margins,
The book must consist of one complete bibliographical citation. The citation will include (a) full name of the author, (b) complete title of the volume, (c) place of publication, (d) name of publisher and (e) date of publication. [see page one of the syllabus].

**Report Method** BOOK DESCRIPTION. TWO PAGES. Synthesize the author’s main focus on ideas and features on the life on the historical figure. They may include place and date of birth, parents, early childhood, education, travels, special skills, events or achievements that have caused the individual to excel.

**ANALYSIS. THREE PAGES.** How do you feel about the individual that you have read about? What values and characteristics does the individual possess that you tend to most admire? What major changes in the life of the individual have most impressed you? What reservation may you possibly have about the individual, the volume or the author or the book? To what extent do you believe that the individual has influenced your resolve or possibly the direction in which you do things?

The following Events, Topics and Issues are suggestions that each group is free to develop. Group is free to choose other subjects approved by the instructor and that significantly represents aspects of United States History since 1877.


**Long Cattle Drives, 1866-1867:** (1) Sedalia Trail, (2) Chisholm Trail, (3) Western Trail, and (4) Goodnight Loving Trail.


**Major Medical Advance:** Vaccine to Prevent Polio and Jonas Salk, 1955