

## HIS 103: United States History to 1870

Class #23704  
Glendale Community College  
Spring 2010  
MWF 10:00-10:50  
Center for Learning 12

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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. Course competencies can be found online at [http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/search\\_course.php](http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/ccta/curric/search_course.php).

### Required Reading:

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

<b>Grading:</b>	Attendance/Participation	unannounced	100 pts.
	Quizzes (10 pts. each)	Fridays	100 pts.
	Midterm Exam	February 26	100 pts.
	Book Review/Mini-Lecture	April 2	100 pts.
	Final Essay	May 7	100 pts.
	Final Exam	May 12, 10:00-11:50am	<u>200 pts.</u>
			700 pts.

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

A	=	630-700 pts.
B	=	560-629 pts.
C	=	490-559 pts.
D	=	420-489 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 about 14% of your grade. Students are required to attend class. 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 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.

**On-line Quizzes:** Ten online quizzes make up about 14% of your grade. **Quizzes will be posted on Wednesdays at noon, and due Fridays at 5pm.** You may complete the quiz at any time during this window, but you must complete the quiz on your first attempt. Once you start a quiz you will have half an hour to complete it. Blackboard reminds you of the time limit and provides a timer, but will not stop you from going over the allotted half hour. It is your responsibility to complete each quiz within the half hour allowed. **When finished with a quiz, click on "Submit."** If you click on "Save" instead, your answers will not be properly submitted. The quizzes will draw random questions from a large pool, so each student's quiz will include a different set of questions. 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. Feel free to take the quizzes with open notes and open books, but be sure to complete the reading assignments before starting the quiz. 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.

**Book Review/Mini-Lecture:** Students will choose one of two mid-semester projects that make up about 14% of your grade. By the second week of class, each student will choose some aspect of U.S. history to study in greater detail. Students will do extra reading on this topic, and either write a book review or present a mini-lecture on the topic.

**Final Essay:** One comprehensive final essay makes up about 14% of your total grade. You will receive the question for the final essay by the end of the first week of class, and the essay will be due on the last day of class.

**Exams:** Two exams make up 42% of your total grade. The midterm is in class on **February 26** 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 **May 12 from 10:00-11:50am**, 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 February 12** to avoid a ten point penalty. If you **bring both by January 29, 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

1/20 First Day of Class

1/22 Read Chapter 1

### Week Two: Old Worlds, New Worlds

1/25 Read Chapter 2

### Week Three: British Politics and American Culture in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

2/1 Read Chapters 3 & 4

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

2/8 Read Chapter 5

### Week Five: Towards Independence and Revolution

2/15 **NO CLASS – PRESIDENTS' DAY**

2/17 Read Chapter 6

### Week Six: The Revolution

2/22 Read Chapter 7

2/26 **Midterm Exam**

### Week Seven: Building a Government

3/1 Read Chapter 8

### Week Eight: The Early Republic

3/8 Read Chapter 9

### Week Nine: Spring Break

**NO CLASSES**

### Week Ten: The Nation Becomes National

3/22 Read Chapter 10 & 12

### Week Eleven: Jacksonian America

3/29 Read Chapter 11

4/2 **Book Review due\***

### Week Twelve: Slavery and Reform

4/5 Read Chapter 13

### Week Thirteen: Manifest Destiny: Ideology and Expansion

4/12 Read Chapter 14

Week Fourteen: Towards Civil War  
4/19 Read Chapter 15

Week Fifteen: The Civil War  
4/26 Read Chapter 16

Week Sixteen: Reconstruction and Review  
5/3 Read Chapter 17  
5/7 **Final Essay due**

**Final Exam: May 12, 10:00-11:50am**