

HIS 104: United States History from 1870

Class #23720
Glendale Community College
Spring 2010
MWF 9:00-9:50
Business 205

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 Civil War to the present. 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 1870 to the present. 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.

Required Reading:

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

Grading:	Attendance/Participation		100 pts.
	Project		200 pts.
	Online Quizzes (10 pts. each)	Fridays	100 pts.
	Midterm Exam	March 8	100 pts.
	Final Essay	May 7	100 pts.
	Final Exam	May 10, 9:00-10:50am	<u>200 pts.</u>
	Expected Total Points		800 pts.*

*Final points possible may vary slightly.

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

A	=	720-800 pts.
B	=	640-719 pts.
C	=	560-639 pts.
D	=	480-559 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 12% 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.

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. Weekly primary documents will be made available through Blackboard. All announcements, assignments, grading rubrics, and the course syllabus will be posted on Blackboard. Also, there will on-line quizzes on reading assignments that must be completed on Blackboard. All quizzes given through Blackboard will be posted on a Wednesday at noon and due the following Friday at 5pm. Because students will have more than two days to complete these quizzes/assignments, **personal technical difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for incomplete work.** Plan to complete these assignments early to leave time to address any computer/internet issues.

On-line Quizzes: Ten online quizzes make up about 12% 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 limit. 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 may not be properly submitted, and Blackboard will lock you out of the quiz. The quizzes will draw random questions from a large pool, so each student’s quiz will include a different set of questions. Quizzes will be primarily multiple choice, but also may include 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.

Project: A semester project makes up about 25% 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, write a book review, and present a mini-lecture on the topic.

Final Essay: One comprehensive final essay makes up about 12% 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 about 38% of your total grade. The midterm exam is in class on **March 8** and will be a blue book exam including multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions covering the first seven 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 10 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 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

1/20 First Day of Class

1/22 Read Chapter 17

Week Two: New South, New West

1/25 Read Chapter 18

Week Three: Industrialization

2/1 Read Chapter 19

Week Four: Urbanization

2/8 Read Chapter 20

Week Five: Post-Reconstruction Politics

2/15 **NO CLASS – PRESIDENTS' DAY**

2/17 Read Chapter 21

Week Six: The Progressive Era

2/22 Read Chapter 22

Week Seven: A New World Order

3/1 Read Chapter 23

Week Eight: Return to “Normalcy”

3/8 **Midterm Exam**

3/10 Read Chapter 24

Week Nine: Spring Break

NO CLASSES

Week Ten: The U.S. Enters the World

3/22 Read Chapter 26

Week Eleven: Early Cold War

3/29 Read Chapter 27

Week Twelve: The Suburban Era

4/5 Read Chapter 28

Week Thirteen: Civil Rights

4/12 Read Chapter 29

Week Fourteen: The Vietnam Era

4/19 Read Chapter 30

Week Fifteen: Conservatism and Globalism

4/26 Read Chapter 31

Week Sixteen: Conclusions

5/3 Read Chapter 32

Final Exam: May 10, 9:00-10:50am