

History 17A:

United States History, Pre-Colonial to 1877

Professor: Travis Smith, Ph.D.

Phone: 530-741-6787

Email: tsmith@yccd.edu

Office: Room 517 Marysville Campus MW; Room 226
Sutter Center TTH

Office Hours: MW 9–10am & TTH 9:30-10:30am



Course Description

Survey of U.S. history tracing the political, social, economic, and cultural development of American ideals and actions from the Pre-Revolutionary Period through the Civil War Era. Satisfies CSU Title V, Section 40404, U.S. History, Constitution, and American Ideals requirement when both HIST 17A and POLSCI 1 or HIST 17B are completed. (UC/CSU)

Course Objectives

- Increase the student's knowledge of major historical events, processes, and people.
- Enhance the student's appreciation for history and the varieties of human experience.
- Add to the student's capacity for analytical reading, critical thinking, and clear writing.

Student Learning Outcome

Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate major historical issues and judge their significance to the development of American History up through Reconstruction. Students will be required to construct an argument and support it with evidence gathered from lectures, readings, films, and other activities in an essay format.

Required Readings

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, Seagull Third Edition, Volume 1 (W. W. Norton, 2012).
- Paul Finkelman, *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (Bedford St. Martin's, 1997)
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (any edition). Also available online at various websites such as <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DouNarr.html>
- Primary Documents (Posted in Blackboard regularly). You can login to Blackboard at <http://elearning.yccd.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

****Please bring me three small blue books with your name written on the back by the end of the second week of the semester. They are available in the bookstore.*

Course Grade

Note: Reading quizzes, section multiple-choice exams, and the Frederick Douglass quiz will be administered through Blackboard. Quiz and exam dates will be announced in class and posted in Blackboard.

- Section 1 (*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 1-4; Lecture Content; Primary Documents).
 - Reading Quiz 1 (Ch. 1)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 2 (Ch. 2)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 3 (Ch. 3)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 4 (Ch. 4)20 points
 - Lecture/Primary Documents Multiple-Choice Exam 1100 points
 - Blue Book Essay Exam 1.....100 points
- Section 2 (*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 5-10; Lecture Content; Primary Documents).
 - Reading Quiz 5 (Ch. 5)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 6 (Ch. 6)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 7 (Ch.7)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 8 (Ch. 8)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 9 (Ch. 9)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 10 (Ch. 10)20 points
 - Lecture/Primary Documents Multiple-Choice Exam 2100 points
 - Blue Book Essay Exam 2.....100 points
- Section 3 (*Give Me Liberty!* Ch. 11-15; Lecture Content; Primary Documents).
 - Reading Quiz 11 (Ch. 11)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 12 (Ch. 12)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 13 (Ch. 13)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 14 (Ch. 14)20 points
 - Reading Quiz 15 (Ch. 15)20 points
 - Lecture/Primary Documents Multiple-Choice Exam 3100 points
 - Blue Book Essay Exam 3.....100 points
- *Frederick Douglass* Multiple-Choice Quiz50 points
 - Around Week 13 (specific date will be announced in class).
- *Dred Scott* Paper100 points
 - Due last day of lecture (expectations handout posted in Blackboard).

Total Points (1050):

A=945–1050

B=840–944

C=735–839

D=630–734

F=0-629

Exams, Quizzes, and Paper Assignment

Blue Book Essay Exams (100 points each)

You will be provided with three essay questions leading up to each Section Exam. One of those questions will be the question asked of you on the day of the exam. There is ample information to address these questions in the textbook, lecture content, and relevant primary documents posted in Blackboard. Essays should show a thorough understanding of both the readings and lecture content.

Your essay should have an introduction with contextual information and a clear argument, a well-developed body with sufficient detailed supporting evidence, a conclusion that provides some final analysis, and be at least five paragraphs. The argument presented in your introduction is the brief answer to the question while the body of the essay is used to provide solid historical examples to support your argument. Analysis of the material should be woven into the body of your essay but the conclusion is an appropriate place to clearly show that you have thought about the material in a critical and analytical way. Remember that information included in your essay should be pertinent to answering the question asked of you.

While some of you have a firm understanding of how to construct a solid argument and organize an essay, complete with strong topic sentences and thoroughly developed ideas, others may still be learning the basic characteristics of an academic essay. We have excellent resources for those who could stand to benefit from some additional assistance. Please take advantage of the College Success Center, the Writing Center, and my office hours as you prepare your draft essays.

College Success Center: <http://yc.yccd.edu/student/success-center/services.aspx>

Writing Center: <http://yc.yccd.edu/academics/support-writing.aspx>

Reading Quizzes (20 points each)

The questions for these quizzes will come from the Eric Foner *Give Me Liberty!* textbook and will be “open book.” Quizzes will be administered through Blackboard. You will only have 45 minutes to complete each quiz, so looking up the answer to each question will be impractical.

Lecture/Primary Documents Multiple-Choice Exams (100 points each)

At the end of each section there will be a multiple-choice exam on material covered in lecture with a few additional questions on the assigned primary documents. These exams will be administered through Blackboard and will be “open note.”

Frederick Douglass Quiz (50 points)

There will be a multiple-choice quiz on *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* around week 12 of the semester. This quiz will be administered through Blackboard and will be “open book.”

Dred Scott Paper (100 points)

Please see the handout posted in Blackboard for requirements and expectations.

Course Outline/Reading Assignments

NOTE: Login to Blackboard at least once per week for primary documents and other supplemental readings. Posted readings are required.

SECTION 1

Week 1: Introduction to History, etc.

Week 2: Reading Quiz 1 (Ch. 1); De Las Casas Primary Doc.

Week 3: Reading Quiz 2 (Ch. 2); Frethorn Primary Doc.

Week 4: Reading Quiz 3 (Ch. 3)

Week 5: Reading Quiz 4 (Ch. 4); Equiano Primary Doc.

SECTION 1 EXAMS

- **LECTURE/PRIMARY DOCUMENTS MULT. CH. EXAM 1 (Blackboard)**
- **BLUE BOOK ESSAY EXAM 1 (In Class)**

SECTION 2

Week 6: Reading Quiz 5 (Ch. 5); Common Sense Primary Doc.

Week 7: Reading Quiz 6 (Ch. 6); Zinn v. Wood Article

Week 8: Reading Quiz 7 (Ch. 7)

Week 9: Reading Quiz 8 (Ch. 8)

Week 10: Reading Quiz 9 (Ch. 9)

Week 11: Reading Quiz 10 (Ch. 10); Indian Removal Primary Doc.

SECTION 2 EXAMS

- **LECTURE/PRIMARY DOCUMENTS MULT. CH. EXAM 2 (Blackboard)**
- **BLUE BOOK ESSAY EXAM 2 (In Class)**

SECTION 3

Week 12: Reading Quiz 11 (Ch. 11)

- **Frederick Douglass Quiz**

Week 13: Reading Quiz 12 (Ch. 12); Cannibals All Primary Doc. and Free Labor Primary Doc.

Week 14: Reading Quiz 13 (Ch. 13)

Week 15: Reading Quiz 14 (Ch. 14); Emancipation Proclamation Primary Doc.

Week 16: Reading Quiz 15 (Ch. 15)

Week 17: Dred Scott Paper Due Last Day of Lecture (No late papers!)

SECTION 3 EXAMS (On Date of Scheduled Final)

- **LECTURE/PRIMARY DOCUMENTS MULT. CH. EXAM 3 (Blackboard)**
- **BLUE BOOK ESSAY EXAM 3 (In Class)**

****Consult Schedule of Classes for Final Exam Date/Time/Room.*

****Any changes to course readings, exam dates, or course structure as listed in the syllabus will be announced in class.*

Miscellaneous

1. No extra credit.
2. Please do not arrive to class late or leave early. Tardy students will be turned away.
3. Please do not talk on phones or text during lecture.
4. If you have a problem with a grade, please wait 24 hours before contacting me about it. If you still disagree, make an appointment with me and we can discuss it.
5. No make-up exams unless I am notified **before** the test date; only one make-up exam per semester (and only with a documented valid excuse).
6. Absolutely **no late papers**.
7. I have a zero tolerance policy for cheating (plagiarism, etc.). Please consult Student Handbook for policies and procedures.