Syllabus
Instructor: Dr. Kallman
Summer 2009
Department & Number: History 17A
Course Code: 41716

Catalog Description. This is a survey of US history from its colonial beginning through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate experiences from their nation’s past. This course fulfills the Social Science (group A) requirement for the AA degree and applies toward the completion of California state requirements in US History and Institutions. (UC, CSU, CAN Hist 8).

Advisory: By enrolling in an online class, you are accepting responsibility for having an adequate computer system, a decent Internet connection, and sufficient computer knowledge to fulfill the requirements of the course. All technical problems should be directed to the Etudes Helpdesk. Failure to complete work because of technical problems is your responsibility.

One precaution that you should take immediately is to bookmark the Etudes website. This will allow you to enter the course even if the Delta College website is "down."

Required Reading:


Contacting Me. The best way to contact me is through the "Private Messages" section of Etudes. You can also e_mail me at tkallman@deltacollege.edu.

Student Learning Outcomes

When students finish this course, they should:

Understand that history is not only an accumulation of facts but also a “way of thinking and understanding.”

Have learned to apply that “way of thinking and understanding” to contemporary issues.

Realize that history is as much a question of interpretation as it is absolute truth or fact.

Have developed skills (reading, research, note_taking, critical thinking) that will be useful to academic and professional success.

Know the major social, cultural, political, economic and diplomatic developments in the United
States from pre-colonial times through Reconstruction.

Have become familiar with key themes, events, and persons in American history.

Be able to critically examine popular preconceptions, myths, and misconceptions about American history.

Understand the roles that different ethnic, racial, and gender groups played in the history of the United States.

Responsibilities of the Student

Withdrawal from class. If you are reading this, you have logged on and are considered to have "attended" class. IF A STUDENT STOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE CLASS, IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP. Students who quit participating but do not officially withdraw will receive an “F” in the course.

Reading Assignments: Text reading assignments are given under each unit. Reading assignments should be completed when scheduled.

Discussion Forums: Participation in the Discussion Forums is a required component of the course and will be graded. Each discussion is worth 10 points. To get the maximum points, you should not only respond to my initial questions but also read the comments of your fellow students and engage them in discussion and debate. Merely posting that you agree with someone is not going to get any discussion credit. Your posting should make a substantial comment about the issues raised. You must make your forum entries while the corresponding unit is open. You will not receive credit for late entries. As a member of a college community, you have a responsibility to respect the opinions of others, be courteous, and be tolerant of disparate views and interpretations.

Quizzes. There will be a quiz on each unit during the semester. You must take the quizzes when scheduled. If you do not take the quiz during the assigned time, you will receive a "0" on that unit. No exceptions. No makeups. I will drop your lowest grade of the eight quizzes.

Examinations. You will also take a midterm exam and a final exam. The final will cover the entire course. You must take the exams when scheduled. No exceptions. No makeup examinations.

TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS: WARNING!!!

ALL QUIZZES AND EXAMINATIONS ARE TIMED. IF YOU RUN OVER THE TIME LIMIT, YOUR TEST WILL BE SUBMITTED AUTOMATICALLY WHEN TIME RUNS OUT.

Writing Assignment. The policy of the history faculty is that every student write between 1500_2000 words per semester. The writing assignment for this course is a critical book
review. You must choose a book listed in one of the following locations: the "Additional Reading" sections at the end of each chapter of the Davidson text or the "Additional Resources" section at the end of each chapter of American Portraits. No exceptions.

Write a 1500-2000 word review of the book that follows the guidelines posted under "Tasks, Test, and Surveys."

You must also observe the following guidelines.

The papers MUST be submitted in Rich Text Format (RTF) or "cut_and_pasted" into the assignments window. If you submit the paper in a format that I cannot open, you will not get credit for the assignment.

The paper must also be submitted to turnitin.com.

The paper will be graded on content (a demonstration that you understand the key issues discussed in the book) and the quality of your writing (i.e., spelling, grammar, complete sentences, paragraphs, etc.)

Do not, under any circumstances, use or cite Wikipedia or other web_based encyclopedias. Such use will result in an automatic grade reduction.

If you need help with your writing, go to the Center for Academic Preparation in Holt 201.

Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day late.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. You are expected to have honor and integrity, and to do your own work and not cheat in any way. Plagiarism is claiming someone else's work as your own. I will consider any of the following as plagiarism: copying (either verbatim or in substance) from books, encyclopedias, pre_existing papers, WWW pages, or any other source (slightly rearranging words or sentences in order to avoid exact duplication is not an adequate defense); adopting the progression of argument from one author; submitting a pre_existing paper as your own; incorporating quotes in the text without any notation to that effect; or not acknowledging your sources. If a paper or an essay looks suspicious to me, rest assured: I will check it out. I will also periodically check references and citations at random.

You will not receive full credit if you submit a paper that you have submitted in another class.

If you have any questions whatsoever about what is proper and what is improper, make sure that you ask me.

The penalty for plagiarism is an "F" for the entire course. Furthermore, your name will be submitted to the Dean of the College for disciplinary action.

If you have questions about these directions, discuss them with me before you write. Use the "Messages" sections of Etudes to communicate with me.
DISABILITIES. All students with disabilities who are in need of academic accommodations should have Learning Disabilities or Disabled Student Services contact me.

Method of Evaluation. I grade as follows:

Unit Quizzes 25%
Forum Participation 15%
Midterm Examination 15%
Book Review 20%
Final Exam 25%

Grading:

90_100=A=Excellent
80_89 =B=Very Good
70_79 =C=Fair
60_69 =D=Poor, but passing
<60 =F=Failure

All assignments must be completed when scheduled. No exceptions. No makeups.

Schedule

Unit 1: June 15_June 19
Unit 2: June 20_June 25
Unit 3: June 26_June 30
Unit 4: July 1_July 5
Midterm Examination: July 6
Unit 5: July 7_July 11
Unit 6: July 12_July 15
Unit 7: July 16_July 19
Book Review Due: July 16
Unit 8: July 20_July 23
Final Exam: July 24

I reserve the right to revise this syllabus if necessary and to announce such revisions in the "Announcements" section.