

## HISTORY 101: U.S. HISTORY SINCE RECONSTRUCTION

Palomar College

Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Christensen Gwin

Email: [cchristensengwin@palomar.edu](mailto:cchristensengwin@palomar.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the social, cultural and political development of the United States from the colonial era to 1877. We will examine the dramatic transformations of the nation's first three hundred years--from the "discovery" of the New World to the Civil War. Topics will include: the impact of colonization on Native American life; the origins and significance of the Revolutionary War; the democratization of American society; the growth and consequences of the new industrial order; the expansion and abolition of slavery; the acquisition and settlement of the American West and the evolving role of the federal government. We will also pay particular attention to the significance of racial, ethnic, and gender ideologies in defining the boundaries of citizenship and shaping American life and culture.

Beyond our thematic focus, this course aims to cultivate historical thinking and analysis skills, such as:

1. understanding context, multiple perspectives, and complex causation.
2. reading and analyzing primary sources.
3. evaluating diverse historical interpretations and arguments.
4. expressing and supporting ideas in writing and in class discussion.
5. writing an argumentative historical essay that synthesizes and integrates evidence from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the historical and theoretical foundations of the U. S. Constitution, the structure and function of the three Branches, the Checks and Balances system, and the nature as well as the continuing impact of the Bill of Rights.
- Demonstrate college level writing in assessing and interpreting American history.
- Accurately interpret American history through the use of primary and secondary sources.

### GRADING:

Quizzes:	130sh pts
Written Assignments:	100sh pts
Paper:	70pts
Exams:	170pts

## REQUIRED READINGS

- Select readings on Canvas (Primary Sources & Articles)
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (available on ebooks at Palomar Library and in the bookstore)
- Optional *American Yawp* (On-Line History Textbook-No cost)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course happens on Canvas. However, I still hope to create a “classroom” with an engaged and lively community of learners. As such, you still need to show up and participate, even if it’s on your own time and schedule. This means you must view lectures and complete assignments within the given time frame, respond to discussion posts when asked, and stay in good contact with me as the course progresses. Communication is vital to succeeding!

**Drop Policy:** If nothing is submitted within three weeks of the course (and I am unable to contact you) will be dropped from the course.

**Modules:** This course is structured with roughly 20 “modules,” or short units of study which typically include a lecture, readings, an assignment and quiz. Each week two modules will be available for you to complete. That means you can submit the work when you want, but it has to be done by the “due date” (Sunday at 11:59pm) to avoid penalty. However, if “life” or extenuating circumstances are preventing you from completing assignments, contact me for an extension.

**Reading:** There is no textbook for this course. Instead you will be reading a variety of excerpts from books, articles from academic journals and primary source documents (documents from the time we are studying) I have selected. They are posted in each weekly module and should be completed in the order presented. You can expect to do around 20-30 pages in reading a week. You will usually complete an assignment related to the readings, and they will provide much of the information for your exam. I’m hoping that the lectures provide enough general information for each historical period and the events we study. If you need more background or clarification you can read from our online textbook, *The American Yawp*. These optional readings are linked in each module’s “Introduction” page.

**Written Assignments:** Most weeks you will complete a small written assignment that include comprehension questions, primary analyses, response pieces, film reflections, discussion posts and other small tasks. You can drop or miss one of these assignments unless indicated as “required”. You must complete the “required” written assignments. (Although you can miss an assignment, you are still responsible for knowing all course material for exams.)

**Lecture:** All lectures are posted on weekly modules on Canvas. There are usually two lectures each week with short quizzes to follow. These narrated power points are about an hour in length and the basis of information for both quizzes and exams. If you encounter any difficulties viewing the lectures, please contact me immediately.

**Quizzes:** Upon the completion of the lecture, you will take a short (and pretty easy!) quiz. These quizzes are only worth about 5 points, but they add up and can significantly improve/hurt your grade. You can retake the quiz twice if you do poorly and can drop or skip two quizzes over the semester. One exception to this format is the Constitution Quiz. This is the only timed quiz without the opportunity to retake it.

**Exams:** There are three exams in this class. These tests are a mix of short answer response and essay questions. Each covers about five weeks of class and they are not cumulative. The exams will assess only material covered in class, and no outside material will be allowed.

**Paper:** You will write one short paper this semester on *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, due on April 18th. I will provide the paper guidelines as we move into the semester. We will spend time preparing for this paper, so do not worry!

**Grading:** Canvas will grade many of your assignments immediately. However, I'm not quite as fast and will grade written assignments within a week from submission.

**Late Policy & Plagiarism:** All assignments must be turned in on time, unless you've received an extension. Remember, plagiarism will not be tolerated. Before submitting any written assignments please make sure you understand Palomar College's Academic Honesty Policy. If you are not certain what plagiarism is, or need guidance about academic honesty, please visit the link on Canvas.

**Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to extra credit throughout the semester. For more information see Canvas.

**Disclosure of Disability:** If you have specific disabilities and require special accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) will help provide appropriate support for course exams, assignments, etc.

**If you have any trouble accessing lectures, quizzes, readings, assignments, films, etc., please notify me immediately.**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1: February 1-February 7**

Lecture 1: Introduction, Syllabus & What is Historical Thinking?

Lecture 2 & Quiz: Spanish Exploration & the New World

Readings & Assignments: "The Indian's Old World"; "Bartolomé de Las Casas Describes the Exploitation of Indigenous Peoples, 1542"; Image analysis

### **Week 2: February 8- February 14**

Lecture 3 & Quiz: British Colonization of the New World

Reading & Assignments: Excerpts, *American Colonies* by Alan Taylor (139-141, 146); Richard Frethorne Letter

Lecture 4 & Quiz: The Puritans in America

Reading & Assignments: "A Model of Christian Charity" & Excerpts, *The Wordy Shipmates*

Discussion: "Blackstone's Commentaries"

### **Week 3: February 15-February 21**

Lecture 5 & Quiz: Indian Encounters

Readings & Assignment: Excerpts from *Changes in the Land* & Quiz; "Bloody Footprints" from *Indigenous Peoples History*

Lecture 6 & Quiz: Africans in America

Readings & Assignment: The Atlantic Slave Trade Reflection & Critical Response #1

### **Week 4: February 22-February 28**

Lecture 6 & Quiz: Colonial Culture & Empire

Readings & Assignments: Secondary: Excerpts "World of Goods in Northern Colonies" by TH Breen; "Memorial against Non-English Immigration"

Optional Reading: Excerpts from *American Colonies* (302-323)

Lecture 7 & Quiz: Religion and War in the Colonies

Readings & Assignment: "Sins of the Father"

### **Week 5: March 1-March 7**

Lecture 8 & Quiz: Revolutionary Ideas

Readings & Assignment: "What is Republicanism?"; "Sins of the Father: Virtue & Religion"; Excerpts from John Locke's Second Treatise

Lecture 9 & Quiz: The Road to War

Readings & Assignments: "The Stamp Act Resolutions," & The Declaration of Independence

### **Week 6: March 8-March 14**

Lecture 10 & Quiz: The War for Independence

Readings & Assignments: Interpretations of the Revolution

Exam I (Due March 17<sup>th</sup>)

### **Week 7: March 15-March 21**

Lecture 11 & Quiz: The New Nation

Reading & Assignments: Thomas Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia; Pennsylvania Emancipation Laws; Letter from John Adams

Lecture 12 & Quiz: The Constitution & Partisan Politics

Reading & Assignment: Constitution Study Guide & Quiz

\*Constitution Quiz

### **Spring Break: March 22- March 28**

### **Week 8: March 29-April 5**

Lecture 13 & Quiz: The Market Revolution

Reading & Assignments: De Tocqueville Readings, "That Aristocracy May Be Engendered By Manufactures" "Why Americans are so Restless..." & Quiz

Lecture 14 & Quiz: The West & The Trail of Tears

Readings & Assignment: "Commander and Chief: from *Indigenous People's History*

### **Week 9: April 5-April 11**

Lecture 15 & Quiz: The Slave South

Reading & Assignment: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Lecture 16 & Quiz: Slave Life & Culture

Reading & Assignment: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

**Week 10: April 12-April 18**

Lecture 17 & Quiz: Abolitionism & Reform

Reading & Assignments: Reading: Fitzhugh's "The Proslavery Defense"; David Walker's "Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World"; "Appeals to Christian Women to Oppose Slavery"

Paper Due

**Week 11: April 19-April 25**

Exam II

**Week 12: April 26-May 2**

Lecture 19 & Quiz: The War of American Aggression

Reading & Assignments: Excerpts from *Racial Faultlines: The Historical Origins of White Supremacy in California* & Summary; "Petition from Californio Land Owners"

Lecture 20 & Quiz: Gold Mountain & Native Americans

Reading & Assignment: Excerpt *American Genocide*

**Week 13: May 3-May 9**

Lecture 21 & Quiz: Whiteness, Immigration and Minstrelsy in the Antebellum North

Reading & Assignment: "New Yorker George Templeton Strong Berates the Immigrants in His Midst 1838-1857"

Film: *Ethnic Notions*

**Week 14: May 10-May 16**

Lecture 22 & Quiz: A Dividing Nation

Reading & Assignments: Excerpts from *To Make Men Free*; The Lincoln Douglas Debates

Lecture 23 & Quiz: A Divided Nation

Reading & Assignment: "The Largest, Most Successful Slave Revolt in History?" by Steven Hahn; Civil War Primary Sources

**Week 15: May 17-May 23**

Lecture 24 & Quiz: Reconstruction

Reading & Assignment: Excerpts from *The Stoney Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy and the Rise of Jim Crow*

Lecture 25 & Quiz: Race & Reunion

Reading & Assignments: Freedman's Letter, Excerpts from *The Warmth of Other Suns*

**Week 16: May 22- May 27**

May 27: Final Exam

***Note: Syllabus Subject to Change during the Semester***