

## HISTORY 121: 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY UNITED STATES HISTORY

Instructor: Chad Israelson  
Phone: 529-1078  
Email:chadisraelson@msn.com  
Class: Monday Evenings Fall 2008

---

### *TEXT*

The course will employ two required text books. The standard text will be a custom made book called 19<sup>th</sup> Century US History by John Murrin published by Cengage Learning. The ISBN is 0495836362. The other text will be Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* ISBN 13: 978-0-06-083865-2. The text books will be used to augment the class lectures, as well as provide the source for written assignments and test material.

### *COURSE GOALS*

The objectives for this course will be to give students a broader and deeper understanding of American history during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Even more importantly, this course will offer an historical perspective into the formation of today's society. We will discuss how political, social, economic, cultural, foreign relations and technological changes have impacted both the past and the present. By the end of the course each student should have a better understanding of the issues surrounding Industrialization, Democracy, Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and Urbanization. Students should be able to grasp and place into context, the major concepts involved in the development of America, its people, and institutions. The reasons to pursue historical study are not merely to uncover the past, but also to allow us to make forecasts for the future based upon our experiences. In addition, this course should also help to improve the knowledge, critical thinking, and writing skills of each student. Finally, the course will assist in one of the most valuable aspects of history, "the search for identity." In other words, history allows us to understand ourselves (whether it be personal, cultural, or national identity) today, by studying the past. All the while we will be exploring the theme "The Growth of Modern America."

### *CLASS DESIGN*

The course will consist of lectures, class discussions, and occasional audio/visual media. Questions and comments are always welcome. The class will be designed in such a way that we make maximum use of our condensed time. Therefore, a majority of the assignments are to be completed outside of the class, however we will have some short in class work based on the readings. We will have a take home mid-term and final in-class examination that will consist of essay questions. In all assignments, as well as during lectures, critical thinking will be emphasized.

### *GRADING*

Grades for this course will be issued according to a percentage of the total number of points earned by the student. There will be 250 possible points. The grades scale will be based the standard Augsburg University scale (4.0, 3.5, 3.0,2.5 etc). The grades for the course will derive from the essay tests and written assignments. 4.0 = 100-93%; 3.5 = 92-88%; 3.0 = 87-80%; 2.5 = 79-76%; 2.0 = 75-70% 1.5 = 69-66%; 1.0 = 65-60%.

### *ATTENDANCE*

I will not take a nightly attendance, but obviously we will be covering large amounts of material in class in addition to the material students will be responsible for outside of class. Therefore, regular attendance is a necessity. However, I certainly understand that emergencies arise. For in-class test make-ups, please contact me as soon as possible. Any students who have any special needs should inform me of them the first night.

### *MAJOR THEMES OF THE COURSE*

Introduction: Jeffersonian America-War of 1812

Section One: Democracy and the new American Culture

Section Two: Expansion

Section Three: The Civil War Era

Section Four: The End of the Frontier

Section Five: Urbanization, Industrialization, and the Rise of Big Business

### *DATES*

Sept 15: Introduction and Section One

Sept 29: Section Two

October 13: Sections Two and Three

October 27: Section Three

November 10: Section Four and Five

November 24: Section Five

December 6: Final

### *READING ASSIGNMENTS (the corresponding material)*

Section One: Murrin Chapters 1-4; Zinn Chapter 6

Section Two: Chapter Murrin Chapter 5; Zinn Chapters 7 & 8

Section Three: Murrin Chapters 6-9; Zinn Chapters 9 & 10

Section Four: Murrin Chapter 10; Zinn Chapter 16

Section Five: Murrin Chapter 11 & 12; Zinn Chapter 11

**NOTE: For the first evening please familiarize yourself with the syllabus and be prepared to ask any questions you may have. You DO NOT HAVE to have any of the readings done before class.**

Paper 1: September 29 (25 points)

Paper 2: October 13 (25 points)

Paper 3: October 27 (25 points)

Paper 4: November 24 (25 points)

Take Home Essay: November 10 (50 points)

Final Test: December 6 (50 points)

In Class: 5 @ 10 points each