

History 17.1: History of the United States to 1877

Santa Rosa Junior College

Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Ian Livie

Email: ilivie@santarosa.edu

Room: PC 656

Section#: 3698

Course time: Tuesday, 6-9 PM

Office hours: Tuesday, 5:10-6:00 PM and by appointment

Required Texts:

- ❖ Norton, Mary Beth, et al. *A People and a Nation Volume I: to 1877*. New York: Cengage, 2015. ISBN: 9781285430829 (Available at the [SRJC Petaluma Center Bookstore](#); Print and digital versions also available for purchase or rent on [Barnes and Noble](#) & [Amazon.com](#)).
- ❖ Selected primary texts (to be provided digitally and as handouts)

Course Description:

History 17.1 is a semester-long survey of the early history of the United States. Beginning with a study of indigenous societies in the Americas and the arrival of Europeans, the course explores the origins of American identity through a variety of perspectives, culminating with the end of Reconstruction in the south following the American Civil War.

SRJC Course Outline:

https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/SR_CourseOutlines.aspx?Semester=20177&CVID=36434

SRJC Student Code of Conduct:

<https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu>

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the political, economic, cultural and social developments in U.S. history from pre-colonial times until Reconstruction.
2. Assess the causes and effects of particular historical events.
3. Analyze and distinguish between primary and secondary sources as historical evidence.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Integrate geographical knowledge with historical study.
2. Utilize the social, political, and economic historical approaches in assessing the past.
3. Question their own values and assumptions about American history.
4. Assess the claim that the heritage and institutions of the United States are to some degree unique and explore the rationale that supports this "uniqueness."
5. Describe the values, themes, methods and history of the discipline and identify realistic career objectives related to selecting the major.

Class Policies:

Assignments and Grading: All take-home assignments must be typed/word processed according to the following specifications: double-spaced, twelve point font using either Times New Roman, Palatino, or Garamond, one inch margins, and standard text alignment. All out-of-class work (reading and written work) is due at the beginning of the specified class. No late work will be accepted unless you have made arrangements with me in advance of the due date. Below is some basic info about the assignments/responsibilities for the course and the grade break down:

- **Midterm Exams** – (20% each): There are TWO midterm exams. Each exam requires you to synthesize in class material (lecture and discussion) with the reading to respond to identification and short answer essay questions. Specific information about the format and expectations for these exams will be distributed in class and online.
- **Reflection Responses & Participation** – (10%): Over the course of the term, you will be asked to write brief reflections during class time in response to a question or prompt provided by the instructor. These reflections will address material in the reading, the lecture, or both, and will require you to consider your own ideas about topics in those areas. Each reflection should be one paragraph (four to six sentences) and submitted immediately following completion in class. In-class reflections CANNOT be turned in late or made up on a later date. Students must actively participate in discussion during each class session. Attendance will be taken at each class session. Students must actively take notes and are responsible for all information presented in class. See guidelines below.
- **Term Paper** – (20%): Students will complete a term paper in response to an assignment distributed in class.
- **Final Exam** – (30 %): Although in a similar format to the midterms, the final will be cumulative for the term. A review guide will be distributed two weeks before the exam.

Reading: Course reading forms an important part of the class and should not be taken lightly. Each week, you will be assigned textbook reading to complete on your own (see below). Students who do not complete the reading in advance of the class meeting time will not only suffer in terms of a diminished participation grade, but will also make class time much less rich. Since these lectures and discussions will yield significant of the material for your exams, it behooves you to keep up and stay engaged. The textbook will be available at the SRJC Bookstore or online at the bookseller of your choice. Readings not in published texts will be available through electronic reserve or as handouts in class. Difficulty in accessing the articles does not excuse you from reading them. Make sure you can access the articles as soon as possible and notify me via email if there are any problems.

Participation: Even in a lecture format class, participation and attendance is important. In order to earn participation credit, you must be present in class; attendance will be taken in every class session. You must actively participate in group discussions, collaborative activities, etc. and bring course materials and assignments to every class session. As noted before, students are personally responsible for all material presented in class. If you are absent for any reason, please arrange to get material from another student in class. This class will rely on the steady contributions of the entire group, in terms of verbal contributions, active listening, and maintaining an environment of respect and civility. It is important that class is a place where everyone is comfortable, secure, and has a voice. If this is ever not the case, please see me.

Electronic Devices: While I encourage you to use laptops/tablets as note-taking devices during the course, I also know from experience that such devices can also be distractions for those using such devices and for those around you (this is a much larger problem than you may realize). Please TURN OFF all cell phones and other electronic devices not used for note-taking before entering the class and do not use such devices during class time.

Attendance: Class attendance and participation is mandatory and forms an important part of your grade. Given the nature of the class, missing even a single class can jeopardize your grade in the course. As mentioned above, attendance will be taken at each class session. This will happen either with a sign-in sheet or through the writing response sheets. Please do your best to be on time. Being late to class damages more than just your own progress, but also has an impact on your classmates as we work through the material each week.

The following deadline dates have been established for this section:

Day Class Begins:	Tuesday, August 22, 2017
Day Class Ends:	Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Day/Time of Final Exam:	Tuesday, December 19, 2017 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Last Day to Add without instructor's approval:	Sunday, August 27, 2017
Last Day to Add with instructor's approval:	Sunday, September 10, 2017
Last Day to Drop and be eligible for enrollment/course fee refund:	Sunday, September 3, 2017
Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol:	Sunday, September 10, 2017
Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol:	Sunday, November 19, 2017
Last Day to Opt for Pass/No Pass:	Sunday, October 1, 2017
First Census Date:	Monday, September 11, 2017
Mid-Term Date:	10/16/2017 - 11/19/2017

Reading and Assignment Schedule

8/22: Course Introduction: Understanding Early America

Reading: None

8/30: The Columbian Moment: Indigenous Americans and the arrival of Europeans

Reading: Chapter. 1 in *A People and A Nation*

9/5: No class (SRJC faculty development flex day)

Reading: none

9/12: European Colonization in North America

Reading: Chapter 2 & 3

9/19: American National Identity?

Reading: Chapter 4

9/26 **Midterm Examination #1**

Reading: None

10/3: Decline of the First British Empire

Reading: Chapter 5

10/10: The American Revolution(s)

Reading: Chapter 6

10/17: Post-Revolutionary America

Reading: Chapter 7

10/24: Creating a nation

Reading: Chapter 8

10/31: Halloween (no class)

Reading: none

11/7: **Midterm Examination #2**

Reading: None

11/14: North and South

Reading: Chapter 9 & 10

11/21: **Term Paper Due**

Reading: None

11/28 The West and the politics of division

Reading: Chapter 11 & 12

12/5: The American Civil War

Reading: Chapter 13

12/12: Reconstruction

Reading: Chapter 14

12/19: **Final Examination**

**** Note: It may be necessary to modify this syllabus during the course of the semester****