

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 112.60
UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865 (ONLINE)
SPRING 2007

Professor: Christopher K. Riggs

Office Location: Spalding 109

Office Hours:

3:00-4:30 PM Mon

1:30-2:45 PM Tues

9:00-10:00 AM Wed

whenever you catch me in the office,
and by appointment

Phone: 792-2264

E-mail: ckriggs@lcsc.edu

Professional Website: www.lcsc.edu/criggs

Course Website: <http://bbce.lcsc.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

OVERVIEW

This course will survey the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the end of the twentieth century. We will touch on a variety of topics, including politics and diplomacy, economics, and social issues. We will pay particular attention to attempts to reconcile the nation's "core ideals" of liberty, equality, and representative democracy with the reality of individuals' lives. While most Americans expressed a belief in these concepts, many events of the post-Civil War era--such as the rise of corporate/industrial capitalism and legalized racial segregation--seriously challenged these ideas. We will examine what these challenges were and how leaders as well as "ordinary" Americans attempted to deal with them. In some cases, Americans sought to alter the political, social, and economic structures. In other instances, people altered their interpretations of the "core ideals" to adjust them to new realities.

COURSE FORMAT

The course is an online version of History 112. As such, there will not be lectures. Rather students will be expected to do readings, post to the discussion board, and complete weekly assignments (see below).

This course is based on the assumption that you have access to a computer that is connected to the Internet and that you are familiar with basic web browsing software and that you have made appropriate arrangements with LCSC's Distance Learning to access the course website. If you experience technical problems (password not working, etc.), it is unlikely I will be able to assist you. However, you may find useful information at LCSC's Distance Learning website at: <http://www.lcsc.edu/dl/>

If you need help, you can also contact the IT Helpdesk by phone at 208-792-2231 or by email at helpdesk@lcsc.edu.

The world of the online classroom is relatively new to me, as it is for many of you. So please have a little patience as we figure out how to best put the technology to use for our purposes.

TIME REQUIRED

The following is advice that my colleague, Prof. Eric Martin, offers to his online students. I reprint it here, as I believe it is good advice for you as well.

To ensure that your learning experience is meaningful and successful, please reserve enough time to read the assigned texts and the online course material so that you can substantially participate in our on-line class discussions. Although the technology this course is based on allows us to meet on our own time and from our own space, the "Technological Difficulties" such as a slow connection, lost post, WEBCT down, etc. also means that this course will probably require more of your time than it would if we were meeting on campus. So, that is the technological trade off.

When I was a freshman I was told that if I wanted to do well in a course, I should plan to study three hours outside of class each week for every hour of time I spent in class. This is a three hour per week class. Of course, that formula is not going to work for everybody, but I think it provides a good guideline.

READINGS

Edward Ayers et.al., *American Passages: A History of the United States*, vol. II, *Since 1865*, 3rd ed. (2007).

Various online documents.

Since there is no lecture component to the course, it is especially important that you do the readings.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn out of a possible 950. You earn points by doing the following things.

Discussion Board Participation. You can earn up to 200 points by posting comments to the Discussion Board. In some cases, I will post questions or comments to stimulate the discussion. In other cases, I will allow an open thread so that you may comment on whatever aspect of a chapter or document that you like. Although this is an online course, we will still have deadlines for discussions. Generally speaking, discussion topics will be closed within about two to three weeks. There may be exceptions, of

course. There is not a "magic number" of postings you should make. Try to provide as many substantive comments and/or questions as you can. Access to the Discussions Board is through the "Discussions" Tool on the left hand side of the page.

Weekly Assignments. You can earn up to 750 points by completing the weekly assignments. These assignments can be accessed through the course homepage and the "Assignments" Tool on the left hand side of the page. Assignments will generally be worth 50 points each and will vary from week to week; formats will include essay questions, short answer questions, multiple choice quizzes, etc. Please note that not all assignments will appear at the beginning of the semester. More will be added as time goes on.

Any assignment turned in after the deadline will be subject to a late penalty of 5 points per day.

Extra Credit

You will have the option to do a maximum of two extra credit assignments, worth up to 20 points total. Students should check with me before proceeding with any extra credit work. The activities listed below are suggestions; other projects would likely be acceptable as well, but just be sure to check with me if you have any questions. Please note that the more complex and difficult the project, the more points you are likely to earn.

Some potential extra credit projects include:

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related article in a magazine, journal, or newspaper.

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related film.

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing an online history-related source.

Note that you must cite any source that you use in your extra credit project (author and title of article, title of film, web address, etc.)

Extra credit work must be turned in no later than the end of the day on May 7 (Friday).

GRADING

I will grade using the following scale:

93-100% = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89% = B+	83-87 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79% = C+	73-77 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69% = D+	63-67 = D	60-62 = D-
59% and below = F		

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Class policy is the same as that of the college. As explained in the LCSC Student Handbook: Code of Conduct:

<<http://www.lcsc.edu/student-services/SHBcodeofconduct.htm>>

Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. The College functions to promote the cognitive and psychosocial development of all students. Therefore, all work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts and current understanding.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- a) Cheating—intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term "academic exercise" includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours.
- b) Fabrication—intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise.
- c) Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty—intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty.
- d) Plagiarism—the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statement of another person as one's own without acknowledgment.

Anyone found in any of the above activities or related activities will be subject to penalty. Such penalty may include failing a particular assignment, failing the course, and/or additional sanctions imposed by the college.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must consult with me no later than three weeks before the first exam.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule (with the emphasis on tentative!) of the topics we will address in class and the American Passages (AP) book. (Online reading assignments are specified in each assignment.)

ch. = chapter
chs. = chapters
pp. = pages

Week of Jan 15
Introduction and Reconstruction, 1863-1877
Readings: AP: chs. 15-16

Jan 15: MLK Day

Week of Jan 22
Western Expansion, 1860s-1890s
Readings: AP: chs. 16-18

Week of Jan 29
Business and Industrialization, 1860s-1890s
Readings: AP: chs. 17-19

Week of Feb 5
Crisis and Empire, 1890s
Readings: AP: ch. 19

Week of Feb 12
Response to Industrialization: Progressive Era, 1890-1916
Readings: AP: chs. 20-21

Week of Feb 19
Foreign Policy, World War I and the Twenties, 1914-1929
Readings: AP: chs. 22-23

Feb 19: President's Day

Week of Feb 26
The Great Depression and New Deal, 1929-1939
Readings: AP: ch. 24-25

Week of Mar 5
America and World War II, 1937-1945
Readings: AP: ch. 26

Week of Mar 12
The Cold War's Origins, 1945-1953
Readings: AP: ch. 27

Week of Mar 19: Spring Break

Week of Mar 26
America in the "Fifties," 1953-1960
Readings: AP: ch. 28

Week of Apr 2
The Sixties, 1960-1968
Readings: AP: ch. 29

Week of Apr 9: Professor Out of Town

Week of Apr 16
The Sixties, 1968-1975
Readings: AP: ch. 30

Week of Apr 23
Conservatism's Rise; the Waning of the Cold War, 1975-1991
Readings: WP: ch. 31

Week of Apr 30
The Post-Cold War Era and the New Millennium, 1991-today
Readings: WP: ch. 32

Week of May 7
Catch Up and Review
Readings: Whatever you need to finish

Extra Credit Due May 8