

Honors 111
Themes in American Civilization
Spring Semester, 2016
MW 1:00pm-2:15pm
WRI C212

Course Instructor: XXXXXX XXXXX, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: MW 8:30am-9:30am; 3:00pm-5:00pm
TR 8:30am-9:30am; 1:00pm-3:00pm
By appointment

Open Door Policy: I regularly am in my office and keep an open door policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by my office outside of the listed office hours, and I will be happy to answer them.

Course Overview:

This course examines in depth a variety of themes in United States history from its beginnings to the present with the concept of freedom at its core. We will look at what freedom historically has meant to Americans, what it means in contemporary times, and how it has influenced and continues to influence the choices American leaders make.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Articulate in depth, the various themes of American history as they relate to freedom.
2. Articulate in depth how historical events, actors, politics, and society interacted to shape the nation's history and its future.
3. Deeply and critically think about how themes in American history directly and indirectly impact their lives.
4. Have strong oral and written communications skills.
5. Have strong research skills.

Required Texts:

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present*. New York: Harper Collins, 1999.

Supplemental reading materials provided by the instructor

Grading:

There are several components to students' course grades. They are as follows:

Exams: There will be an exam at the end of each module for a total of four. The exams will be comprised of essay questions requiring students to critically think about the material in each module. Students will be able to select which questions they would like to answer. They also will be able to drop their lowest test score. Each exam will comprise 20% of the course grade.

Research Paper: Students will be required to research and produce a research paper of acceptable, college-level quality that is five pages in length (excluding the bibliography) on a topic related to any course module. During the second week, the instructor will distribute research paper guidelines. The paper will comprise 20% of the course grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class on discussion days. The questions will come from the assigned reading. The purpose behind the quiz is twofold. First, it requires students to complete the readings and critically reflect on them. Second, the instructor often will use the quiz questions to commence class discussions. The instructor will not give make-up quizzes with the exception of observance of religious holidays where students must notify the instructor by the end of the first week of class. Quizzes will comprise 10% of the course grade.

Attendance and Participation: Attending and participating in class discussions is essential to student learning in any undergraduate or graduate college course. The instructor expects students to attend class and be prepared to discuss the course readings. Students will be given three excused or unexcused absences. After the third absence, the student's course grade will be lowered by a whole letter grade. This is not designed to be punitive as it is to make students understand the importance of attending class and knowing that there is considerable material to cover. Falling behind will make it very difficult, if not impossible to get caught up. Attendance and participation will constitute 10% of the course grade.

Thus:

(4) Exams – lowest test score = (3) Exams = 60%
Research Paper = 20%

Quizzes = 10%

Attendance and Participation = 10%

Grading Scale:

100%-92% = A

91%-90% = A-

89%-87% = B+

86%-82% = B

81%-80% = B-

79%-77% = C+

76%-72% = C

71%-70% = C-

69%-67% = D+

66%-62% = D

61%-60% = D-

59% & lower = F

Some important things to note:

Students will be allowed to use laptop computers for ***note-taking only***. They will be prohibited from use for anything else. Please refrain from doing other non-course related activities. It is a sign of disrespect to the instructor, peers, and the classroom as a place where students have the opportunity to learn. That being said, students also must turn off all other portable electronic devices prior to the commencement of class.

University Policies

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use**

laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **January 29, 2016**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Incomplete Grades - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex

(SSC). Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling 702-895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

UNLV Writing Center – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Reading and Assignments Schedule

Unit 1: Europe, the American Colonies, and the Constitution

1/20	Lecture:	Introduction
	Reading:	Zinn Introduction
1/25	Lecture:	European Society and the American Colonies
	Reading:	Zinn 1, 2
1/27		Quiz/Class Discussion
2/1	Lecture:	Creating a Colonial and Revolutionary Culture
	Reading:	Zinn 3, 4

2/3 Quiz/Class Discussion
2/8 Lecture: The Revolutionary Era
Reading: Zinn 5, 6
2/10 Quiz/Class Discussion
2/15 No Class Meeting – Holiday
2/17 Lecture: The Constitution/Review for Exam #1
2/22 **Exam #1**

Unit 2: Slavery and Reconstruction

2/24 Lecture: Lead up to the Civil War
Reading: Zinn 8
2/26 Quiz/Class Discussion
2/29 Lecture: The Institution of Slavery
3/2 Reading: Zinn 9
3/7 Quiz/Class Discussion
3/9 Lecture: Reconstruction/Review for Exam #2
Reading: Zinn 10
3/14 **Exam#2**

Unit 3: Populism, Progressivism, and the New Deal

3/16 Lecture: Populism
3/21 No Class – Spring Break
3/23 No Class – Spring Break
3/28 Lecture: Populism Continued

Reading: Zinn 11
3/30 Quiz/Class Discussion
4/4 Lecture: Progressivism
Reading: Zinn 12
4/6 Quiz/Class Discussion
4/11 Lecture: New Deal/Review for Exam #3
Reading: Zinn 15
4/13 Exam #3

Unit 4: Civil Rights, the Cold War, the Age of Reagan, and the Present

4/18 Lecture: Civil Rights Movement
Reading: Zinn 17
4/20 Quiz/Class Discussion
4/25 Lecture: The Cold War; Age of Reagan
Reading: Zinn 18, 21, 24
4/27 Quiz/Class Discussion; Research Paper #3 Due
5/2 Review for Exam #4
5/4 Exam #4

*****Please note that the above schedule and procedures for this course are subject to change.*****