

United States History Syllabus 2009-2010

Tuesday & Thursday 8:15-9:45

Instructor: Doug Cline

This course introduces the main themes of American history. Because of the vast amount of material to be covered, this course is designed as a series of lectures and discussions, based on, but also supplementing, assigned readings in a standard text, three monographs, and primary source materials.

GOALS:

The first semester of this course will acquaint students with the development of United States history from early exploration attempts by Europeans to the conclusion of the Civil War. After the Christmas Break, we will examine American history from Reconstruction through the 1960s. Students will gain a substantive understanding of the events and issues that helped create the American culture. They will also be introduced to the research methods and materials used by professional historians.

METHOD:

Students are expected to be familiar with the assigned readings in the text before the corresponding class. In other words, you must be prepared to ask and answer questions about the readings. With that in mind, classes will be a mixture of lectures and student discussion.

EVALUATION & COURSE GRADE:

Exams will test the students' knowledge of the material covered. Study questions will be handed out one week in advance of each quiz/exam.

Grades for the course will be: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below

EXTRA CREDIT:

For as much as ten points extra credit on the final grade students may either:

- Choose to rewrite all three quizzes as formal papers or
- Choose to visit Conner Prairie and prepare a journal of their visit. Instructions will be handed out after the first quiz.

TEXT:

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation, A Concise History of the American People*, Volume I: To 1877 & Volume II: From 1865.

POLICIES:

All assignments are due on the specified dates and will be penalized if submitted after the date they are due.

A grade of zero (0) will be assigned to any work produced by cheating or plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism are defined as follows:

Cheating: cheating is dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, course assignments, alteration of records, or illegal possession of examinations. It is the responsibility of the student not only to abstain from cheating, but, in addition, to avoid the appearance of cheating and to guard against making it possible for others to cheat. Any student who helps another student to cheat is as guilty of cheating as the student assisted. The student should also do everything possible to induce respect for the examining process and for honesty in the performance of assigned tasks in or out of class.

Plagiarism: plagiarism is the offering of the work of someone else as one's own. Honesty requires that any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches, or the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgement is also considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another source is guilty of plagiarism.

SCHEDULE:

Handed out separately.