

History 7A Online
History of the United States until 1865

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In the subject line of e-mail, please write Online 7A

This course covers the main events, actors, and themes of United States History from 1865. While doing this we hope to develop and improve critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills through the study of American social, economic, and political development.

READINGS

America Past and Present by Robert Divine, vol. I, 8th edition.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, by Frederick Douglass

GETTING STARTED

When first logging into the class go to [Discussions](#), [Cyber Café](#) and read [Getting Started](#), [Discussion Postings](#) and [Group Assignments](#).

GOALS

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- 1 Identify the major events and actors in United States History up to 1865.
- 2 Summarize the major debates over the course of US History up to 1865.

Essay topics for mid-term:

- 1 Colonization (Settlement of the thirteen colonies).
- 2 Causes and events that lead to the American Revolution.
- 3 Early American Government from 1783-1800.

Essay topics for final:

- 3 Causes and events that lead to the Civil War.
- 4 United States expansion from 1803-1853.
- 5 Reconstruction.

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

Although this is a regular history class, with readings and exams that you might find in any class, you will be accessing my 'teaching' and contributing your 'learning' via the Internet. Although I will be accessible, you will not have the luxury of hearing someone explain everything to you. You will be able to direct your own learning and do so at your own pace more so than in a traditional class. **YOU MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN PROGRESS.**

- 1 You will access information and share your learning through the website, at the time and place of your choosing (within certain limits). Since you will need to check the website regularly, you should bookmark it.
- 2 You will contribute to class discussions by posting your thoughts and comments on our discussion board. Because no one will know you are attending class if you don't "say" anything, your active participation in writing is crucial.
- 3 While an online course offers you great flexibility, it also presents a greater challenge to your self-discipline! Don't forget to turn on your computer!
- 4 You can access our online classroom by going to <http://vcccd.blackboard.com>
- 5 Username and password are the same as you use for WebStar.

Although technology makes our lives easier---unfortunately it doesn't always work. If you try to log on to our online classroom and can't, here's what to do:

1. Try again.
2. Try again later.
3. If you continue to have difficulties contact me. If I can't help you I will contact or direct you to Heather Untalan at 805-654-6452 or huntalan@vcccd.net

GRADES

Class discussion	30%
Chapter quizzes	15%
Douglass Paper	15%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading scale

900-1000= A
800-899= B
700-799= C
600-699 = D
below 600 = F

Grades will be posted in My Grades. Quizzes will be posted as you submit them. Remainder of grades I will post. Discussion Board grades will be posted by chapter, which will be weekly usually. Including the bonus mentioned below there are actually 1052 points available. As a result grading scale will be strictly followed. 899 points is a B (899 of 1052 = 85%). You must earn at least 900 points for an A, 800 for a B, etc.

Due to the nature of this course under no circumstances will students be able to be given an Incomplete. The Discussion Board cannot be made up at a later date.

DISCUSSION BOARD

Participation / discussion is crucial to your success. If you do not contribute to class discussion in writing, no one will know that you are attending class.

You should participate by posting comments to the Discussion Board. At the minimum, you should respond to the study questions that I post and respond to at least two of your classmates for each question. For each segment, you may earn a maximum of ten points for discussion (up to 5 points for each posting and 2.5 points for each response; total possible 10). **Understand that postings will be ‘graded’ based on timeliness and content.** You are required to read **ALL** postings on Discussion Board. This is how we “attend” class. For those that read all posts in Cyber Café, midterm and final review segments and all postings in your group segments will earn a 10% bonus of Discussion Board points. Example; if you read all required posts and earn 250 points on the Discussion Board you will received an additional 25 bonus points. These are awarded at the conclusion of the class. You are not required to read the posts in other group segments.

Introduction	10
28 Segments x 10 pts. =	280
Two reviews	20 (review for mid-term and final 10points each)
Class survey	10

Possible total 300 points (30% of final grade). Note there are actually 320 points available. This allows you to miss a couple of segments or earn extra points by participating in all segments.

Note that one response to each question and two responses to classmate’s postings are the minimum. Feel free to respond as often as you wish. You will find that the more we all participate through the Discussion Board, the better prepared we will be for the exams.

In order to earn full credit for each of your postings, you should be sure to follow the guidelines below.

- 1. Distribute postings evenly during the discussion period (not concentrated all on one day or at the beginning and/or end of the period). Those that post only on one day of a segment will not earn higher scores.**

The discussion period of material ends at 11:59 pm on the date listed. All discussion due dates will be Wednesday and Saturday. For example, the discussion period for chapter 1A ends at 11:59 pm on August 20. Thus, in order for you to gain points for contributing to this chapter’s discussion you must post your comments and replies by 11:59 pm August 20. Deadlines and evenly distributed postings will be strictly adhered to. Late postings are unacceptable as we will be discussing topics together. After the deadline the class will have moved on to the next topic. If you wait until 11:55 to post each time you will not be giving your classmates a chance to respond to your posting and you will be penalized. You **MUST** keep up!

NOTE: I have posted all discussion questions for the entire course. **DO NOT** post ahead of time. We need to discuss topics together. You may begin to post for the next segment on the last day

of the current segment. There should be no more than a one day overlap. If you want to get ahead, write up post in Word, etc., and save. Then you can copy and paste at the appropriate time.

2. When responding to my posted questions your response should be about three paragraphs. When responding to classmates about one paragraph. Keep posting focused on one topic. The questions posted on the Discussion Board will require more than three paragraphs to thoroughly discuss but don't take on too much at once. As various students post responses, we will completely discuss the topic by the deadline for that particular question. The Learning Modules break down the material with Learning Objectives and Key Terms. **I would recommend that you review the chapter discussion questions, review the Learning Objectives and then read the chapter.** You should then be prepared to complete discussion and chapter quiz.
3. The textbook is a starting point for information. There are unlimited online resources for you to draw from. There is a list of additional online sources below and on Blackboard. **Be sure to use other sources and websites in addition to the textbook.**
4. Quote from assigned readings to support your postings. Include links when you quote from outside sources. Cite sources.
5. Build on the responses of others to further develop threads. Refer to what your classmates have written. **Be aware that scores for discussion are based on your words. If you cut and paste from a source (such as Wikipedia) this content earns no points. Only your analysis or words earn points.** This is not to say you can't cut and paste from an outside source to share with the class. But you also need to include your own comments. Be sure to cite quotes.
6. Bring in related prior knowledge (work experience, other readings, etc.).
7. Avoid postings that are limited to 'I agree' or 'great idea', etc. If you agree or disagree with a posting then say why. In other words, contribute not what you feel, but what you think. **Posting I agree or don't agree without a more in depth response will earn no points.**
8. Use proper Netiquette (proper language, tone, mechanics). For example, to WRITE IN ALL CAPS is rude, for it is the equivalent of shouting. Further, in this academic setting, you should use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
9. Be extra-nice. Your words are frozen here. Sarcasm and irony are difficult to convey in writing. No one can tell whether you were smiling or frowning when you wrote your contribution. This does not mean you can't disagree, just be careful (considerate) of how you disagree. Be aware that once you post you may not remove or amend posting.
10. **CLASS SURVEY:** There will be a class survey to be completed at conclusion of class.

You will earn ten points for completion. It should only take five or ten minutes to finish. The survey is for feedback for me only. The survey is anonymous. Blackboard will record who completed (so I can credit) but not who said what. It will not be available until December 8 and must be completed by 11:55pm on December 12 to receive credit.

CHAPTER QUIZZES

Quizzes provide a regular way for you to check your comprehension of the written material. The quizzes are completed on Blackboard and are due when the discussion for each chapter is due. Most chapters have two segments (A and B), for these chapters the quiz is due with the B segment. You may complete quizzes ahead of time. Once you open a quiz you have seven days to complete (up to deadline). Until you submit the quiz you can enter and exit and reenter up to the deadline. Be sure to save your answers if you exit before submitting. The quizzes will contain fifteen multiple choice questions. We will be covering sixteen chapters. Each correct answer will earn .63 points. Sixteen chapters x fifteen questions = 240 questions. $240 \times .63 = 151.2$ possible points (Closest I could get to 150). As stated above under "Grades," quizzes are worth 15% of your grade. 1000 possible points in class; 150 on quizzes. Quizzes will be scored and grades posted to My Grades upon submission.

PAPER

Paper on Douglass Book due midnight November 5.

Paper on Douglass book should be 5-8 pages typed and double-spaced (less than five FULL pages will affect grade). Font 12. One inch margins. In addition, paper should include a cover page and bibliography. **NO OTHER SOURCES ARE PERMITTED.** Cite quotes and facts as needed. Limit citations and none should be longer than one sentence. Paper should describe what it was like to be a slave in the United States as told through the experiences of Frederick Douglass. Be as thorough as possible addressing all aspects and environments of American slaves. One approach would be to read the book and write your paper as if you are explaining slavery to a friend who knows nothing about slavery. Personal analysis is expected, not a summary of book. Quality of writing will be a factor in determining grade. Be aware that plagiarism will result in failure and be reported to administration. Note that papers will be checked for plagiarism. Optional: You may submit a rough draft for review before due date. Be sure to specify that it is a rough draft. Deadline for rough drafts is midnight November 3. Submit papers as a word document (.doc), using an attachment to historymurray@aol.com. Name file for final draft "douglassyourlastname.doc. Example: douglassmurray.doc. Feel free to submit papers before the due date.

MID-TERM EXAM: October 7 or 8

- Half of exam grade will consist of an essay you will write. Mid-term will cover up to 1800 (chapters 2-7). You will be given three possible options ahead of time for the mid-term. From these three I will place two on the exam from which you pick one (for choices see Study Guides in Learning Module or Goals/essay topics above). Be aware that due to the fact you know the questions ahead of time I do expect your responses to be very thorough. I don't assume you know anything if

you don't write it. Most common question from students is the required length of essay. Answer: I am not looking at quantity. I am looking for quality. Again, BE THOROUGH and detailed.

- The other half of grade will come from identifications. I will post a list of terms for you to study in preparation for the exams (see Study Guides in Learning Modules. Essay choices are also available here). From the list I will place fifteen terms on the exams. You pick five from the fifteen to write on. You should identify the terms you choose **AND** discuss the significance. Rule of thumb: A paragraph to identify and a paragraph to discuss the significance. Again, be thorough.
- The exam will be conducted online. You will have three hours to complete. **SUBMISSION MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS.** If it is not it will not be accepted. Once you start the clock is ticking and cannot be stopped so be sure you have two hours of uninterrupted time. You will access under Assessments. Midterm will be available from 12:05 am October 7 until 11:55 pm October 8. Be sure you begin no later than 9:55 pm October 8 to assure three hours.

FINAL EXAM: December 13-14

- 1 Same as above except chapters 8-16. Essay choices are in Study Guides in Learning Modules and last three choices under Goals/essay topics listed above.
- 2 Final exam same format as midterm. Exam will be available from 12:05 am December 13 until 11:55 pm December 14.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Writing persuasively and speaking clearly are fundamental skills that should emerge from your college education. College level writing is expected.

B. Withdrawal is the responsibility of the student. If for some unforeseen reason you are not able to complete the course, YOU must drop through the Admissions Office. If you don't, I am forced to give you an F, and neither one of us wants that.

C. Classroom Conduct and Academic Honesty: In class behavior is expected to be considerate of others (including me). Adult, mature behavior can consist of disagreeing points of view, but should not criticize another student's ideas. Also, cheating (plagiarizing) will not be tolerated and will result in failure and be reported to the administration. Note that papers and postings to discussion board will be checked for plagiarism. To protect yourself cite anything that is not original.

USEFUL WEB SITES

America Past and Present (our textbook) www.ablongman.com/divine7e/

Encyclopedia Britannica: www.britannica.com

Columbia Encyclopedia: www.bartleby.com/65

The Library of Congress: www.loc.gov

Hyperhistory Online Timelines: www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Public Broadcasting System: www.pbs.org

The History Channel: www.historychannel.com

Wikipedia: www.wikipedia.org

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due dates for postings and quizzes can be found on Discussion Board and Calender.

Orientation: August 19 from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. Orientation will be on campus at Ventura College in the Library/LRC Building, First Floor “Beach” Computer Lab.

Midterm: Online October 7 or 8.

Final Exam: Online December 13 or 14.