

History 147 Online

U. S. : First Century of Independence

Dr. Tim Heinrichs

Syllabus for Winter, 2013

TO CONTACT:

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WELCOME--

In tracing the story of the United States from young nationhood to the early 20th century, **HISTORY 147** has three main themes of change: the evolution of American politics, territorial and economic expansion, and the interaction of social and intellectual change.

What a story that is!

Soon after it was launched as an independent nation, at the dawn of the 19th century, this country was a small agrarian republic huddled on the Atlantic seaboard and numbering four million souls. Or perhaps it was a diverse collection of 13 republics widely separated by barriers of tradition and geography. Its farm population outnumbered city people more than ten to one. Recognizing that with a population the size of Ireland 's, the United States could only be a mosquito among the Great Powers, national leaders had to struggle just to steer clear of involvement with France and Britain in their worldwide struggle for dominance.

By the end of the 19th century the band of states had surged forth to become the world's leading economic power. Telegraph, telephone, and train tied together every part of a vast continent, and the Republic now numbered 45 states with a population exceeding 75 million. Farm families in 1900 numbered only two-fifths of an increasingly urbanized population. The Great Powers now counted the United States among their number as it forged an empire of its own and began demanding a voice in overseas affairs.

How did this vast change come about?

As we evaluate such events as the Battle of New Orleans, the construction of the the Erie Canal, political democratization, Jackson's Bank war, religious revivals, Edgar Allen Poe, woman as "angel of the home," abolitionism, the annexation of Texas, the Crisis of 1850, secession, the battle of Gettysburg, carpetbaggers, the inventions of Thomas Edison, the Chisholm Trail, barbed wire, the blizzards of 1885-6, trolleys, the panic of 1893, the Sears catalogue, the New Woman, the Spanish-American War, and the rise of Theodore Roosevelt. But what makes them important? How do they fit together? Sort it all out by thinking *strategically*. What major themes are these facts part of?

The word "history" comes from a Greek term for "inquiry." This means that we are not flying blind, collecting swarms of unrelated items. Pursuing the meaning of the past is like amassing scientific evidence in that we propose a hypothesis and try to prove it. On

the other hand, you can stage a laboratory experiment; you might even prove your hypothesis that some chemical is unstable by blowing up your work station. But you can't repeat history that way. Instead, historians--like lawyers--piece together what happened and what it means from a variety of lasting evidences such as newspapers, eyewitness accounts, diaries, archaeological finds, literature, etc.

History is absolutely do-able if you think strategically rather than getting overwhelmed by a myriad of seemingly unrelated details. Don't get nibbled to death by ducks. Think about overall trends. File facts away according to what they mean for major trends. The specific details absorbed in the course material will mean little unless you can do that. You are encouraged to put together your own interpretations of the facts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS--

BOOKS—

* Robert A. Divine, T. H. Breen, et al, *The American Story*, Complete Edition (Pearson Longman, 2010; Fourth Edition; ISBN--0205728944). This is the main text; it is also used in History 146 and History 148.

* Elliott J. Gorn, ed., *The McGuffey Readers: Selections from the 1879 Edition* (ISBN: 0-312-13398-1). From the 1830s to the 1920s millions of youngsters were educated, socialized, and morally uplifted by these comprehensive readers. This provides an excellent window into assumptions and belief systems shared by millions of Americans in the 19th century.

* "My History Lab." Our textbook publishing company, Pearson, has put together a set of resources on which these assignments will be based. You need to register for it after you get your copy of American Story. This comes automatically with the purchase of a new Divine textbook from the BC Bookstore, but must be bought separately if not, **SEE THE INSTRUCTIONS** ("Pearson Portal Directions") on the **HOME PAGE**.

STRATEGY--

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of key people, facts, and events of the period under study, and develop standards to judge them from a historical-cultural perspective
2. Demonstrate the importance of traditions of thought and ethical values in historical change
3. Expand their vocabulary
4. Evaluate historical arguments, judging the appropriateness of both logic and content
5. Adapt scholarly processes of analysis, interpretation, and synthesis to articulate their own points of view, demonstrating command of relevant facts and framework of logical deduction...

** Drawing inferences from data*

** Differentiating between facts, value judgments, and generalizations*

** Differentiating between description and explanation*

** Recognizing the role of cause and effect in historical analysis*

COURSEWORK—

Go to the "**Assignments**" page (accessible from the **Home Page**). Be sure to look at the "**Overall Schedule**," which has the due dates for everything.

The **paper** assignment is located there, too. This 5-6-page paper (due March 11) will be based on the assigned book about the 19th-century textbooks the McGuffey readers, which provide a fascinating study of what was interesting and valuable to people of the time.

You will also find the access to Lectures, which are by my colleague, **Dr. Graham Haslam**, a specialist on British and American colonial history.

You will also find the Discussion assignments there. One central element of the course is the four Discussion essays and four discussion responses you will write (the first is due **January 11**). When you do these Discussion assignments, follow directions for the listed readings. Do not substitute your own choice of readings for the assigned ones. (For discussions, it's good for everyone to be, literally, "on the same page.") After doing the reading, choose one essay question to answer from the Discussion assignment. Submit your essay through the Discussion's "Posts" icon and not by email. Each essay should be 250-400 words. See the table below or consult the overall schedule in "Assignments" for the deadlines, which fall on Tuesdays and Fridays.

(For guidance on writing these Discussion Essays, see the directions for writing good essays in the Discussions page, which is accessible through "Setup.")

When you don't post an essay for a Discussion, you will do the assigned reading anyway and post a **response** of at least 75 words to the essay of another student. (See the schedule below for due dates.) Find other students' essays through each Discussion assignment's **Post** icon. Your response should directly answer the argument or explanation of the essay you are taking on. You don't need to waste space congratulating the person on how much you liked the essay, but agree or disagree with what is in the essay (or someone else's response on the thread). Express agreement or disagreement, and reasons for your view.

This means that during the term you will post four Discussion essays of your own and four responses to others' essays--on a total of eight submissions for eight Discussions. You choose which four you'll do of each. Essays are graded on a 25-point scale; responses on a 5-point scale.

Schedule of Discussion Essays & Responses

(See also the individual Discussion Assignments)

Assignment	Due Date	Assignment	Due Date
Disc. Essay #1	Friday, January 11	Essay #1 Response	Friday, January 18
Disc. Essay #2	Friday, January 18	Essay #2 Response	Friday, January 25
Disc. Essay #3	Monday, January 28	Essay #3 Response	Monday, February 4
Disc. Essay #4	Monday, February 4	Essay #4 Response	Monday, February 11
Disc. Essay #5	Friday, February 15	Essay #5 Response	Friday, February 22
Disc. Essay #6	Friday, February 22	Essay #6 Response	Friday, March 1
Disc. Essay #7	Monday, March 4	Essay #7 Response	Monday, March 11
Disc. Essay #8	Monday, March 11	Essay #8 Response	Friday, March 15

NOTE: You must spread your essays and essay responses through all eight discussions. That means that there is **no credit** for posting a response on a Discussion for which you have already submitted an essay. That does not mean just the same question, but the entire Discussion of the week.

From the Home Page you will be able to go to "**Testing**." The page is empty now but won't always be. There will be two exams, each about two hours, on these dates: **February 8** and **March 18**. They are open book, and you will take them online. (You are responsible for having access to a functioning computer on test days, so plan ahead.) The tests will have multiple-choice and essay questions and will be based on the text and the lectures. There will be preparation sheets for each listing possible questions.

LATE WORK --

Students are expected to finish all assignments and exams on the assigned dates. However, I recognize that unusual situations

sometimes arise that prevent timely completion of the coursework. Here are policies governing late work, including submissions of late work at the end of the term.

Policy #1: Normally, late discussion essays and late papers are accepted, but with a penalty of two percent per day, up to a maximum of 10 percent. This can be avoided if you obtain permission for an extension in advance of the due date and have a compelling reason for that. Note: weekly essays are graded on a 25-point scale, so the late penalty amounts to .5/25 per day (up to a maximum of 2.5/25).

If you miss the midterm or final exam for some legitimate reason, all is not lost. However, if you don't contact me and take the test right away, you will lose 10% right away and another 10% after a week.

Policy #2: No work will be accepted after Final Exam day if you have not completed at least half of the coursework by the day of the final. That means at least two discussion essays and the midterm must be in by the day of the final, or no work will be accepted, and no incomplete grade will be granted.

Policy #3: If a problem prevented you from taking the final exam, you will be allowed to take it another time before the end of the term, but with a 10% grade subtraction. This subtraction will be waived if you informed me of a conflict before the day of the exam and I agreed to reschedule it for you. It will be waived in case of an unforeseen valid emergency. It will be waived if the problem was the responsibility of myself or of Vista, but not if it was with your computer or a scheduling problem.

Policy #4: The "I" grade, if granted, has to be fulfilled during the next term or it will automatically change to F.

GRADING--

The following is a breakdown of the final grade by category:

Discussions:	25%
Paper	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

All items will be assigned percentage grades, whose average will be translated into a letter grade according to the following:

93-plus A	77-79% C+
90-92% A-	73-76% C
87-89% B+	70-72% C-
83-86% B	67-69% D+
80-82% B-	60-66% D

If you're ever not sure you're on top of it all, if you have any questions about the course, ask questions by WebCT e-mail, or to theinric@bellevuecollege.edu. Or call and leave a message at 425-564-2114.

I am looking forward to exploring with you the lives and minds that made up 19th-century America, an era that seems so familiar and yet exotic at the same time.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

"Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services."

Incomplete*

If a student fails to complete the majority of the work for a course due to unforeseen circumstances, an instructor may or may not assign the grade of Incomplete (I). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade*

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the date posted in the quarterly schedule. If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Disabled Students

Students with a disability requiring special accommodation from the College and/or the instructor are required to discuss their specific needs with both the Office of Disabled Students (B233) and the instructor. If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible.

If you would like to inquire about becoming a DSS student you may call 564-2498 or go in person to the DSS (Disability Support Services) reception area in the Student Services Building.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of one year and one quarter following the end of the registered quarter.

* If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110C), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.