

History 147 Online

U. S. : First Century of Independence

Dr. Tim Heinrichs

Syllabus for Autumn, 2009

TO CONTACT:

(PLEASE USE WEBCT E-MAIL IF POSSIBLE)

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WELCOME--

Soon after it was launched as an independent nation, at the dawn of the 19th century, the United States 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. It manufactured more goods than Britain and France put together. 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?

In tracing U. S. history from the War of 1812 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. We shall ask the question of what continuities remained throughout the era. Was there a constant American identity?

As we deal with such issues as the Battle of New Orleans, the Erie Canal, democratization, the Bank war of Andrew Jackson, 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, trust-busting, and the Panic of 1907, sort it all out by thinking strategically. What major themes are these facts part of? Specific details will mean little to you unless they are put together into your own overall ideas of American history. An artist doesn't paint every blade of grass in a landscape, but just enough to convey the overall reality and mood.

What you will remember from the course a year or five years from now will not be Martin Van Buren's victory margin in 1836 but that he helped make politics the living of professionals, not the sport of aristocrats. Our goal will be to find central and revealing elements of the nation's past.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS--

Books—

- * Robert A. Divine, T. H. Breen, et al, *The American Story*, Complete Edition (Pearson Longman, 2007; ISBN—0-321-44502-3). 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.
- * Additional reading assignments are available in "Lectures & Discussions" on the "Assignments" page; it carries class lectures and other assignments week by week.
- * 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. After reading the instructions ("Pearson Portal Directions") on the Homepage, access it from the Homepage or [here](#). The Pearson site will direct you to MY HISTORY LAB, which gives you access to assigned readings (under “Documents”) . It will also lead you to my class link, which will take you to the HEINRICHS HOME OF HISTORY, which is under construction (but has some fun videos available and course materials for other classes).

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*

History is absolutely do-able if you think strategically. 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.

COURSEWORK—

Be sure to look at the "**Reading Schedule**," located on the "**Assignments**" page (accessible from the Home Page). This will guide your reading through the term for lectures and textbook readings.

Be sure to find the "**Lectures & Discussions**" link on the Home Page. That takes you to the page with the lectures and online readings and assignment for each “Discussion.” Read the lectures. Access the Discussion Assignment, and follow directions for the listed readings and brief essays.

After doing the reading, you choose one essay question to answer from the Discussion Assignment. Post your essay with the

Discussion's **"Posts"** icon. Each essay should be 250-400 words. The deadlines for these usually fall on Mondays and Thursdays (see schedule). **You don't have to write one every week.** During the term you will write and post a total of four brief essays in answer to four Discussion assignments by the deadline given for each. Note: you must do two essays from Discussions #1-#5 and two from the rest (again, by the assigned date for each one you choose).

I like an essay that comes to grips with the student's chosen question--that tries to answer it logically with details and facts. It is especially desirable to use facts and details from the Discussion (especially online) readings and lectures. The Divine text is helpful for these essays, but don't write a mere summary of what the text says. Don't base your essay on an encyclopedia article (especially that unreliable Wikipedia), though feel free to consult a decent encyclopedia for background. Use paraphrases and quotes from the sources to back your points, not to make them, and avoid both long quotes (more than 40 words) and overly brief ones (less than 10 words). Remember what the assignment says about a purpose statement. Avoid typo's and misspellings.

On most occasions when you don't post an essay, you will do the week's reading anyway and post a **response** to the essay of another student. Access other students' essays through each Discussion Assignment's Posts icon. Each response should be at least 75 words long and should express agreement, disagreement, and reasons for your view. You will do a total of two responses in Discussions #1-#5 and two in the rest.

This means that during the term you must post four bulletin essays of your own and four responses to others' essays. Essays are graded on a 25-point scale; responses on a 5-point scale. (NOTE: This is true even though the grade for both essays and responses will say "out of 25"--don't be worried if it says you got "4 out of 25" for a response.) There is **no extra credit** with essays or responses. **Note: there is no credit for posting a response on a Discussion for which you have already submitted an essay.**

The following is this term's schedule of due dates for essays and responses for each Discussion:

| Assignment | Due Date | Assignment | Due Date |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Discussion #1 Essay | Monday September 28 | Discussion #6 Essay | Monday November 2 |
| Discussion #1 Response | Thursday October 1 | Discussion #6 Response | Thursday November 5 |
| Discussion #2 Essay | Monday October 5 | Discussion #7 Essay | Monday November 9 |
| Discussion #2 Response | Thursday October 8 | Discussion #7 Response | Thursday November 12 |
| Discussion #3 Essay | Monday October 12 | Discussion #8 Essay | Monday November 16 |
| Discussion #3 Response | Thursday October 15 | Discussion #8 Response | Thursday November 19 |
| Discussion #4 Essay | Monday October 19 | Discussion #9 Essay | Monday November 23 |
| Discussion #4 Response | Thursday October 22 | Discussion #9 Response | Monday November 30 |
| Discussion #5 Essay | Monday October 26 | Discussion #10 Essay | Thursday December 4 |
| Discussion #5 Response | Thursday October 29 | Discuss. #10 Response | Monday December 8 |

In addition to the brief essays and responses, you will compose a six-page paper (due December 2), following a sheet provided under "Assignments."

There will be two exams, each about two hours, on these dates: October 30 and December 8. 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.

NOTE: Copying material in print or on the Internet is forbidden. A zero grade will be assigned to paper or test in which plagiarized material appears, or if on a Discussion essay, the entire Discussions grade (25% of the total term grade).

A note on late work--

Normally, late discussion essays are accepted but with a penalty of **.5/25** per day (up to a total of 3.5/25). If they are more than three days late, they must be sent to me by Vista email. Late responses are not accepted.

Late papers are assessed 2.5% per day (up to a total of 10%). This can be avoided if you obtain permission for an extension in advance of the due date.

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.

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@bcc.ctc.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.