

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring, 2024	Professor	Lisa Solomon
Course Title & #	HIST 120	Email	lisa.solomon@imperial.edu
CRN	20273	Office	Room 409
Classroom	413	Office Phone	760-355-6453
Class Dates	Feb. 12 – June 5, 2024	Student Hours*	MW 11:45am-12:45pm T 12:00pm- 1:00pm R 12:00am- 1:30pm
Class Days	MW		
Class Time	8:00am – 9:25am	Class format	Face to face (on campus)
Units	3		

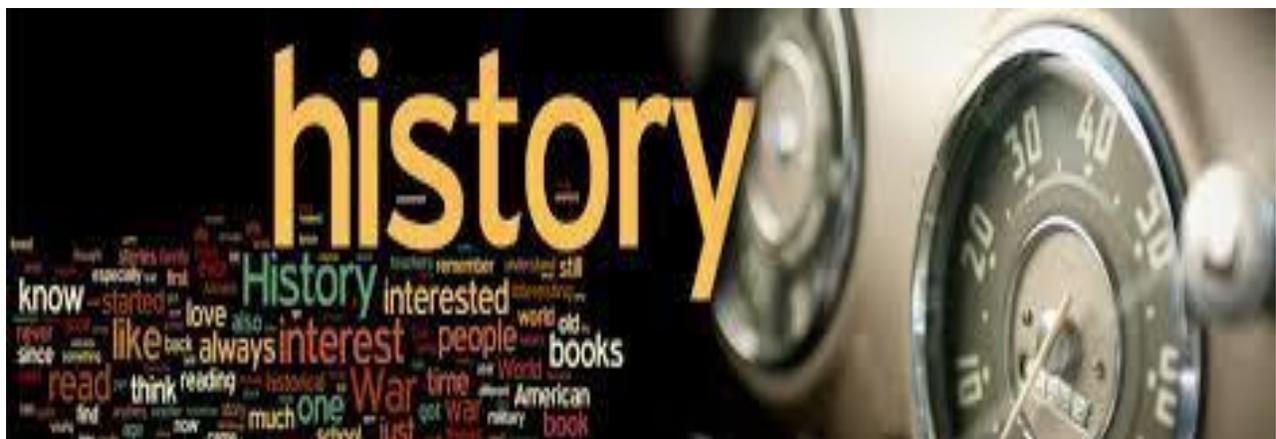
I am available for meetings with you beyond class and student hours. However, because of other obligations, please contact me to set up an appointment. Contact me before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

* I will be in my office *and* on Zoom. Zoom links will be on Canvas.

I acknowledge that the land I'm occupying is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Paipai, Kumeyaay, Tipai, Kiliwa, Akwa'ala, and Cocopah people.

I recognize the impact of historical trauma and dispossession and ongoing systemic inequities. I acknowledge the relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations continue to maintain with this land.

Through this Acknowledgement, I celebrate their resilience and strength then and now, and express my ongoing commitment to dismantle silenced histories based on colonization in our sessions and in our communities.





Welcome!

I am glad you are taking this class, and I promise to make it as engaging and relevant as possible. Over the coming weeks, we will exchange ideas and experiences, learn together (yes, I learn from you) and, ideally, see ourselves and our communities in new ways.

Why History?

We all have a history-whether we think of just ourselves, our families, communities, or of a bigger context. History reminds us that we are human, as were those that came before us. We have great, and not so great, ideas. We will influence the world around us. We make history.

History helps us empathize with other generations. We gain a better understanding of what their lives were like, what tools they used, the jobs they worked to provide for their families.

History inspires and motivates us. Think about the changes in technology. History shows us where the changes/inspirations/motivations came from and why; the people who developed them; the successes and failures.

We learn about trends: more access to education, changes in social movements, cultural influences. There have been changes in times of peace (more and longer) and times of conflict (enemies and tactics).

History has given us millions of ideas. Think about the cars we drive and the phones we use.

Does History repeat itself? Yes, sometimes. Can we change it? Yes. Definitely!

Course Description

This course is a survey of American history from the pre-Columbian era to the end of Reconstruction. This course will cover the major social, political, economic, racial, gender, cultural and intellectual transformations of the colonial and early American eras. At the completion of this course, students will have a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events in the colonial and early American periods.

This course does require a significant amount of reading and writing. Students are required to write *at least* ten (10) pages during the course.

While this is current description in the *Course Outline of Record*, I hope to present more information throughout this class on the Indigenous peoples present in what became the United States, including the American Southwest. What I cannot offer in class will be added to Canvas.

Textbooks, Resources and Links

Required: *US History*. Go to <https://openstax.org/subjects/humanities> to access the text. There is no cost for the digital version. ISBN for the PDF: 978-1-947172-08-1.



Printed copies are available for order through OpenStax or may be purchased at the College Bookstore. ISBN for the print version: 978-1-938168-36-9.

OER Supplement. Available on Canvas.

Recommended: Any college level dictionary.

Additional readings, articles or videos will be posted to Canvas, as deemed relevant.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to: Identify the major events and key intellectual, cultural, social, political and economic trends in United States history from the pre-Columbian period to 1877, and identify and understand the significance of important personalities and ideas in United States history before 1877.

See my comments under "Course Description". This section is required by the College, and these noted themes will be key factors in the tests and assignments.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Assignments and exams are prepared to help you share what you are learning as well as your views/opinions on the material. While I will seldom ask for exact dates, it will help to remember the timeline of events, as well as people and places. Ideally, this work will also help you look at the material with a critical eye.

Assignments may be based on a specific section of the text, on a part of a video, or a class lecture. The content is the important element. Students will be able to submit the assignments in a variety of formats.

The in-class essays are topic-specific and may not happen on the dates noted later in this syllabus. These are opportunities for you to express ideas and opinions on the topic/time period. The points for these are not yet determined and will be added to the Canvas gradebook. They can help you learn about the content as well as possibly raise your grade. Because they are based on class content, they are not available for a make-up if you are absent.

Exams will pull questions from all sources of material presented to the class. That includes PowerPoints and material posted to the Canvas page. Because multiple-choice/true-false exams tend to work *against* the student, I do not use them. More details on the exams will be presented in class.

Opportunities for submitting drafts and revisions, and exam re-dos (*except for the Final*) will be available.



Course Grading

There will be no 0s in this class-no zeros! Radical!

Work that is not completed/submitted will simply show as a blank in the Canvas gradebook.

Comments, questions, and discussions are encouraged. Because not everyone is comfortable speaking in class, and because some students need more time to process information, there are NO discussion points. Points will be earned only on assignments, exams, and in-class essays.

Grading: The course maximum is 750 points, based on the following:

Tests (two @ 75 points each)	150 points
Assignments (two @ 75 points each)	150 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final exam	300 points

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 639-750	B = 526-638.5	C = 413-525.5
D = 301-412.5	F = 300	

Starting with a minimum grade makes it easier for you, my student, to earn points and pass the class. That doesn't mean that passing is automatic; work still needs to be done. It does mean that, starting at 40%, the point spread between letter grades is equal.

Information to Help You Succeed in This Class

Attendance: A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class (without notifying me in advance) will be dropped by me as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.

Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled.

Academic Honesty: IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification. I check a variety of online sources and the class material when checking for plagiarism.



I learned from experience that cheating or copying work can make it harder to pass the class. While pressures of life outside of school, and the desire to pass, may push a student to copy or cheat, you will do much better by taking some extra time and doing the work yourself.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be required to retake the exam or redo the assignment. A student who repeatedly cheats is violating campus policy and faces a meeting with the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file or proceed with a suspension.

More information on this can be found on Canvas.

Food and drink: Because of the distractions caused when students eat in class, please consume food before or after class. Beverages in secure containers are acceptable (I will have my coffee and/or water with me 😊). Please clean up any spills.

Being adults: During class meetings, please treat each other with respect and patience. Respect your classmates' opinions, even if they differ from yours. Comments that are aimed at another student and are meant to be demeaning (racist, sexist, religious bias, etc.) will not be accepted. Anyone who threatens another student or myself will be escorted from the class, and I will schedule a meeting with that student before they are allowed to return.

Make sure you handle all personal needs (restrooms, food, phone calls, etc.) before class begins. If you need to leave during the class to take care of a personal need, try to do so with as little disruption as possible. You do not need to ask me for permission.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****

Please try to do the reading before class. NOTE: Some of the video content is graphic and may be difficult for any student dealing with anxiety or PTSD. Please let me know if this applies to you, and take the necessary steps to take care of yourself.

The topics noted are the main ones and not meant to exclude any group.

OS = OpenStax text

S = Supplement

Date or Week	Topic/Assignment/Exam	Reading
Feb. 12	Introduction to the class In-class essay	



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Feb. 14	Native peoples, exploration, Spanish colonies	<i>OS</i> Pp. 7-24 (to 1.3), 33-42 (to 2.2), 52-53, 63-7 (to 3.2) <i>S</i> Chap. 1
Feb. 19	NO CLASS – Presidents Day	
Feb. 21	Europeans in North America, English colonies	<i>OS</i> Pp. 42-51, 55-59, 67-72 (to 3.3) <i>S</i> Chaps. 2 and 3
Feb. 26	Slavery and race, Great Britain and the colonies Assignment #1 posted on Canvas (due Thursday, Feb. 29)	<i>OS</i> Pp. 24-29, 54, 72-90, 95-114 (to 4.5) <i>S</i> Chap. 4
Feb. 28	Wars for empire and control	<i>OS</i> Pp. 114-119
Mar. 04	Dissent and ideas of self-government Test #1 study guide on Canvas	<i>OS</i> Chap. 5 <i>S</i> Chap. 5
Mar. 06	Revolutionary War Test #1 on Canvas (closes on Saturday, March 9)	<i>OS</i> Chap. 6 <i>S</i> Chap. 6
Mar. 11	A new republic In-class essay	<i>OS</i> Chap. 7 <i>S</i> Chap. 7
Mar. 13	Slavery and growth	<i>OS</i> Pp. 221-32 (to 8.4), 301-08 (to 11.2) <i>S</i> Chap. 8
Mar. 18	War of 1812	<i>OS</i> Pp. 232-37
Mar. 20	Industry and workers, expansion, policies	<i>OS</i> Pp. 243-63 (to 9.4), 308-10 (to 11.3) <i>S</i> Chap. 9
Mar. 25	Social classes, Jacksonian era	<i>OS</i> Pp. 263-68, Chap. 10 <i>S</i> Chap. 10 and 11
Mar. 27	Slavery and the Southern way of life Midterm questions on Canvas	<i>OS</i> Chap. 12 <i>S</i> Chap. 12
Apr. 1- 5	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
Apr. 08	Reform and social movements	<i>OS</i> Chap. 13 <i>S</i> Chap. 13
Apr. 10	Midterm exam – in class	
Apr. 15 & 17	Texas and war with Mexico	<i>OS</i> Pp. 310-19
Apr. 22 & 24	Gold, California, slavery, and compromise Assignment #2 on Canvas April 24 (due Saturday, April 27)	<i>OS</i> Pp. 320-26, 390-93
Apr. 29	Early 1850s	<i>OS</i> Pp. 394-405 (to “The Presidential Election...”)



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		<i>S</i> Chap. 14
May 01	Late 1850s	<i>OS</i> Pp. 405-412
May 06	Lead-up to 1861 In-class essay (part 1)	<i>OS</i> Pp. 413-14
May 08	Civil War	<i>OS</i> Chap. 15 <i>S</i> Chap. 15
May 13 & 15	Civil War	
May 13 & 15	Test #2 study guide on Canvas May 13 Test #2 posted on Canvas May 15 (closes on Saturday, May 18)	
May 20 & 22	Civil War Final exam study guide (Part 1) posted on Canvas May 22 (due <i>no later</i> than Sunday, June 9)	
May 27	NO CLASS – Memorial Day	
May 29	Ending the war, assassination In-class essay (part 2) Final exam study guide (Part 2) posted on Canvas	
June 03	Reconstruction, Final exam review	<i>OS</i> Chap. 16 <i>S</i> Chap. 16
June 05	Final Exam (Part 2) – In class	