

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Shawn Barcroft
Course Title & #:	History 120 — United States History: Prehistory to Reconstruction	Email:	shawn.barcroft@imperial.edu
CRNs #:	10268	Office Hours:	Zoom: Mondays, 12:30 – 2:30 Room 409: Wednesdays 12:15 – 12:45 Email: TTH, 12:30 – 1:30 And by appointment. See Canvas for the Zoom link.
Classroom:	Online and Room 209	Office Phone #:	760-355-6170
When:	Wednesdays, 1 to 2:25	Emergency Contact:	Please email
Class Dates:	10/6/2025 to 12/6/2025	Class Format:	Hybrid Online
Units:	Three		

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.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

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. Specifically: 1. Describe the peoples and cultures existing in North America before European contact; 2. Describe European exploration of North America and early colonization efforts; 3. Describe the British colonies of North America and explain the role of the colonies within the British empire. 4. Discuss and analyze labor relations, indentured servants and slavery in British North America; 5. Understand colonial-Native American and U.S.-Native American relations; 6. Understand the factors that led to the American Revolution and the key events, personalities and effects of the Revolutionary War; 7. Understand how the American political and legal system was created and how it functioned in the early national period; 8. Identify important political trends and figures and the rise of political parties in ante-bellum America; 9. Understand U.S. foreign policy before 1877; 10. Explain the evolution of the market economy of the nineteenth century; 11. Explain how technology shaped culture, social arrangements, leisure, family life, and work; 12. Understand how immigrants impacted society, politics and culture; 13. Explain the status of women before 1877; 14. Understand the role of sectionalism in early American history; 15. Describe how religion impacted society, intellectual currents, and political thought; 16. Analyze Westward expansion, Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War; 17. Discuss the major factors that led to the Civil War and the key events and personalities of that war; 18. Understand the

significance of the Civil War on society, race relations, economics, and politics; 19. Describe the process of post-Civil War Reconstruction and the challenges and opportunities faced by the nation and people until 1877.

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.

Required Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History, Vol. 1, Seagull* (Fourth Edition) ISBN: 9780393920307
Note: You may use a hardcopy or digital version. Also, you may use a newer edition.
- There will also be required additional readings and resources posted in Canvas:
<https://imperial.instructure.com/login/canvas>
- Two large Bluebooks.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

The quantity of assignments and the listed point values are subject to change. Changes will appear on Canvas. Extra credit assignments will not be given on an individual basis. **Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking to have your final grade rounded up.** Here is a look at the course assignments and grading scale:

Course Assignments

Grading Scale

Exams	2 x 150	300 points	A: 100 – 90.0%
ID Responses	3 x 10*	20 points	B: 89.9 – 80.0%
Map Quiz	1 x 25	25 points	C: 79.9 – 70.0%
Short Papers	4 x 50	150 points	D: 69.9 – 60.0%
Quizzes	7 x 15#	90 points	F: 59.9 – 0%
Student Bio	1 x 10%	10 points	

* Your lowest score will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

Students may take each quiz twice. Also, your lowest score will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

% Failure to submit this assignment by the end of the third day of the semester may result in being dropped from the course.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence - AI)

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.

Students should be aware that all written assignments in this class may be scanned for plagiarism or the use of AI in Canvas. The use of AI in this course is strictly prohibited. Students found using any AI tool to potentially enhance their writing without my permission may be given a zero grade on the assignment in question. The use of tools like Microsoft Word or Google Docs to write papers and

run spell-check are encouraged and will not result in an automatic zero grade.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: This is an hybrid course. This means students will review course materials that are posted online and also attend live class. Students should closely review the Course Schedule below for assignment due dates and class meeting times at IVC. During the semester students should carefully read each module details page (they can be found at the top of each module) for information on assignments, regularly check Canvas for announcements, and attend office hours if in need of additional assistance.

Note: During the first week of the semester students should review all the published information found on the course homepage and in Module 1. Here are some more important details about the course:

- All writing assignments must be submitted on Canvas. Do not email me your work unless I have given you prior approval.
- All assignments must be submitted in a PDF or Word.doc format. **Note:** If you use Google.docs to write your papers you should save your work as a PDF or a Word file before uploading to Canvas. Submitting your assignments in another format may result in a zero.
- All submissions must cite using Chicago Style to receive full credit. (See the Chicago Citation Guide on Canvas for more details.) You may use another citation format for partial credit. A failure to cite your information may result in a zero grade.
- Students may only use assigned materials in this course. The use of unassigned materials will result in an automatic zero grade.
- **Plagiarism, the copying of information from the internet, a similarity score more than 40%, or the use of outside or online sources is not allowed and will result in a zero. Also, as stated above, the use of AI is strictly prohibited and may result in submissions receiving a zero grade.**
- All assigned readings and lectures are expected to be completed during that of the assigned module week(s).
- Grading rubrics have been attached to written assignments. I highly recommend students review these rubrics before submitting an assignment and after receiving a grade. If a student does not understand a component on the rubric, it's their responsibility to attend office hours for clarification.
- Assignment due dates are subject to change. Students should carefully check all **due dates** and **close dates** as they might not be the same. Assignments will not be accepted after a close date has passed.
- **Note:** All History 120 and 121 courses at Imperial Valley College have a writing requirement. Students can expect to write a minimum ten total pages over the course in the semester. To meet this requirement students will be assigned the following assignments:

Exams: There will be two exams. Each will be worth between 100 and 150 points. Exams will primarily cover lecture material but may also feature questions from your textbook and the Canvas modules. Exams may consist of an essay, short identification, multiple choice, and/or matching questions. I recommend students take notes on every key term posted on each module details page as these terms will appear on both quizzes and exams. The final exam will not be cumulative. I will not allow a make-up examination except in instances in which a student has a documented medical emergency. Exams will be held on-campus on the dates indicated on the Course Schedule below.

ID Responses: There will be up to three of these assignments. Students will be given two or three terms from a module study terms and they will select one of them to write about. These short writing assignments will be completed during class meetings. Your lowest ID Term score of the semester will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

Map Quiz: This assignment will be worth 25 points. This quiz will cover important colonial locations. You can find the map and locations to know on Canvas. This will be an in-class assignment.

Quizzes: There will be at least six quizzes based on your module materials and one syllabus quiz. Each quiz is worth up to 15 points. Quizzes will be completed online, and are intended to give me a sense of whether you are critically thinking about the assigned

material. You may take each quiz twice. If you take the quiz more than once your second attempt score will be kept. You can find further details on these quizzes on Canvas. Your lowest quiz score of the semester will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

Student Introduction: You are required to write or film a short biography. Your submission must be posted to the “Student Bio” discussion board by the third day of the semester, or you may be dropped from the course. You are required to respond to at least one of your peers to receive full credit. This post is worth up to 10 points.

Short Papers: There will be four short paper assignments. These papers will analyze historical films, podcasts, news stories, and/or primary source documents. Students need to submit at least three over the course of the semester. Each submission will be worth up to 50 points. Assignment details for each paper will be posted in your modules. Students should expect each short paper to be about two or three pages in total length. **Note:** Information covered in these assignments will appear on either Exam 1 or Exam 2.

Please follow the following guidelines for all Short Paper assignments:

- Include your name, the date, the name of the course, and your document’s total word count single-spaced in the top left corner.
- The title/headline of your paper should be 12-point Times-New Roman centered type and include the topic of the documents, artifact, and/or film being analyzed. (**Note:** Don’t just say “Short Paper”.)
- Body text must be 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, and the document must have one-inch margins.
- Unless directed differently on Canvas, answer the given questions individually in their own numbered paragraph. For example: 1 or 2.
- To receive full credit students should include cited evidence from all the given materials for each Short Paper in their response.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement. Per IVC, students can expect to produce from ten to fifteen pages of written work in this course.

Course Policies

- **Unassigned Materials:** The use of unassigned materials is not allowed and will result in a zero grade.
- **Use of AI:** See the section above on Academic Honesty, and the section below on Academic dishonesty.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- **What is Netiquette?:** Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others’ opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another’s work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic

conduct. Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help. Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

- **On Attendance:** A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class **or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped** by the instructor 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. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

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/Calendar

The following course schedule is subject to change without prior notice. Changes will appear on Canvas.

Modules	Topics	Textbook Reading	Course Notes
1	Module 0 and 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting Started—Course Introduction 		Student Bio: Assignment due date 10/8, assignment closes 10/18. Note: Failure to submit by the third day may result in being dropped from the course. Intro Quiz 1: Due 10/12, closes 10/18
2	Module 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before 1492 After 1492 Beginning of English North America 	Chapters 1 and 2	Paper 1: Due 10/24, Closes 11/30 Quiz 1: Due 11/17, Closes 11/17 Map Quiz: In class 10/15
3	Module 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English in New England 	Chapter 3	Quiz 2: Due 11/17, Closes 11/17 ID 1: In class 10/22



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North America in Crisis 		
4	Module 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New English Colonies • Early American Slavery 	Chapters 4 and 5	Paper 2: Due 10/31, Closes 11/30 Quiz 3: Due 11/17, Closes 11/17 ID 2: In class 10/29
5	Module 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Revolutionary Era 	Chapter 6	Exam 1: In class, 11/5
6	Module 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of Passion • War of 1812 	Chapters 7 and 8	Quiz 4: Due 12/1, Closes 12/1 Paper 3: Due 11/23, Closes 11/30 ID 3: In class 11/12
7	Module 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Revolution • Consequences of Westward Expansion and Modernization 	Chapters 9 and 10	Quiz 5: Due 12/1, Closes 12/1
8	Module 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peculiar Institution • Social Movements • American Civil War 	Chapters 11, 12, 14	Quiz 6: Due 12/1, Closes 12/1 Paper 4: Due 12/2, Closes 12/6 Exam 2: In class, 12/3