



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Rossandra Barcroft
Course Title & #:	History 120 US History: Prehistory-Reconstruction	Email:	rossandra.barcroft@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20276	Office Hours:	Room 409 Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Classroom:	Online and Room 204	Class Format/Modality:	Lecture/Discussion. Hybrid.
Class Dates:	4/20/26 – 6/12/26	Emergency Contact:	Please email.
Class Days:	Wednesdays	Units:	3
Class Times:	1:00-2:25 p.m.		

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 political, economic, social, gender, racial, 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. (C-ID: HIST 130) (CSU/UC)

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

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film.
2. Describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event.
3. Explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. 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:
2. Describe the peoples and cultures existing in North America before European contact;
3. Describe European exploration of North America and early colonization efforts;
4. Describe the British colonies of North America and explain the role of the colonies within the British empire.
5. Discuss and analyze labor relations, indentured servants and slavery in British North America;
6. Understand colonial-Native American and U.S.-Native American relations;
7. Understand the factors that led to the American Revolution and the key events, personalities and effects of the Revolutionary War;
8. Understand how the American political and legal system was created and how it functioned in the early national period;
9. Identify important political trends and figures and the rise of political parties in ante-bellum America;
10. Understand U.S. foreign policy before 1877;
11. Explain the evolution of the market economy of the nineteenth century;
12. Explain how technology shaped culture, social arrangements, leisure, family life, and work;

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13. Understand how immigrants impacted society, politics and culture;
14. Explain the status of women before 1877;
15. Understand the role of sectionalism in early American history;
16. Describe how religion impacted society, intellectual currents, and political thought;
17. Analyze Westward expansion, Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War;
18. Discuss the major factors that led to the Civil War and the key events and personalities of that war;
19. Understand the significance of the Civil War on society, race relations, economics, and politics;
20. Describe the process of post-Civil War Reconstruction and the challenges and opportunities faced by the nation and people until 1877.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Foner, Eric. 2013. *Give Me Liberty! An American History, Vol. 1*. 4th Seagull. ISBN: 9780393920307.

You may use newer versions. Also, digital copies are acceptable.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: This is a hybrid class. This means we will meet once a week in Room 204. Most class meetings will include lectures that students will be tested on. Some class meetings may also include small group activities and quizzes. All ID quizzes and exams will take place during class meetings. Students should follow the Course Schedule listed below so that they are aware of class activities and deadlines. If students are in need of one-on-one assistance I recommend they come to my office hours on Tuesdays on Zoom or in office on Wednesdays. Note: All History 120 and 121 courses at IVC have a writing requirement. Students can expect to write a minimum ten total pages over the course in the semester.

Here is a breakdown of the expected course assignments:

Student Bio: 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 two of your peers to receive full credit. This post is worth up to 10 points.

Exams: There will be two exams. Each exam will be worth approximately 100 points. Each exam will cover lecture material presented in class and may also include questions based off the course assigned readings. To be successful in the course students should take notes during class and while watching lectures. Be aware the final exam will not be cumulative. Exam dates are currently indicated on the Course Schedule below but they are subject to change. Students will be given a study guide before each exam. We will also go over what to expect for each exam during a class meeting.

Map Quiz: This assignment will be worth 25 points. Students will be given a map and list of places they need to know. This will be an in-class assignment. See the course schedule below.

Papers: There will be three papers in this class. Each response will be worth 50 points. Students must submit at least two responses by the end of the semester. The first paper is extra credit, so you can earn about to 50 points of extra credit. These responses should be submitted on Canvas. Students will be given a prompt and grading rubric in advance. Please do not email me your submissions. Papers will be scanned by an AI detector, if AI is detected, you will receive a zero grade. Students are required to use Chicago Style to receive full credit on their papers. MLA or APA is acceptable for partial credit. Citations are essential to prevent plagiarism. Grammarly, ChatGPT, and AI tool or generator is not allowed in this course. You must use course assigned materials only. No outside sources allowed. If AI is used, you will receive a zero grade. No exceptions.

Quizzes: There will be seven quizzes in this semester. Each quiz will be worth 15 points. These assignments will be completed on Canvas and draw from lecture. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade. These assignments may require short written response. They may also include fill-in the blank, true-false, and multiple choice.



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ID Quizzes: There will be three ID quizzes this semester. These quizzes are designed as exam review to ensure you understand the 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, Why) of exam terms. These ID's will prepare you for the exam so you understand what will be asked of you in the written portions. These are worth 10 points each.

Additional course policies:

- Plagiarism, the presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, without giving proper credit will result in a zero grade on the assignment.
- Do not use unassigned materials or AI to complete written work. See the Academic Honesty section below.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Here is a breakdown of the course assignments and their point values. This is subject to change.

Course Assignments			Grading Scale
Exams	2 x 100	200 points	A: 100 - 90.0%
Papers	3 x 50	150 points	B: 89.9 - 80.0%
Quizzes	7 x 15*	75 points	C: 79.9 – 70.0%
Map Quiz	1 x 25	25 points	D: 69.9 - 60.0%
ID Terms	3 x 25*	75 points	F: 59.9 – 0%
Student Bio	1 x 10	10 points	

*Your lowest score will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

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.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.



Course Policies

Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with 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.

- No phones or electronic devices are allowed once class has started.
- Students should use the restroom before class begins to avoid disrupting the class.
- Students that are disrupting the class and speaking to each other for long periods of time during lecture will be asked to leave the room.

Attendance: This is a hybrid class, attendance is crucial to a passing grade as a majority of assignments and lecture material will be provided in class. A student who fails to attend the first meeting of the class will be dropped by the instructor. Students that miss more than two weeks may be dropped from the course.

Unassigned Materials: The use of unassigned materials is not allowed and will result in a zero grade.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic honesty requires all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. 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. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, (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. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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

Module	Class Topic/Readings	Due Dates/Tests
1	Syllabus & Introduction Purchase your textbook if you have not done so already.	Student Bio: Open 4/20, Initial Response Due: 4/22 Close 4/28 11:59 p.m. Syllabus Quiz: Open 4/20, Close 4/28 11:59 p.m.
2	Before 1492 After 1492 Beginning of English North America	Paper 1: Due 5/12, Closes 5/14 Quiz 1: Due 5/20, Closes 5/20



Module	Class Topic/Readings	Due Dates/Tests
	Read: Chapter 1 Read: Chapter 2 Watch: Documentary: Nightmare in Jamestown	
3	English in New England North America in Crisis Read: Chapter 3	Quiz 2: Due 5/20, Closes 5/20 Map Quiz: In class 5/6
4	New English Colonies Early American Slavery Read: Chapter 4 Read: Chapter 5	Quiz 3: Due 5/20, Closes 5/20 ID 1: In class 5/13. Midterm Review.
5	Revolutionary Era Read: Chapter 6	Midterm: 5/20. Bring Blue Book. Paper 2: Due 6/2, Closes 6/9
6	Age of Passion War of 1812 Read: Chapter 7 Read: Chapter 8 Watch: Documentary: War of 1812	Quiz 4: Due 6/9, Closes 6/9 ID 2: In class 5/27
7	Market Revolution Consequences of Westward Expansion and Modernization Read: Chapter 9 Read: Chapter 10	Quiz 5: Due 6/9, Closes 6/9 ID 3: In class 6/3 Final Review
8	Peculiar Institution Social Movements American Civil War Read: Chapter 11 Read: Chapter 12 Read: Chapter 14 Watch: Documentary: Not For Ourselves Alone	Quiz 6: Due 6/9, Closes 6/9 Paper 3: Due 6/14, Closes 6/14 Final: 6/10. Bring Blue Book.

Subject to change without prior notice