

**Syllabus****History 121 – United States History from 1877 (3 units)**

CRN: 10630 Mondays &amp; Wednesdays 11:50 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Room 204

CRN: 10631 Mondays &amp; Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:55 p.m. Room 204

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the second semester in a two-semester survey of American History from Prehistoric to Present times. (You do not need to have taken the first half to take this course.) During this semester we will be looking at the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the present. This course will cover the major political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural and intellectual transformations of the modern American era. In this course we will be exploring American history not merely as a review of the presidents and wars. Though an understanding of “what happened when” is critical as a foundation, we will go beyond names and dates. Instead, we will look at the social bonds and conflicts created by culture, religion and trade. We will discuss the patterns of government that our ancestors developed in order to meet their desire for political and social stability.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will be 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; and (3) evaluate a primary or secondary history source by the end of the course. This will be demonstrated through appropriate examinations or assignments.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Keene, Jennifer D., et al, *Visions of America: A History of the United States*, Vol. 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Prentice Hall, 2013. ISBN13: 978-0205092680

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

- Notebook with paper – for notes and assignments
- pens or pencils to take notes in class each day
- #2 pencil – for exams
- 3 Scantron forms (#882 – long form) – one for each exam

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

I am very interested in hearing from you if you have any problems, questions or concerns about the course. I am available to meet individually with each student to ensure adequate understanding of course requirements and to offer assistance and suggestions. There are a number of ways you can contact me. You can drop by my office during office hours or you can make an appointment to meet with me at a mutually convenient time. You can leave me a message on my voice mail; during the week I try to return calls within 24 hours. You can also send me an email message that I will also try to respond to within 24 hours. My complete class and office hour schedule is posted on my office door.

Office: 1710  
Office Hours: Mon. & Weds. 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. and Tues. & Thurs. 12:00 – 1:00 and by appointment  
Phone: 760-355-6492 (on campus extn. 6492)  
E-mail: [suzanne.gretz@imperial.edu](mailto:suzanne.gretz@imperial.edu)  
Website: <http://faculty.imperial.edu/suzanne.gretz>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Attendance

The study of history requires an understanding of the contrasts and interconnections of times, peoples and places. Therefore, attendance, participation, and preparation are critical for success in this course. I will take roll every class period during the first 2 weeks and then occasionally throughout the remainder of the semester. If you are late please check in with me at the end of class or you will be marked absent. All persons who are attending the class must complete the enrollment process promptly in order to remain in the classroom.

If you miss either of the first two class sessions you will be dropped and your place will be given away to another student.

### Reading Assignments

#### **Reading the textbook is critical for success in this course.**

The reading assignment for each week is listed in the course schedule section of this syllabus. Basically, you will be reading one chapter in your textbook each week. I may also provide you with brief additional reading materials. You are expected to read the material before the day that is listed in the schedule and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class. Students who complete the reading assignments before class are better able to ask questions or get clarifications during class and consequently often get better grades in the course.

Each chapter in the book is about 25 pages long and we are reading about 1 chapter each week. Each week you will spend about 3 hours in class and at least 6-9 hours outside of class reading, studying, and reviewing. Please be ready to invest the amount of time required to read, reflect on, comprehend, and review the material.

### Classroom Activities

Each class period will consist primarily of lecture and discussion. Interesting and informative discussion requires that students be prepared for class by having read the material. During the class period we may also have some class activities that require participation by all students. These activities will usually require the use of your textbook so please bring it to class with you so that you can be equipped to participate in any activities.

During some classes we will have video presentations. These videos have been chosen to highlight a particular aspect of history, or present a viewpoint that adds to our understanding of past attitudes and concerns. Videos, therefore, are an integral part of the classroom experience; they are not entertainment or time wasters. You will see questions on the quizzes that refer directly to information from the video presentations. Please take notes accordingly.

### Homework

During this course there will be 6 homework assignments covering the material from the textbook, lectures, and videos. These will be worth 25 points each and will be a mixture of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false, etc.), map identification, and short answer essays. The homework will be due approximately on the dates indicated in the course schedule section of this syllabus. I will have the homework assignments available on my website at least 1 or 2 class periods before it is due. It is your responsibility to download the assignment with enough time to complete the assignment on time.

Everyone is required to complete 5 of the 6 homework assignments; therefore you can miss one of them without penalty. **Late homework assignments will not be accepted except for serious reasons that are beyond the ability of the students to control.** If you are absent the day homework is due you cannot turn it in at a later date. However, if you can't make it to class you can email your work, send it with a friend, turn it in early, drop it in my mailbox, etc., as long as I receive it on the due date.

On the other hand, you may choose to complete all 5 of the homework assignments. If you do, the points you earn on the extra homework will count as extra credit toward your final course grade. This is the only extra credit offered in this course.

Please note that all the homework represents about 25% of your final course grade. Therefore, if you do not complete any of the homework, the best grade you can get in the course is 75%, a C. Obviously, you must complete the homework if you plan to get better than a C in the course.

### Exams

There will be three exams during the semester covering the material in the textbook, as well as all the material presented in class. Each exam will be worth 125 points and consist of objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, matching, etc) and it may also include a map section.

**Make up exams are allowed only in serious and documented circumstances (childbirth, military deployment, etc.) where it is impossible for the student to attend class.**

During the early part of the course you will receive a study guide that will include key terms and concepts for each textbook chapter. The exam questions will be taken directly from these study guides. You will need to bring a Scantron for each test and each student may bring a page of notes (*a single 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper, hand written only, on one side of the paper, no typed, no electronic, no photocopies*) to refer to during the exam.

Please note that each exam represents about 25% of your final course grade. Therefore, if you miss an exam and do not make it up, the best grade you can get in the course is 75%, a C, and that is only if you got 100% on all your other work. Obviously, if you intend to pass the course, you must take all three of the exams.

### Extra Credit

There will be 6 homework assignments throughout the term, each worth 25 points. You are only required to complete 5 of the 6 assignments. If you complete the extra assignment, it will count as extra credit. This is the only extra credit offered in this course.

### Late Assignments

**Late homework assignments will not be accepted except for serious reasons that are beyond the ability of the students to control.** One of the homework assignments will not count toward your final grade so you can miss one assignment without any penalty

### Make Up Exams

Exams can be made up only for serious reasons that are beyond the ability of the student to control (for example: military service, hospitalization of the student, etc.). You **MUST** contact me no later than the day of the exam, preferably sooner, if you will miss a test. **You must provide proof that you could not come to school (doctor's note, court appearance notice, service orders, etc.) in order to be eligible for a make up exam.** Make up exams must be completed within 1 week of the student's return to school from absence.

### Grading

Students earn grades based on the level of achievement of course material mastery and not on the level of effort expended. Course participation points are earned based on the amount and quality of active participation in course activities and discussions. My grade of any assignment or exam is final without evidence of fraud, bad faith or error on my part. I will be happy to meet with you privately should you wish to discuss the criteria and reasoning I used to assign a particular grade on your work. I have been known on rare occasions to make mathematical miscalculations of grades. If this should occur the error will be corrected immediately upon presentation by the student.

There are a total of 500 points possible for this course; therefore, final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

500 – 450	100% - 90%	A
449 – 400	89% - 80%	B
399 – 350	79% - 70%	C
349 – 300	69% - 60%	D
299 – 0	59% ↓	F

The point value for assignments is as follows:

Item	Due Date	Possible Points	Earned Points
Exam 1 (Ch. 15 – 18)	9/24	125	
Exam 2 (Ch. 19 – 23)	10/29	125	
Exam 3 (Ch. 24 – 27)	12/5	125	
Homework 1	9/5	25	
Homework 2	9/17	25	
Homework 3	10/8	25	
Homework 4	10/22	25	
Homework 5	11/14	25	
Homework 6	11/26	25 (optional)	
TOTAL	12/5	500	

**CLASS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Accommodations for Students

I am happy to work with all students so that each can achieve his/her educational objectives. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible (DSP&S, Health Sciences Bldg. 2100, 355-6312).

Dropping the Course

**If for any reason you decide not to complete the course, remember that it is your responsibility to drop the class. If you simply stop coming to class and do not log on to WebSTAR and officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an “F” as a final grade.**

Notification of Absences

It is **not** necessary for you to call me if you will be absent unless you will be gone from class for longer than two consecutive class periods. There are no excused absences except for official, documented college related activities. Please make all counseling, financial aid, or non-emergency doctor appointments for times when you are not scheduled to be in class.

If a serious illness or problem arises during the course that will cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can determine if you will be able to finish the course. I am more than willing to work with students to resolve problems if I am promptly informed about them.

### Student Email Accounts and Web-Based Services

IVC now provides all students with an email account for you to use, free of charge. You have the ability to link this campus email to a personal email account that you already use. It is important that you check this email on a regular basis for class notices. For example, if I am ill you will be notified in advance (as soon as I know I will be unable to make it to class) through this email account so that you do not have to come to class that day. In addition, I may send last minute information regarding homework or exams.

In addition, the college is providing access to all students to web-based versions of Microsoft office programs and storage space for class assignments. Please check the IVC website and/or the Student Portal for more information about the student email and other web services available to students.

Finally, IVC has loaded all courses into the Blackboard course management system. This semester I will NOT be using Blackboard in this course.

### Children in the Classroom

Due to college rules and state laws, un-enrolled children are not allowed in the classroom during the class session under any circumstances.

### Cell Phones & Other Electronic Equipment

Out of consideration for others, please turn your cell phones and any other electronic equipment off at the beginning of class. These items distract other students and me when they ring or beep during class.

**Absolutely no cell phones are allowed on or within view during exams; ringing phones will be confiscated for the duration of the exam. Anyone who answers or uses a cell phone or any other type of electronic equipment during a test without my permission will receive a zero on that test.**

### Course Interruptions

It is expected that you will be present, in your seat, and participating in class for the entire course period. Please take care of any personal needs (phone calls, restroom breaks, beverage needs) before or after class. Every time you step out in the middle of class it is disrupting the learning of the entire class and this is not acceptable.

**Anyone who leaves the room during a test without my permission will be assumed to have finished the test and will not be allowed to continue.**

If you have a serious medical or other problem that makes it impossible for you to remain in your seat for the entire class period, please inform me as soon as possible and accommodations will be made.

### Behavioral Expectations

In college it is assumed that everyone is an adult and has chosen to be here in order to better his/her knowledge, experience, and job opportunities and for personal growth and development. This is a large class and therefore it is imperative that each student show respect for your fellow students and not engage in behaviors that will make it difficult or impossible for other students to learn effectively. I will not tolerate any behavior that interferes with another student's opportunity to learn.

At all times, each member of the class will attempt to comport him or herself in a professional manner. That means, in a manner consistent with a professional setting such as a business office or place of worship. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions regarding the material under consideration. However, disruptions that tend to diminish or extinguish learning will not be tolerated. The following behaviors are inappropriate in a college classroom:

1. Personal conversations between students during class, regardless of the topic, including cell phone calls;
2. Classroom interruptions due to tardiness, coming and going from class, or leaving early;

3. Writing and passing notes to one another;
4. Completing assignments for other classes during lecture or discussions;
5. Sleeping, particularly if you snore or drool;
6. Reading magazines, playing with electronic games, playing cards, listening to music, or other disruptive, immature actions;
7. Disrespectful, argumentative or combative behavior;
8. Harassing or irritating another student.

### Academic Honesty

The college and I take the issues of student dishonesty, cheating and/or plagiarism very seriously. There are severe penalties attendant upon acts of academic dishonesty and student misconduct, up to and including dismissal from the college. Cheating may include: looking on another student's paper during an exam, test or quiz; using extra notes or materials beyond those allowed for the exam; using another student's notes during an exam; and acts of plagiarism. Plagiarism is deliberately copying the work of someone else and claiming that it is your own original work. This also refers to downloading a paper or article from the internet and turning it in as though you wrote it yourself, which is completely unacceptable.

### Discipline Penalties

If your behavior is disruptive to the class or to other students I will first give you a verbal warning in class. If the disruptive behavior continues I will then give you a second and final verbal warning to stop the immature behavior. Please take these verbal warnings seriously, because if the disruptive behavior continues, I will immediately dismiss you from the class, I will turn your name over to the Dean of Student Affairs and you will not be able to return to class until after you have met with the Dean. The Dean will outline for you the penalties if you continue to display disruptive and immature behavior in class. If you return to class and continue the disruptive behavior I will again refer you to the Dean. At that point, he may choose to drop you from the class, or if your behavior has been disruptive in other classes, suspend you from the college for the remainder of the semester. In extreme cases of dangerous, threatening, or abusive behavior you may be expelled from the college.

If you cheat on a quiz, test or assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment and will not have the opportunity to make up those points. Please take this seriously, because if you are caught cheating a second time, you will again receive a zero but I will also dismiss you from the class and turn your name over to the Dean of Student Affairs. The Dean will outline for you the penalties if you continue to cheat. If I catch you cheating again I will again refer you to the Dean. At that point, he may choose to drop you from the class, or if you have been caught cheating in other classes, suspend you from the college for the remainder of the semester. In extreme cases of cheating, you may be expelled from the college.

### Some Final Thoughts

Welcome to United States History. I am looking forward to a fun and interesting course and I hope you are too. Good luck in all of your classes, and if there is anything I can do to help you to successfully complete this course, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Estimated Course Schedule – Subject to Change**

		Topics	Reading is Due	Exams
<b>Week 1</b>				
Mon	8/20	Introduction		
Weds	8/22	Natives Americans & Migrants in the West	Ch. 15	
<b>Week 2</b>				
Mon	8/27	Economics of the West		
Wed	8/29	Emergence of Big Business	Ch. 16	
Sat	9/1	<i>Last Day to Add Classes</i>		
<b>Week 3</b>				
Mon	9/3	<i>Labor Day Holiday – No Classes</i> <i>Census</i>		
Wed	9/5	Consumerism & Capitalism		Homework 1
<b>Week 4</b>				
Mon	9/10	American Urban Life	Ch. 17	
Wed	9/12	American in the Gilded Age		
<b>Week 5</b>				
Mon	9/17	Progressive Spirit	Ch. 18	Homework 2
Wed	9/19	Progressives in the Workplace		
<b>Week 6</b>				
Mon	9/24	<b>Exam 1 (Chap. 15 – 18)</b>		<b>Exam 1</b>
Wed	9/26	Imperialism & War	Chap. 19	
<b>Week 7</b>				
Mon	10/1	Rise of World Conflict & World War I	Chap. 20	
Wed	10/3	The Great War: At Home, on the Front, Peace		
<b>Week 8</b>				
Mon	10/8	The 1920's: The Birth of the Modern	Chap. 21	Homework 3
Wed	10/10	Great Depression	Chap. 22	
<b>Week 9</b>				
Mon	10/15	New Deal		
Wed	10/17	Rise of World War II	Chap. 23	
<b>Week 10</b>				
Mon	10/22	America in WWII: Germany		Homework 4
Wed	10/24	America in WWII: Japan		
<b>Week 11</b>				
Mon	10/29	<b>Exam 2 (Chap. 19 – 23)</b>		<b>Exam 2</b>
Wed	10/31	Origins of the Cold War	Chap. 24	

<b>Week 12</b>				
Mon	11/5	Fighting Communism at Home & Abroad		
Wed	11/7	1950s: Contentment & Discord	Chap. 25	
<i>Fri</i>	<i>11/10</i>	<i>Deadline to Drop with a "W"</i>		
<b>Week 13</b>				
<i>Mon</i>	<i>11/12</i>	<i>Veteran's Day Holiday – No Classes</i>		
Wed	11/14	Civil Rights		Homework 5
<b>Week 14</b>				
Mon	11/19	Conflict in Asia	Chap. 26	
Wed	11/21	Vietnam War		
<i>Thurs</i>	<i>11/22</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes 11/22-24</i>		
<b>Week 15</b>				
Mon	11/26	Challenges of the 1960s	Chap. 27	Homework 6
Wed	11/28	The New Left & Counterculture		
<b>Week 16</b>				
Mon	12/3	1970s & 1980s – The Rise of the Right		
Wed	12/5	<b>Exam 3 (Chap. 24 - 27)</b>		<b>Exam 3</b>