

## Food for thought

"We shall never have equal rights until we take them, nor respect until we command it." (Belva Lockwood)

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." (Gandhi)

"Education is a vaccine for violence". (Edward James Olmos)

## HISTORY 120

### US to 1877

Spring, 2014

Imperial Valley College

**Lisa Solomon, M.A.**

**Office:** Room 807

**Email:** [lisa.solomon@imperial.edu](mailto:lisa.solomon@imperial.edu)

**Phone:** 760-355-6453

**HIST 120:** U.S. History to 1877 (3 units)

**Time:** MW 7:00am - 8:25am (CRN 20504)

MW 8:35am-10:00am (CRN 20505)

**Room:** 413

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**Office Hours (subject to change):**

MW	10:30am – 11:30am
T	10:30am – 11:45am
Th(R)	10:30am – 12:00noon

**Appointments:** I am available for meetings beyond the office hours. However, because of other obligations, students should contact me to set up an appointment. Contact can be made before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

**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.

**Student and Course Outcomes:** Upon course, 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; and (3) explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document.

**Text:** *Your textbook will be provided to you!* This class is participating in a “field test” of a new text.

Additional readings/articles may be presented or assigned by me as deemed relevant.

**Exams:** There will be four tests, a Midterm exam and the Final exam. All tests will be based on the text, any additional readings, lectures (which includes Power Point presentations), and videos.

Only *one* make-up exam will be given to a student during the semester, and must be scheduled with me. Make-up exams may be used only if the original exam was not taken at the scheduled time due to illness or verified family or work emergency, and I am notified before the test. Any make-up exams scheduled for more than a week after the original test date face a point reduction of 25%. I will not approve any make-up test scheduled later than two weeks after the original test date. There is NO make-up available for the Final exam!

**Writing Requirement:** Students will be required to complete four written assignments. Information on these assignments will be presented by me.

**Academic Honesty:** *Plagiarism* is to take and present 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 correctly “cite a source”, 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, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment/exam in question.

Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct.

**Grading:** The course maximum is 1000 points, based on the following:

Discussion/participation	100 points
Exams (four @ 50 points each)	200 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Assignments (four @ 50 points each)	200 points
Final exam	350 points

Discussion points will be deducted when a student is late (1 point each time), and/or when a student disrupts the class by talking during the lecture or videos, plays games or text messages on a cell phone or computer, has a cell phone ring during class, etc. (1/2 point each time). Points can only be earned by a student who asks questions and/or participates in classroom discussions. *Points are not earned simply for attendance.*

I reserve the right to have students complete additional work in class. Any such work will have points added to what is shown above. **I do NOT offer extra credit work.**

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 851 – 1000	C = 701 – 775	F = 0 – 400
B = 776 -- 850	D = 401 – 700	

Letter grades will not be included on tests and assignments. They will only be used for the final course grade.

**Attendance:** A student who fails to attend the first meeting of the class will be dropped by me as of the first official meeting of this class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be 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. While participation in classroom discussions is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged and can affect your final grade. *At all times, your questions are encouraged and welcomed.* 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.* Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as "excused" absences. *Please notify me before the event takes place.*

*Do not assume that I will drop you from the class because of poor attendance and/or poor test scores.* It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.

**Classroom Etiquette:** PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PAGERS AND/OR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Any student whose cell phone and/or pager disrupts the class will be asked to leave the room for that interrupted session.

**Any device that interrupts an exam will be confiscated and held until the end of class (not when the student completes the exam).**

Students who practice inappropriate behavior will likely be asked to leave the classroom. That includes talking during videos and/or lectures. Such disruptive behavior can also result in points being deducted from those available for Discussion/participation. Continued practice of inappropriate behavior will need to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with the coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog. Students who engage in disruptive behavior or leave the room while class is in session will have points deducted from the total possible for Discussion/participation (see the section on Grading). Make sure you handle all personal needs (restrooms, food, phone calls, etc.) *before class begins*.

As per campus policy, food and drink are NOT allowed in the classroom. Water bottles with secure lids/caps are the only exception.

**Miscellaneous:** Please make every effort to be in the room and ready at the starting time. Being late may be beyond a student's control; if you are late, please attempt to enter the room as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting the class.

If you know that you are going to have to miss a class or leave a class early for an appointment, the appropriate thing to do is notify me in advance and, if leaving early, sit by the door so that your departure will cause as little disruption as possible.

Some video content is graphic, especially when portraying war and/or battles.

**Resources:** Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should contact me or the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The office is located in Building 2100 (telephone number is 760-355-6310).

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now have a full-time mental health counselor (for information, see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>). The IVC Student Health center is located in the Health Science Building in Room 2109 (telephone 760-355-6310)

There are several "labs" on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please refer to your college map for the Math Lab, Reading and Writing Lab, and Learning Services (Library). Please speak with me about labs unique to your specific program.

There is more to our Library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Learning Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General catalog available online at

[http://www.imperial.edu/index/php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index/php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762) .

*The required readings should be done before the class.*

**The schedule (subject to change):** I will update this section as soon as the text is available!

Jan. 22	<i>Introduction</i>
Jan. 27	<b>Assignment #1 on Blackboard</b>
Jan. 29	<b>Assignment #1 due</b>
Feb. 05	<b>Test #1</b>
Feb. 12	<b>Assignment #2 on Blackboard</b>
Feb. 17	NO CLASS – Presidents Day holiday
Feb. 19	<b>Assignment #2 due</b>
Mar. 03	<b>Test #2</b>
Mar. 05	<b>Midterm exam questions on Blackboard</b>
Mar. 12	<b>Midterm exam</b>
Mar. 19	<b>Assignment #3 on Blackboard</b>
Mar. 24	<b>Assignment #3 due</b>
Apr. 02	<b>Test #3</b>
Apr. 07	<b>Assignment #4 on Blackboard</b>
Apr. 09	<b>Assignment #4 due</b>
Apr. 16	<b>Test #4</b>
Apr. 21-25	NO CLASS – Spring Break
Apr. 30	<b>Final exam questions on Blackboard</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Final exam</b>
<b>&amp; 14</b>	