



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring, 2021	Instructor Name:	Lisa Solomon
Course Title & #:	HIST 120: US to 1877	Email:	lisa.solomon@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20554		
Classroom:		Office #:	
Class Dates:	Feb. 17 – June 9, 2021	Office Hours:	MW 9:30 – 10:30am TR 8:30 -- 9:30am
Class Days:	MW	Office Phone #:	760-355-6453
Class Times:	8:00-9:25am	Department Office:	760-355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format:	Synchronous on Zoom

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

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.

NOTE: This course requires a significant amount of reading and writing!

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; and (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: 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.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: *US History*. Go to <https://openstax.org/subjects/humanities> to access the text (dark blue background with "US History" on the cover). There is no cost for the digital version. Printed copies are available for order through OpenStax, or may be purchased through the College Bookstore. <https://www.bkstr.com/imperialvalleystore/home> The ISBN for the print version: 978-1-938168-36-9.

Recommended: A good college-level dictionary.

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

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Exams: There will be four exams (two shorter tests, Midterm and Final). All will be based on the text, any additional readings, lectures (which includes Power Point presentations), and videos. The two shorter tests include identifying terms and answering a short essay question. The Midterm and Final are entirely essay.

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 four *school* days after the original test date face a point reduction of 25%. I will not approve any make-up test scheduled later than one (1) week after the original test date. There is NO make-up available for the Final exam!

Grading rubrics will be posted on Canvas for the exams.

Writing Requirement: Students will be required to complete two written assignments. Information on these assignments will be presented by me. The grading rubric for the assignments will also be posted to Canvas.

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. *This means that since this is a 3-credit course, you're responsible for **about six hours of work outside of class each week**. You should use that time to read the textbook, review your lecture notes, study for the exams, and work on your assignments!*



Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

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

Discussion/Participation (in class and Discussion boards)	270 points
Exams (two @ 70 points each)	140 points
Assignments (two @ 70 points each)	140 points
Midterm	150 points
Final	300 points

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 901 – 1000 pts.	B = 801 – 900.5 pts.
C = 701 – 800.5 pts.	D = 601 – 700.5 pts.
F = 0 – 600.5 pts.	

Discussion points can be earned when you ask questions (during Zoom classes or by messaging), participate in classroom discussions (primarily through Canvas), or share opinions. Don't be afraid to think out loud or ask me to better explain something. Talking helps us understand and learn.

Discussion points are not earned simply for attendance. However, being current on the work and attending as many Zoom sessions as possible will help you earn a better grade.

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.**

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

Course Policies

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.



Logging onto Canvas alone is NOT adequate to demonstrate academic attendance by the student.

More information and details can be found on Canvas.

Academic Honesty: 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 are the most common.

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 I 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.

More information and details can be found on Canvas.

Online Netiquette: "Netiquette" refers to the rules of behaving well online. It can be more difficult to discern meaning in written text than in spoken conversation, so pay particular attention to your words.

Keep your language clear and concise; ensure posts are on-topic; use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization (all caps = yelling); and contribute productively to conversations.

Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).



More information and details can be found on Canvas.

Other Course Information

Discussion and questions are encouraged during the class, and by email. During class meetings, please treat each other with respect and patience. Some of us experience technical issues with Zoom, others with internet challenges, and others with language/reading/writing challenges. Respect your classmates' opinions, even if they differ from yours. Anyone who treats a classmate or me in a disrespectful manner will be removed from the class meeting, and I will schedule a meeting with that student before they are allowed to return.

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 readings are to be done before class. **This schedule is subject to change without notice.**

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

Date or Week	Topics/Assignments/Exams	Reading (page numbers are for the PDF version); videos
Week 1	Presidents' Day holiday; Syllabus; introduction to the class; Deep learning; Native peoples <i>Student Information Sheet and Syllabus Quiz on Canvas</i>	Video posted in Canvas Pp. 7-18
Week 2	Exploration; Spanish colonization; Europeans in North America; English colonies	Pp. 18-26 (to "The Role of Slavery"), 33-54, 63-71
Week 3	Slavery and race; Great Britain and the English colonies Assignment #1	Pp. 54-58, 72-90 <i>Africans in America</i> video
Week 4	Slavery, religion, and economics; Wars for empire and control	Chap. 4 <i>Africans in America</i> video

Date or Week	Topics/Assignments/Exams	Reading (page numbers are for the PDF version); videos
Week 5	Dissent and ideas of self-government; Revolutionary War Test study guide on Canvas; Test #1	Chaps. 5 and 6 <i>Africans in America</i> video
Week 6	A new republic (In-class essay); Slavery and growth	Chap. 7, pp. 211-232 (to 8.4), 301-310 (to 11.3) <i>Africans in America</i> video
Week 7	War of 1812; Industry Midterm study guide on Canvas	Pp. 232-237, chap. 9
Week 8	Jacksonian Era Midterm exam	Chap. 10 <i>Africans in America</i> video
Apr. 5-9	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
Week 9	The South	Chap. 12 <i>Africans in America</i> video
Week 10	Reform and social movements; Texas and war with Mexico	Chap. 13, pp. 311-319
Week 11	Gold Rush, California, Slavery, Compromise of 1850 Assignment #2	Pp. 320-26, 389-94 (to “The Fugitive Slave Act...”) <i>Africans in America</i> video
Weeks 12 & 13	1850s Test #2 in Week 13	Pp. 394-412 <i>Africans in America</i> video
Week 14	<i>Memorial Day holiday on May 31</i> ; Lead-up to 1861; Civil War begins In-class essay, part 1	Pp. 413-414 <i>The Civil War</i> video
Week 15	Civil War; Assassination (In-class essay, part 2) Final exam questions on Canvas	Chap. 15 <i>The Civil War</i> video
Week 16	Reconstruction Final exam	Chap. 16

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