



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Rossandra Barcroft
Course Title & #:	History 120 US History: Prehistory-Reconstruction	Email:	rossandra.barcroft@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10266	Office Hours:	Tuesday 9:30-10:30
Classroom:	206	Class Format/Modality:	Lecture/Discussion
Class Dates:	8/11/25 – 12/6/25	Emergency Contact:	Please email.
Class Days:	Tuesday/Thursday	Units:	3
Class Times:	8:00-9:25 a.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;
13. Understand how immigrants impacted society, politics and culture;

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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.

Two large Blue Books for exams.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Instructional Methods: This is an in-person class. This means we will meet twice a week in Room 206. Most class meetings will include lectures that students will be tested on. Some class meeting may also include small group activities and film viewing. All quizzes and exams will take place during class meetings. Students should follow the Course Schedule listed below so that they are aware class activities. If students are in need of one-on-one assistance I recommend they come to my office hours on Tuesdays. 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:

Documentary Analysis: There will be three documentary analysis assignments. Each analysis will be worth up to 25 points. These assignments will be completed during class meetings. If a student completes all three assignments the third submission will count as extra credit. These assignments cannot be made up. See the course schedule below.

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. 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.

Primary Source Responses: There will be four primary source response opportunities in the class. Each response will be worth 25 points. Students must submit at least three responses by the end of the semester. If a student submits all four responses then their lowest grade will be dropped. 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.

Quizzes: There will be four quizzes in this semester. Each quiz will be worth 25 points. These assignments will be completed in class. 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.

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.

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- 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%
Primary Source Response	4 x 25*	75 points	B: 89.9 - 80.0%
Quizzes	4 x 25*	75 points	C: 79.9 – 70.0%
Map Quiz	1 x 25	25 points	D: 69.9 - 60.0%
Documentary Analysis	3 x 25	75 points	F: 59.9 – 0%
Class Participation		10 points	

*Your lowest score will be automatically dropped by Canvas.

[^] Value may be higher.

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.



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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 electric devices are allowed once class has started.
- Students should use the restroom before class begins to avoid disrupting the class.

Attendance: This is a live in-person 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

Week	Class Topic(s)	Class Notes
1	Syllabus & Introduction A New World	Chapter 1.
2	Spanish Empire	
3	English North America	Chapter 2 Map Quiz: Thursday, 8/28.



Week	Class Topic(s)	Class Notes
4	English North America (cont.)	Film Review 1: Tuesday, 9/2.
5	Growth in Crisis and Colonial America	Quiz 1: Thursday, 9/11. On Chapter 1 and 2. Chapter 3.
6	American Slavery	Chapter 4.
7	American Enlightenment and Great Awakening	
8	Revolutionary Era	Quiz 2: Tuesday, 9/30. On Chapters 3 and 4 Chapter 5.
9	Revolutionary Era (cont.) Exam 1	Exam 1: Bring a large Blue Book to class on Thursday 10/9. Chapter 6.
10	Founding a Nation: Building our government	Chapter 7.
11	Age of Passion: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson	Film Review 2: TBD. In-class. Chapter 8.
12	Market Revolution	Quiz 3: Tuesday, 10/28. On Chapters 7 and 8. Chapter 9.
13	War of 1812 Age of Jackson	Film Review 3: TBD. In-class Chapter 10.
14	Peculiar Institution	Chapter 11.
15	Age of Reform American Civil War	Quiz 4: Tuesday, 11/18. On Chapters 9 and 10.



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Week	Class Topic(s)	Class Notes
		Chapter 12.
16	No class this week.	
17	American Civil War (Cont.) Exam 2	Exam 2: Bring a large Blue Book to class on Thursday 12/4.

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