

HISTORY 130

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

CSU-Chico, Fall 2009

Dr. Robert Tinkler
Office: Trinity 218
Office Hours: MW, 1:30-3:00 pm & by appointment
Office Phone: 898-6054 (with voicemail)
E-mail address: rtinkler@csuchico.edu

Class Meets:
MWF, 11:00-11:50 am
Ayres 106

Teaching Assistants: Bryce Havens and Sean Painter

Themes – Our foray into the past will focus on the question: “What is an American?” This may appear to be a simple question with an equally simple answer, yet it has often been (as it is today) a terribly contentious one. In examining American identity (identities?), we’ll pay particular attention to how Americans have grappled with issues related to:

- ethnicity and immigration
- political and social ideals (such as liberty and equality)
- America’s place in the world

Objectives – This course is designed to help you:

- *Learn History* -- gain a greater knowledge of the basic “facts” and especially of the significant questions and themes of American history.
- *Think Historically* -- learn to understand the past on its own terms, while recognizing how our views of it are shaped by our own experiences.
- *Connect to History* -- appreciate how your own experience relates to the nation’s past.
- *Hone Skills* -- develop reading and study skills that will serve you well always.

Other Important Information

- Class Sessions – I will offer lectures that set out key themes and historical arguments, but I always encourage questions and comments. Because class sessions and discussions are so central to the course, absences should be avoided.
- Readings – Reading is crucial to this course. We will occasionally consider short documents as well as read a textbook and a book by a major 20th century American. You should purchase these books, which are available at the AS Bookstore:
 - Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* (second edition) (referred to as Foner in this syllabus)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can’t Wait*

NOTE: Here’s a really good website with study aids for the Foner book: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/foner2/> It includes sample quizzes to test to your reading comprehension and outlines of all the chapters. Very useful stuff.

- Quizzes – You will take six short quizzes during on selected Fridays noted in the syllabus. Quizzes may consist of multiple choice, short answer, or fill-in-the-blank questions. **Each quiz will cover specific textbook chapters and documents as noted below—in addition to material covered in class on the Monday and Wednesday of the week the quiz is given.** All quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class; if you’re late, you’ll give yourself less time to complete a quiz – or you may miss it altogether. A missed quiz is recorded as a 0 (zero). Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped (in other words, your top five scores will count). Please note:
 - There may also be unannounced “pop quizzes,” which will be factored into your overall semester quiz grade.
 - There may be brief assignments you do outside of class that will count as quizzes.
 - **There will be NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES. If you can’t make it to a quiz because of illness, oversleeping, an out-of-town trip, etc., that quiz will simply be the one dropped.**
 - See information at the end of the syllabus about the impact on your overall semester quiz grade of your written responses to the questions about *Why We Can’t Wait*.
- Exams – Exams may include objective questions as well as an essay. The particular format of each exam will be announced in advance, and you will receive a “study guide” before each exam. Each exam will cover a particular portion of the course, including lectures and readings: Exam 1 covers from material from August 24 to September 14; Exam 2 covers material from September 18 to October 14; and Exam 3 (the final) covers material from October 19 to December 11. **Please note that the final exam on Monday, December 14, cannot be rescheduled, so please make your travel plans accordingly.**

- **Disabilities** – If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. Note that in-class quizzes (typically 10 multiple-choice questions) will be allotted no more than ten minutes so that if you need additional time, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible. DSS is located in Student Services Center 170. The DSS phone number is 898-5959; the V/TDD or Fax is 898-4411. Visit the DSS Web site at <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/>.
- **Grading** –Your course grade will be based on:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Exam #1 | 20% |
| Exam #2 | 25% |
| Exam #3 (Final Exam) | 30% |

Grading is a measurement of how well you have learned course material; it is not an evaluation of your overall intelligence. There will not be a “curve” in course grades. Instead, your work will be evaluated according to a standard set of criteria for each aspect of the course. Grading will be on a 100-point scale, distributed as follows:

| | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| A 93-100 | C+ 78-79 | F Below 60 |
| A- 90-92 | C 73-77 | |
| B+ 88-89 | C- 70-72 | |
| B 83-87 | D+ 68-69 | |
| B- 80-82 | D 60-67 | |

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class topics may change.

Any changes in (including additions to) readings, exams, or assignments will be announced in advance in class.

I. ORIGINS OF THE NATION

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. READING: | Eric Foner, <u>Give Me Liberty!</u> (hereafter, Foner), chapter 1 |
| Aug 24 (M) | Introduction |
| Aug 26 (W) | North America: Lands and Peoples Before Columbus |
| Aug 28 (F) | European Expansion and the Atlantic Slave Trade |
| 2. READING: | Foner, chapters 2 & 4 |
| Aug 31 (M) | The British North American Colonies, I |
| Sept 2 (W) | The British North American Colonies, II |
| Sept 4 (F) | Cracks in the Empire Quiz 1 (covers Foner, chapter 4) <i>This is the last day to add or drop classes without special permission of the instructor.</i> |
| 3. READING: | Foner, chapter 5 |
| Sept 7 (M) | <i>Labor Day – No Class Held</i> |
| Sept 9 (W) | The Case for Independence |
| Sept 11 (F) | What Kind of Revolution? Quiz 2 (covers Foner, chapter 5) |
| 4. READING: | Foner, pp. 213-221 and chapter 7 |
| Sept 14 (M) | Constitution Making |
| Sept 16 (W) | EXAM 1 (covers material covered in class and readings from August 24 to September 14) |

II. 19th CENTURY AMERICA: EXPANSION AND EXPLOSION

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 18 (F) | Jeffersonian Visions and Realities <i>This is the last day to add or drop a class or to change a grade option without a serious and compelling reason approved by the instructor, History Department chair, and Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

5. READING: Foner, chapters 8 & 10 (chapter 9 is recommended)
Sept 21 (M) Jacksonian Society and Politics, I

Sept 23 (W) Jacksonian Society and Politics, II

Sept 25 (F) The Slaveholders' Regime

6. READING: Foner, chapters 11 & 13

Sept 28 (M) America's Manifest Destiny

Sept 30 (W) Crises of the 1850s

Oct 2 (F) The Secession Crisis
Quiz 3 (covers Foner, chapter 13)

7. READING: Foner, chapter 14
Oct 5 (M) "And War Came": An Overview of the Civil War

Oct 7 (W) Fighting the War

Oct 9 (F) The War and Emancipation
Quiz 4 (covers Foner, chapter 14)

8. READING: Foner, chapter 15 & pp. 590-614
Oct 12 (M) America's Reconstruction

Oct 14 (W) The West

Oct 16 (F) **EXAM 2** (covers material covered in class and readings from September 18 to October 14)

III. SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

9. READING: Foner, chapters 17 & 18 & pp. 719-728
Oct 19 (M) Dealing with Difference: Jim Crow and Immigration

Oct 21 (W) Progressivism

Oct 23 (F) U.S. and the World: Imperialism and the Great War

10. READING: Foner, chapters 20 & 21
Oct 26 (M) The Great Depression

Oct 28 (W) The New Deal

Oct 30 (F) WWII Abroad

11. READING: Foner, chapters 22 & 23

Nov 2 (M) *Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day – No Class Held*

Nov 4 (W) WWII at Home

Nov 6 (F) Cold War America
Quiz 6 (covers Foner, chapter 22)

12. READING: Foner, chapter 24
Nov 9 (M) The Origins of the Modern Civil Rights Movement

Nov 11 (W) *Veterans' Day – No Class Held*

Nov 13 (F) JFK, LBJ, and Liberalism
Quiz 6 (covers Foner, chapter 24, and King, *Why We Can't Wait*)

13. READING: Foner, chapter 25
 Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can't Wait* (see questions at the end of the syllabus)

Nov 16 (M) Civil Rights in the 60s (Discuss *Why We Can't Wait* in class)

Nov 18 (W) America in Vietnam

Nov 20 (F) *Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day – No Class Held*

THANKSGIVING BREAK: NOV 23-27
Have a nice holiday!

14. READING: “A Kind of Memo” (Blackboard Vista)
 “NOW Statement of Purpose” (Blackboard Vista)
 “Feminist Information” (Blackboard Vista)
 “More on Gay Issues Since Stonewall” (Blackboard Vista)
 “TV in the 1970s” (Blackboard Vista)

Nov 30 (M) 1968

Dec 2 (W) Feminism

Dec 4 (F) To Stonewall and Beyond

15. READING: Foner, chapter 26
 Dec 7 (M) “That ‘70s Show”

Dec 9 (W) Conservative Resurgence

Dec 11 (F) Reagan’s America

Dec 14 (M) FINAL EXAM
12:00 Noon -1:50 PM
The final exam covers material from October 19 to December 11, and it will take place in Ayres 106 (where class is normally held).
THIS EXAM CANNOT BE RE-SCHEDULED, SO MAKE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.



Martin Luther King, Jr., *Why We Can't Wait*

Questions to Consider as You Read the Book (To Be Discussed on Monday, November 16). On Monday, November 16, you will turn in brief responses to these questions. Failure to turn in your responses on time will result in the deduction of 5 points from your overall semester quiz score. Especially thorough and insightful responses will result in the addition of up to 5 points to your overall semester quiz score.

1. According to King, why did a “Negro Revolution” occur in 1963? Are there other reasons that you can think of that King does not mention?
2. What kinds of strategies had African Americans used prior to 1963 to deal with segregation? What flaws does King see in those strategies? (He mentions approaches identified with Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, etc.)
3. Explain what is meant by non-violent direct action. Provide two specific examples that King mentions.
4. Why were the national press and local white clergymen unsympathetic to King’s Birmingham campaign? What arguments does he present in the “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to counter his critics? Which arguments—those of the local clergymen or King’s—do you find most compelling? Why?
5. According to King, when is it permissible to break the law?
6. Was the Birmingham campaign successful? Why, or why not? Be able to provide specific evidence to support your position.
7. What does King mean by “compensatory consideration,” which is discussed in chapter 8? What relationship does he see between the civil rights struggle and the economic status of black Americans?