This course surveys the development of American politics and society from pre-contact to the present era. The lectures will aim to underscore a broad survey of agents and events that are central to understanding American history. The lectures will follow in a chronological fashion. The readings will complement, not repeat, the lectures. As a result, in order to do well in (or pass) this course you will need to keep up with the assigned weekly readings. Among the issues that will be addressed in the lectures are early indigenous societies, contact, colonization and competing empires, colonial life, the American Revolution, westward expansion, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded and Progressive eras, Imperialism, the World Wars, the 1960s, the Cold War era, conservatism, and globalization.

This class has an online component. Meaning, you will be required to watch films and complete tests, ONLINE. As a result, it is your responsibility to secure a reliable internet connection and computer. I have no way to validate whether or not your “server crashed,” your “computer fried” or if your “dog disconnected the modem” while you were taking an online test. As a result, I strongly suggest using one of the many university computer labs to complete your term tests. To be clear: if you choose to take the tests in the comfort of your own home, and on your own computer, you are agreeing to take responsibility for whatever unforeseen events or technical problems that may impede your progress in this class.

1. Student’s work reflects knowledge and skills necessary to engage global cultures and peoples
2. Student’s work reflects foundational understandings, concepts, and values in reading, history and social science
3. Student’s work reflects an understanding of proper citation methods related to the discipline of history.
4. Student’s work reflects an understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the U.S.
5. Student’s work reflects an understanding the roles of race, class, gender, or ethnicity in history.

1) Howard Zinn, A People’s History of the United States, 1492-Present (Harper Perennial, 2007)

1) ONLINE Tests: (3 @ 25 percent per test = 75 percent overall)

**Due Date:** Various (see schedule below)

**Format:** Multiple-Choice questions

**Content:** Each test will be inclusive of all the material covered (readings and lectures) up until the date of the test, but will not include any material covered by a previous test. The tests are “OPEN-BOOK” tests. So, feel free to consult your notes while taking the quizzes. That being said, this course is NOT a “group effort.” The tests are to be taken by you, you alone, and ‘googling’ answers while taking tests is UNACCEPTABLE. If you are caught cheating in my class, you will receive an “F” and be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

2) Final Exam: (30 percent of overall grade)

**Date:** Wednesday 19 December 2012, 8:00-9:50pm, ONLINE (Access Time: 8:00-9:00pm)

For schedule, see: [http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/finalexams.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/finalexams.shtml)

**Format:** Multiple Choice (based on material from Weeks 13, 14, and 15)
Grade Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blackboard Learn:

Course instructions (see “Course Instructions” file online), Grades, ONLINE tests, and links to films will be available on Blackboard Learn for viewing throughout the semester. I do not post my lecture slides online, so please do not ask me to do so. I do not take attendance. That being said, a missed lecture is a missed lecture, so regular lecture attendance is critical.

Absences and Missed Tests:

Again, I do not take attendance, but failure to log-in to take the ONLINE tests and do the assigned readings will do wonders if your goal is to fail this class. Moreover, absences that result in a missed test cannot be made-up unless it is due to an illness or family emergency. In these cases, I must be provided with official documentation by the student. A busy course load, an unexpected work commitment, or forgetfulness are not acceptable excuses.

Documented Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodation, please contact me privately and also contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. DSS is located in the Student’s Center. 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/

Academic Integrity:

“The students, faculty, administrators, and staff of CSU Chico are committed to a culture of honesty in which members of the community accept responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all they say, write, and create.” CSU Chico values academic integrity. So do I. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating and other academic offences outlined in the university’s Executive Memorandum dated 24 June 2004. For detailed information, please see http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM04/em04_36.htm Failure to comply with the regulations of the university will result in a failing grade in the course, and could result in expulsion. Ignorance is not an excuse, and those caught will be prosecuted.

Weekly Readings and Lecture Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE:</th>
<th>Weekly Readings:</th>
<th>Lecture:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (08/29): Welcome: Review Course Objectives, Syllabus, etc.</td>
<td>Chp. 1</td>
<td>The First Peoples of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (09/05): Lecture: The Atlantic World, Exploration, Contact</td>
<td>Chps. 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Biological Imperialism, The French, Dutch, and Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Note: 7 September Add/Drop Deadline * *</td>
<td>Weekly Readings: Chp. 4</td>
<td>Lecture: Early “English” America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (09/12): Lecture: The Road to Revolution</td>
<td>Weekly Readings: Chps. 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Lecture: The American Revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (09/26): Lecture: The Early Republic</td>
<td>Lecture: Expansion and Slavery</td>
<td>Weekly Readings: Chp. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 (10/03):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Film:
“John Brown’s Holy War”

### Week 7 (10/10):
- **Film:** “John Brown’s Holy War”
- **Lecture:** The Civil War
- **Lecture:** Reconstruction

**Weekly Readings:** Chps. 10 & 11

### Week 8 (10/17): **TEST No. 2 (ONLINE)**

### Week 9 (10/24):
- **Lecture:** American Imperialism
- **Lecture:** The Gilded and The Progressive Eras

**Weekly Readings:** Chps. 12 &13

### Week 10 (10/31):
- **Lecture:** American Imperialism / WWI
- **Lecture:** The Roaring Twenties and Great Depression

**Weekly Readings:** Chps. 14 &15

### Week 11 (11/07):
- **Lecture:** The New Deal and WWII
- **Lecture:** The Cold War and 1950s

**Weekly Readings:** Chp. 16 &17

### Week 12 (11/14) **TEST No. 3 (ONLINE)**

**19-23 November: Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)**

### Week 13 (11/28):
- **Lecture:** The 1960s
- **Lecture:** The Vietnam Years and Carter
- **Film:** “Why We Fight”

**Weekly Readings:** Chps.18, 19 & 20

### Week 14 (12/05):
- **Lecture:** Reagan and the Neo-Cons
- **Lecture:** Bush-Clinton-Bush
- **Film:** “Why We Fight”

**Weekly Readings:** Chps. 21 & 22

### Week 15 (12/12):
- **Film:** “Game Change”

**Weekly Readings:** Review

**Final Exam:**

**Date:** Wednesday 19 December 2012, 8:00-9:50pm ONLINE (ACCESS TIME, 8:00-9:00pm)

For schedule, see: http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/finalexams.shtml

Format: Multiple Choice (based on material from Weeks 13, 14 and 15)

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*Note: The syllabus outline and course requirements are subject to change as the instructor sees fit.*