

SUBJECT: CIVILITZACIÓ AMERICANA A TRAVÉS DELS SEUS TEXTOS.

Code: 28468
Credits: 6
Semester: 1
Groups: 1
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

This course is designed to be a comprehensive introduction to the social, cultural, political, economic and foreign relations history of the United States. We will be examining a variety of outstanding speeches, essays, articles and relevant historical films. Through the study of the major features of American history that have shaped the nation, students will be analyzing the many ways Americans have defined themselves.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the course is

- to acquaint students with a wide range of aspects of America and its history
- to analyse the role and the influence of the most outstanding personalities
- to familiarize the student with the major speeches and documents in American history
- to encourage them to consider not just the events themselves but the way they have been narrated and the role of history in the formation of a common culture.

PROCEDURE

The course will be based on lectures that will combine textual, graphic, audiovisual resources. Students are expected to read the texts well in advance so that they contribute to the in-class debate. The last 20-25 minutes of each class will be devoted to the discussion and analysis of the assigned texts.

All papers should be handed in according to academic standards and using the MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. **No papers will be accepted AFTER their deadline.** Failure to submit them in time will result in a “No Presentat” for that particular paper. **Students who plagiarize will automatically FAIL.**

ASSESSMENT

Final exam: 50%

Midterm exam: 30%

Participation and tutorials (2): 20%

SYLLABUS

Some of the main topics dealt with in the course will be the following:

1. Colonial America.
2. War and independence.
3. Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico.
4. The South and Slavery.
5. The Civil War and Reconstruction.
6. The Move West and the Gold Rush
7. The growth of industry and the cities.
8. Immigration from South and Eastern Europe.
9. The 1898 War.
10. World War I.
11. The Roaring Twenties.
12. The Great Depression and the New Deal.
13. World War II.
14. The Civil Rights Movement.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

Compulsory Reading:

- Reading Pack

Key Reference Books:

Foner, E., *Give me Liberty!*, New York: Norton, 2004

Norton, M.B. et al., *A People and a Nation. A History of the United States*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003

Tindall, George B. & David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, W.W. Norton, 2000.

Secondary Reading:

Barney, W. (ed.), *A Companion to 19th Century America*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2006

Boles, J.D., (ed.), *A Companion to the American South*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

Brogan, Hugh, *The Penguin History of the United States of America*, London: Penguin, 2001.

Brown, Dee, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*, New York: Owl Books, 2001.

Carroll, Peter N. & Noble, David W., *The Free and the Unfree*, London: Penguin, 1988.

Deverell, W., *A Companion to the American West*, Malden: Blackwell, 2006.

Findling, John E. & Frank W. Thackerary (eds) , *Events That Changed America in the Eighteenth Century*, Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 1998.

Finkelman, P. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century* (3 volumes), Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001.

Foner, E., *The Story of American Freedom*, New York: Norton, 1998

Foner, E., *A Short History of Reconstruction*, New York: Harper and Row, 1990

Ford, L.K. (ed.), *A Companion to the Civil War and Reconstruction*, Malden: Blackwell 2005

Grant, Greene, J., *A Companion to the American Revolution*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

Gray, R. (ed.), *A Companion to the Literature and Culture of the American South*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2004

Halttunen, K., *A Companion to American Cultural History*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2008

Hewitt, N.A., *A Companion to American Women's History*, Malden: Blackwell 2002

Hornsby, A. (ed.), *A Companion to African American History*, Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

Jennings, F., *The Creation of America*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Kennedy, David M. et al., *The Brief American Pageant*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

Limerick, Patricia Nelson, *The Legacy of Conquest. The Unknown Past of the American West*, New York: Norton, 1987.

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me. Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, New York: The New Press, 1995.

Oates, Stephen B. & Charles J. Errico, *Portrait of America*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.

Vickers, D. (ed.), *A Companion to Colonial America*, Malden: Blackwell 2006

Vorenberg, M., *Final Freedom, The Civil War, the Abolition of Slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004

Whitfield, S. (ed.), *A Companion to 20th-Century America*, Malden: Blackwell, 2006.

TUTORIALS:

1ST Tutorial:

Students should submit a two-page commentary of a short text. The text will be posted on the campus virtual. **Deadline: 9th November 2009**

2nd Tutorial:

Students should submit a two-page commentary of a short text. The text will be posted on the campus virtual. **Deadline: 21st December 2009**

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam will consist of 3 sections:

- (a) 5 concept questions.
- (b) 2 questions related to the contents dealt with in the course.
- (d) A text from the reading pack that has been previously discussed in class and that students will have to analyze.

2nd SITTING:

The exam format will be the same.