

## HIST 146 American Civilization Summer, 2001

**Instructor: Dr. Kevin Kragenbrink**

**\*\*Office Hours: Before Class or by Appointment \*\***

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[\[Personal Information \(vita.htm\)\]](#) [\[Other History Sites \(other.htm\)\]](#)

[\[History 200 \(hist200.htm\)\]](#) [\[History 356 \(hist356.htm\)\]](#)

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[STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAM ONE \(EX1%20Study%20Guide%20for%20Exam%20One.htm\)](#)

[STUDY GUIDE FOR EXAM TWO \(Exam%202%20Study%20Guide.htm\)](#)

[FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE \(Final%20Exam%20Study%20Guide.htm\)](#) \*\*\*\*

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### **CourseDescription:**

This course is a survey of the History of the United States from pre-colonization to the present. Obviously, we will not be able to cover all the names, dates, facts and so on in so large a survey. Instead, the course will offer you a chance to explore themes in the development of American Civilization including Political, Cultural, Social, and Religious subjects. We will, as you might expect, encounter some of the significant events and persons in American history, but we will also give attention to cultural and social diversity exemplified through the lives and activities of a wide range of individuals and groups. We will give specific attention to such themes in American development as: political values and structures, individualism and community, racial and ethnic interactions, religious idealism and reform, and gender and family roles. The purpose of the course is not simply to give you facts and information about what happened in the American past, but to help you analyze and evaluate how what has happened influenced American civilization.

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### **Texts and Other Reading Material:**

#### **Assigned Readings:**

As with most history courses, this is a reading intensive class. If you hope to do well, you ***must do all*** the reading . You would do well to simply read the text assigned straight through. This will give you a

significant head start on the material to be covered in this course and provide you with a solid background in the basics of U. S. history. There will be test information taken from the text on the exams.

Text: Tindall, George Brown and David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief Edition, (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1997).

### **Internet Research:**

This web site that includes a page of links on topics of importance for students of United States History. I will also be including study aids and other information periodically to strengthen your understanding of the course material and improve your ability to perform well on exams and on course projects. I want to encourage every one to take advantage of this site and its links to increase your knowledge of history, but also to enhance your awareness of and improve your skills in using the resources available on the World Wide Web. **PLEASE NOTE:** The study aids found on the Web Site will not be presented to you in any other form. You must go on the web to use them.

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### **Course Requirements:**

**Reading The Text:** There is no assigned reading schedule for this course, but I expect that you will read the text from cover to cover and that you will use it as a tool to build your base of knowledge regarding American Civilization. My strong recommendation is that you begin reading immediately and that you make every effort to read the entire text before the conclusion of the second week of class. I assure you that reading faithfully will help you do well in this course. Conversely, failing to read will undoubtedly make it more difficult for you to do well on the exams.

**Examinations:** There will be two sectional (mid-term) exams and a final exam. All three exams may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in type questions. Each of the sectional exams will cover only the material presented immediately before that exam. Make-up exams will be given at *my* discretion and only if you make arrangements *before* the exam or if you provide documentary proof of the emergency which prevented you from taking the exam at the scheduled time. Make-up exams will be all essay in form and are generally more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams.

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### **Grading :**

There is no "curve" for this course and I do not offer extra credit. Grades are assigned on a simple 10% scale. The exams are weighted as listed below.

### **Grade Distribution**

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## Weighted Values

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92-100% = A

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78-79% = C+

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60-62% = D-

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Sectional exam #1: 30%

90-91% = A-

|

73-77% = C

|

Below 60% = F

|

Sectional exam #2: 30%

88-89% = B+

|

70-72% = C-

|

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Final exam: 40%

83-87% = B

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68-69% = D +

|

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80-82% = B-

|

63-67% = D

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**\*\*Lecture Schedule NOTE:** These are proposed titles. The professor reserves the right to change this schedule of lectures as the course develops **\*\* \*\*\*\***

### **Week One June 21**

Introduction to the Course;

Native American Cultures of North America

"God, Gold, Glory": Foundations of American Civilization

### **Week Two June 26, 28**

"A Necessary Evil?": Racism and The Roots of American Slavery

Developing an American Civilization: The Road to Revolution

### **Sectional Exam 1, June 28**

The Struggle to Define America: The Articles of Confederation & The Constitution.

A Government of the People: From Republicans to Democrats

### **Week Three July 3, 5**

A Nation of Winners: Expanding Frontiers and Manifest Destiny

Reforming the Dream: Making a Middle Class America.

The "Peculiar Institution" and American Racism.

Americans Respond to Slavery: The Road to Civil War.

### **Week Four July 10, 11**

#### **Sectional Exam 2 July 11**

Winners and Losers: The Aftermath of Civil War.

Entering the "Modern" age: Urbanization, Industrialization, and the "New Immigration."

An American Empire: America in the World

### **Week Five July 17, 19**

The search for "Normalcy" in America, From WWI to the 1950s

Confronting Racism For Real: The Civil Rights Movement.

**Week Six July 24, 26**

Unrealized Potential: Contemporary America Confronts a New World.

Disillusioned and Divided: Social & Political Crisis in Contemporary America

**Final Exam July 26**

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