1. What did you expect to learn in this class? What did you learn?

I took this class expecting to be lectured on the history of the various ethnicities and people that arrived in America. I thought I’d learn about the differences and conflict of all these people. In other words, I thought this was going to be an American history course with an emphasis on the diverse cultures of America. I was expecting we’d begin by talking from as early as colonization to current day politics and disputes among culture in America. I was very wrong in expecting that.

What I did learn was the unfair, cruel, and depressing world we live in today. The struggles of the lower class became an apparent issue. I didn’t pay too much attention to these issues before. I’ve learned of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. I became aware of the hopeless destination we brought ourselves to as a nation. However, I began to realize as we went on that we did have a voice and we did have hope. If we combine our voices and speak our mind we will be heard. We can question authority and rise up to end the inequality in America. I’ve learned that collectively we are strong.

2. Which groups still lack health care in the U.S. and why?

Around 33 million people were uninsured as of 2014. Most of these uninsured people consist of blacks, Hispanic, other immigrants, and young adults. A lot of immigrants were classified as undocumented immigrants which lead to them automatically being restricted from insurance coverage. These people don’t get to choose to accept or deny the coverage; the decision is made for them until a change of status. There are the poor, the young, and the homeless that still lack health care. This is because they can’t afford to pay for health care. These people are surviving with what they can manage to gather and health care doesn’t seem to be on that list of essentials. They can take care of themselves from minor health issues, but once they face something serious health care just becomes more unaffordable and unattainable.

3. People struggle to achieve their goals when they are put into circumstances they have no control of. In this case some people need more help than others in terms of expenses to be able to provide for themselves and be a functioning member of society. However, other people may need less help as they are part of a higher class and seem to be more successful. This distinction between how much support and assistance each person needs in order to provide for themselves and their family is a question of equity. Some families obviously need more help than others. This is the case when there is a difference in class. A lower class family may need more support to be as successful and secure as a higher class family for a fair system. This fairness and equity is put into question when dealing with the dynamic of families in the same class. Imagine that one family is hard working and holding multiple jobs to provide for themselves while the other family just survives off of welfare without even trying to take part in the job market. Is that fair? When some families work so hard and earn their money and still need help, they earned the right to ask for money. It isn’t fair when someone else abuses the system and just keeps asking for money without putting in the effort to actually find a job.

Equality is another matter entirely. Distribution of resources equally would only be an insult to people that worked so hard to earn that security while others didn’t. The taxpayer’s money being given to people who don’t put in the effort to change and make a difference for themselves to get out of poverty would abuse this system. I’m not saying that one day they go from poverty to success, but maybe continuous effort would yield more results than nothing. Someone living off of others’ hard work with no effort on their own is wrong. We can’t have equality in resources because people who work hard earn them and the ones that don’t work didn’t earn the right to these resources.

Mobility is an issue faced by many poor households. Not having access to transit services or gas due to prices can really hinder people’s capability to participate in society. When they can’t get to places then their options for employment is severely limited. Everybody should have equal access to services as transportation for lower costs.

4. The characteristics of economic and social domination practiced by Columbus and his successors express the superiority and authoritative power of some groups of people over the inferior, underdeveloped people. It portrays the ideal characteristics of Social Darwinism. The survival of the fittest was put into motion by the excessive power and authority that Columbus and his successors wielded. Weapons and knowledge have driven the success of the stronger participants in the new world. It was a cruel and harsh scene to witness as the many Europeans were raging with power as they took these new lands and set aside the people who couldn’t protect themselves. After the colonization and development of the industry and market in America, Social Darwinism only became more apparent. The rich oil corporation and textile factories flourished as the minimum wage workers were starving and struggling to find food while paying for their living expenses. The richest of men in America lived in their wealth and finances as the poor roamed the streets in search of higher paying jobs. When more jobs became available and people began spending more comfortably and living much more healthily, the prices rose. The rich stayed rich and the poor became poorer. The rich and successful enjoyed their wealth and power. They only seemed to want more as do their successors.

5. I’d first establish neighborhoods that have more affordable housing for those immigrants that struggle to find work and a place to live. This will at least give them a sense of security. They will have a place to come back to call home. However, living in these neighborhoods comes with a price. This price includes the requirement for the residents to find a job or be assigned a job to help the economy rather than just live in these residencies. I would create more jobs that Americans probably wouldn’t consider doing. These immigrants can also use their primary language, if it is a language other than English, to help with translation and interpretation of that language. Each of these people are part of a culture. Employing them would enforce a benefit to companies to account for clients and customers of different necessities. In other words, having a foreign worker may provide benefits to a company. To accomplish I’d offer education to anyone that wants to get into these occupations and go further in society. However, providing benefits for the immigrants that are already here isn’t going to solve the issue if more people just keep making their way across the border. To fix this problem, I’d enforce stricter border control that keeps people on queues where immigrants are only allowed depending on the status of the economy and environment of America. This could take years but everyone has a reason they need to cross the border. It could be they are escaping as refugees or searching for money. I’d attempt to resolve the political corruption of the country to help these people to atleast live in a bearable environment by strengthening diplomatic affairs between America and that country. Each country needs to take care of its people. Some countries need help in doing so. We can solve the immigration problem by helping the country help its people so that they don’t have to immigrate in order survive and support their family.

6. Predatory lending

Banks: take advantage of people’s hard situation

Poor credit score makes you ineligible to many things

Coin star: change to cash

The hard earned money of these people is takn away from them instead of being a free exchange.

7. The growing income inequality has become a serious problem in America. However, it doesn’t directly affect certain people who are better off. These people that aren’t in danger of income inequality just ignore the problem altogether. However, those that are affected income inequality can’t seem to do much for themselves to reduce the struggles that they face with it. They go to food shelters because they can’t afford to both buy food and pay the bills. They starve themselves to feed their children and reduce the portions of their meals so that what’s left of their food supply can last. The people who struggle through this income inequality can’t find jobs that pay well so they do multiple jobs, but end up still struggling to feed themselves. Some people tolerate this income inequality by occasionally asking for help, while others work multiple minimum wage jobs simultaneously that still only gives them so little money to feed themselves.

8. The American Dream is the billionaire that has their penthouse and private jet who goes out to eat at gourmet restaurants every day. This American dream wasn’t too far away from my American Dream. For my American Dream I did envision myself being a billionaire living in a penthouse but with an assortment of instruments that could include but not restricted to a piano, violin, guitar, keyboard, and drums. However, this penthouse isn’t my home, but only a temporary shelter. I’d have many other homes in other destinations like the beaches of the west coast where I have a collection of longboards and surfboards, and in the snowy mountainous region where I have all my snowboards. In short, I had more specifications for my American Dream to be true than THE American Dream. I became much greedier once I noticed that the American Dream wasn’t the limit for MY American Dream. With this greed I began adding more and more details to make this dream more perfect from my specific perspective by incorporating my hobbies and interests.

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11. There are many contributing factors that ultimately determine if for someone to be a success. Some of these factors include money, happiness, and

12. The X/Y game represents the competition of American Society. It establishes the fact that you can’t trust anyone and that everyone has to fight for themselves. Relying on others won’t always work, because greed is always at play where money is involved. We cheat and lie to earn as much as we need and want. You have to fight for yourself and be confident of your decisions, so that others don’t take advantage of your moments of doubt.

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Pacific Obadiah

Pacific is a great writer. He works for the school newspaper and helped write for the regular show. He began writing seriously ten years ago and he has made recognizable progress in that time. However, he seems to be worried about the future. Pacific talked about how he is afraid that his passion may not lead him to a profitable future, but I entirely disagree. He has potential and works hard for what he wants.

Daniela Sales

Daniela can’t go through a day without Starbucks. She says she loves the caffeine and energy it gives her to start off her day. She’s very sociable and fun to be around. One of her interests involves going to electric dance music shows in red rock. She’s working towards a nursing major, which kind of came as a surprise to me for some reason. She loves Binge watching Grey’s Anatomy and Breaking Bad. Daniela wants to save up money and travel around the world to exotic destinations. More specifically, she mentioned wanting to go to Madagascar or go to a safari and see wild animals in their natural habitat. Daniela says she doesn’t want kids until after she has gone on her exploration through the world.

Logan Schaefer

Logan seemed a little reserved, but really opened up when we began a discussion of topics he had a genuine interest in. He loves video games. The graphics, stories, and the development just drag him into the experience. He enjoys games like Halo, Doom, and Destiny. Logan loves Destiny among all the other games he has played. He’s got other active hobbies as well. Logan loves to swim. He told me he was in the swim team for a whole five years. I thought that is amazing to stick to a hobby for that amount of time. He didn’t specify where, but he did mention that he worked in a catering company for a while before he moved to Colorado. He’s working towards an industrial design degree.

Eli Abrams

Eli is from Chicago. He was involved in club swimming and swim team in high school. He is managing a very profitable business where he sells shoes online on his website. Like many other people he loves to make money. Eli is pursuing a degree in Business management. He hates authority and always speaks for his pride. He expressed his ambition to run a home healthcare business where care providers helped the sick and elderly at their homes.

Kayla

Kayla is very artistic and creative. She loves to draw and made some sculptures of her own as a hobby. She recently began working for forever 21 at southlands. She likes electronic, classical, and rap music. She did say she had no specific preference. Kayla likes all music.

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20. Many Americans lack the political will to enact change due to being preoccupied with their own personal schedule and problems. Each and every person has to provide for themselves in some way. The major contributing factor to this is time. Preoccupation with personal matters as family and jobs doesn’t really give people enough time to march the streets. Giving up their time to do something about these problems would mean that they’d have to sacrifice their jobs. They won’t have time for their job and that means they’d have no income to support themselves and their family. Most people do what they can for themselves and those close to them. This is the limit of their selflessness. Simply put, most people don’t have the spare time to approach these problems without risking their own financial comfort.

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