

HIST 15-63 Syllabus

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Department of History
Syllabus

HISTORY 15-63: Essentials of U.S. History
Fall 2022 – 3 units

Land Acknowledgement

San José State University occupies the unceded territory and traditional home of the Puichon Ohlone-speaking people and the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe.

-Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Caitlín Jeffrey

Office Location: CL 414K

Telephone: contact instructor by email

Email: caitlin.jeffrey@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday
10:45am-11:45am in CL 414K

Class Days/Time: T, TH 12:00pm-1:15pm

Classroom: DMH 150

GE/SJSU Studies Category: AI1 and Area D

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From the SJSU Catalog: Treatment of essentials of U.S. history. Satisfies the American institutions requirement in U.S. history (AI1) and the Core GE requirement in Social Sciences: Comparative Systems, Cultures, and Environments (Area D)

History 15 is designed to introduce students to the essential events, ideas, turning points and transitions that have shaped American history from its origins to the present day. Students will examine key periods in American history focusing on both conventional and alternative interpretations of historical events and political processes that have shaped our modern economic, political and social systems. This information will be presented in a multi-cultural framework, including both conflict and consensus perspectives, of the choices and options available to individuals and groups in their social, economic and political relations. Students will also read key primary source documents and writings in the history of the United States, in order to give them direct exposure to the words, thoughts and feelings of the incredibly diverse personalities that helped shape and define the great epochs of the past five hundred years of American history. Finally, students will be able to draw connections between the great social, economic, political and cultural issues of the past and those issues that animate our American society today. Throughout the course of the semester, students will develop the skills used by historians to research, analyze, critically think and argue about the past, which will provide them with transferable skills essential for future success in their careers and in their roles as American citizens.

COURSE FORMAT:

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc., can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website, which can be accessed via the SJSU home website using student ID and password. You are responsible for regularly checking

with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates.

Other Equipment/Software Requirements:

You will need access to a laptop or tablet and the internet for class and to complete assignments on Canvas. For quizzes, you will need a webcam on your computer, laptop, tablet, or device. If you don't have a webcam, you need to get one from SJSU Equipment Loan.

Canvas and Zoom Requirements:

It is also strongly recommended that your computer or mobile device be running the most recent available operating system & other software.

- See Canvas Technical Requirements:
- <https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/l/82542-what-are-the-basic-computer-specifications-for-canvas> [\(https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/l/82542-what-are-the-basic-computer-specifications-for-canvas\)](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/l/82542-what-are-the-basic-computer-specifications-for-canvas)
- See Zoom System Requirements:
- <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux> [\(https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux\)](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux)

How to Use Canvas & Get Tech Support:

The Canvas developers & the SJSU e-Campus have put together a wonderful collection of resources intended to help you successfully navigate the Canvas LMS:

- **Searchable Canvas Student Guide:** <https://guides.instructure.com/> [\(https://guides.instructure.com/\)](https://guides.instructure.com/)
- Additional resources & help docs can be found via the **SJSU e-Campus:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/> [\(http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/)
- If those links don't fully address your needs, you can submit an **iSupport ticket** and you will receive a response back promptly from SJSU support personnel. See Support tab on this page: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/> [\(http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/)
- In Canvas, you can also click on the Question Mark icon on the far left-hand navigation bar for help options

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

AI ALO1: Explain and evaluate the principal events, developments, and ideas covering a minimum time span of approximately one hundred years in all the territories now in the United States (including external regions and powers as appropriate). Be able to evaluate and synthesize different positions, support analysis with relevant evidence, and create evidence-based interpretations of major subtopics in United States history.

D GELO 1. Demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present

D GELO 2. Compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts

D GELO 3. Place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, and/or historical contexts; and

D GELO 4. Draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO 1: Distinguish between primary and secondary materials and decide when to use each
2. CLO 2: Develop a methodological practice of sifting, analyzing, ordering, synthesizing, and interpreting evidence.
3. CLO 3: Identify and summarize other scholars' historical arguments
4. CLO 4: Apply historical knowledge and analysis to contribute to contemporary social dialogue.
5. CLO 5: Generate a historical argument that is reasoned and based on historical evidence selected, arranged, and analyzed
6. CLO 6: Generate significant, open-ended questions about the past and devise strategies to answer them
7. CLO 7: Read the history text, study and take notes and then apply the knowledge in class.

TEXTBOOK:

Roark et al., *American Promise*, value edition, Combined volume. Macmillan: 8th edition, 2020.

- ISBN: 9781319208929 (Paperback)
- ISBN: 9781319218973 (e-book)

Other Required Readings & Sources (Available on Canvas)

Assigned primary sources, secondary readings, documentaries, and other source materials will be available on canvas.

COURSE WORKLOAD:

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally 9 hours per week for a three-unit class), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in **University Policy S12-3** (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf> (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments	Points
Week 1 Module Assignments	25
4 Online Discussion/ Class Facilitation	120
Quizzes	200
2 Written Responses	100
Midterm	100

Final Exam	130
Total	675 points

Grading Scale based on total points for class:

Grade	Points
A	608-675
B	540-607
C	473-539
D	405-472
F	0-404

Course Requirements & Assessments:

WEEK 1 MODULE ASSIGNMENTS (25 points)

See Week 1 Module Assignment List for complete instructions on first week module assignments. Assignments for Week 1 entail creating your profile in Canvas, recording the pronunciation of your name in your Canvas profile and participation in class discussion for the first week.

ONLINE DISCUSSION/CLASS FACILITATION (120 points)

Throughout the semester, you will respond to assigned questions on the readings in an online discussion. You will complete your responses prior to class meetings. Your responses will serve as the basis of in-class discussions for assigned readings throughout the semester. You are required to participate in four online discussion/class facilitation that will be assigned to you. Each forum factors for thirty (30) points. Specific instructions and due dates are provided within the class website in Canvas.

QUIZZES (200 points)

Quizzes will test you on various chapters of the textbook, assigned readings, and lecture. Quizzes consist of multiple-choice questions and/or short responses. The dates for quizzes are provided within the class website in Canvas.

MIDTERM (100 points)

The midterm will occur in eighth week, covering course content from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. The midterm factors for hundred (100) points. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and short responses.

WRITTEN RESPONSES (100 points)

You will develop critical thinking skills on assigned readings and sources throughout the course, where you will write a response addressing a specific theme of American history and society. You will complete two (2) written responses for fifty (50) points. The dates for written responses are provided in the class schedule and within the class website in Canvas.

FINAL EXAM (130 points)

Final Exam will occur during the final exam period, covering late nineteenth century American society to 1970s American society. The final exam factors for hundred thirty (130) points. It will consist of multiple-choice questions, short responses, and a comprehensive written response on a specific theme of American history and society.

GRADING and LATE POLICY:

All assessments for the courses need to be completed by their due dates.

Extending Circumstances:

If you have extending circumstances, you need to communicate to me privately your needs **BEFORE** a due date by email or Canvas message. You need to provide documentation for your extending circumstances, verifying your absence (i.e., a doctor's note explaining your absence). Once you have provided documentation, the professor will discuss with you an extension to an assignment.

Grading Policy and Late Policy for Discussion Forums/Class Discussion:

You need to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and materials. If you do not participate actively in class discussions, you will lower your grade for class discussion.

You need to attend class regularly. You need to be on time to class. If you are late consistently to class, it could affect your grade. You will miss key content to the curriculum that serves as the building blocks for your successful completion of assignments.

If you miss a discussion forum and/or class discussion, this missed discussion will factor as a zero in your grade book in Canvas.

Discussions can not be made up.

Late Policy for Other Assessments:

If you do not provide documentation for an extending circumstance, the professor may exercise the following options for late submissions:

- If you communicate with the professor prior to a due date, the professor may give you the opportunity to submit an assignment late, and ten percent (10%) will be deducted from your overall score for every day past the original due date. The cut-off for late submissions is third (3rd) day from the original due date and time.
- If you do not communicate with the professor about a late assignment prior to its due date, the professor might not provide you with an opportunity to submit the assignment, and your missed assignment will factor as a zero in your grade book in Canvas.

Dropping the Course:

If you feel you cannot complete the work required for this class, you must drop before the required deadline! The last day that you can drop this class is SEPTEMBER 15. It is the responsibility of the student, NOT the instructor to drop students, so don't assume that because you have stopped attending, you will be dropped.

Academic Integrity:

Students should know that the **University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 [pdf]** (<https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work.

Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the **Student Conduct and Ethical Development** (<https://www.sjsu.edu>

[/studentconduct/](#) website for more information.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Classroom Protocol

Please be attentive in class. Please do not check emails or send text messages during class. Mobile phones and computers must be used only for class participation, note taking, or class activities. Engaging in personal activities is distracting to faculty and other students, infringes upon classroom discussion, and inhibits a culture of respect and shared learning.

Please respect the following structure for the classroom:

- Arrive on time to class
- Need to wear a mask
- You should be prepared for class, bringing your texts and laptops to class as needed
- Listen and dialogue with each other respectfully
- If you are online, keep your microphone muted unless speaking
- If you are online, use the chat function in Zoom to ask questions and share ideas with the instructor and classmates

University Policies:

Per **University Policy S16-9** [_\(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)_](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on **Syllabus Information web page** [_\(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Class Schedule

All readings and assignments are due by the dates and times stated within syllabus and Canvas.

If any changes occur to the syllabus and class schedule, changes will be posted on the course website and through class announcements. It is your responsibility to review the calendar, class emails, and other posts on the course website for updates on due dates and any other changes that might occur to the syllabus and class schedule.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments and Deadlines
1	Tues. 8/23	Introduction
	Thurs. 8/25	Slavery and the Making of America Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 1 Module.
2	Tues. 8/30	American Revolution
	Thurs. 9/1	American Revolution Readings and Assignments provided in Assignment List of Week 2 Module.
3	Tues. 9/6	Founding of the Nation
	Thurs. 9/8	Founding of the Nation Readings and Assignments provided in Assignment List of Week 3 Module.
4	Tues. 9/13	Development of the Nation

	Thurs. 9/15	Democracy in America Readings and Assignments provided in Assignment List of Week 4 Module.
5	Tues. 9/20	Abolitionism
	Thurs. 9/22	Women's Movement Readings and Assignments provided in Assignment List of Week 5 Module.
6	Tues. 9/27	Expansion of the Nation
	Thurs. 9/29	Civil War, 1861-1865 Readings and Assignments provided in Assignment List of Week 6 Module. Written Response #1 due Monday 9/26 before 11:59pm.
7	Tues. 10/4	Reconstruction, 1865-1877
	Thurs. 10/6	American West and Expansion of the Nation Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 7 Module
8	Tues. 10/11	American City and Its Workers
	Thurs. 10/13	Midterm Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 8 Module

9	Tues. 10/18	Progressive Era
	Thurs. 10/20	Progressive Era Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 9 Module
10	Tues. 10/25	First World War
	Thurs. 10/27	The New Era Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 10 Module
11	Tues. 11/1	Great Depression/New Deal
	Thurs. 11/3	Second World War Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 11 Module
12	Tues. 11/8	The Cold War
	Thurs. 11/10	America and the Affluent Society Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 12 Module Written Response#2 due Monday, 11/7 before 11:59pm

13	Tues. 11/15	Civil Rights Movement, 1950-1960s
	Thurs. 11/17	The Great Society Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 13 Module
14	Tues. 11/22	U.S. & Vietnam War Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 14 Module
	Thurs. 11/24	Thanksgiving - no class
15	Tues. 11/29	Nixon, Vietnam, and Watergate
	Thurs. 12/1	American Society, 1970s Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 15 Module
16		Study Day: No class
	Tues. 12/6	Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 16 Module
17	Thurs. 12/8	Final Exam from 9:45am- 12:00pm Readings and Assignments provided in the Assignment List of Week 17 Module

