

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
HIST 15 (80): Essentials of U.S. History
Spring 2023 - 3 Units

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Office Hours: Online by appointment

Class Days/Time: Asynchronous

Classroom: Online (Canvas)

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US1 and D2

Course Description

Treatment of essentials of U.S. history. Satisfies the American institutions requirement in U.S. History (US1) and the Core GE requirements in Social Sciences: Comparative Systems, Cultures, and Environments (D2).

In this course you will be exposed to alternative interpretations of the historical events and political processes that have shaped the social, economic, and political system in which you live. This course will provide a multicultural framework, including both conflict and consensus perspectives, of the choices and options available to individuals and groups in their social, economic and political relations. The focus of the course is the growth of a multicultural society and the interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic, and political issues.

Course Format

This course is completely online and will be conducted asynchronously. Even though we will not have scheduled meeting times, **quizzes and discussions DO have due dates**, so it is your responsibility to pace yourself and complete the assignments on time. All course materials can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are also responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any course updates.

This course will consist of written lectures, activities, discussions, quizzes, and a cumulative final exam. All of these components are organized into 14 Units on Canvas under Modules. Coursework for each Unit will be due on the last day of that Unit, which will be a Friday. I chose a Friday to hopefully give you weekend time off! Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions on any assignment or on any due date.

Written Lectures

We have a lot of content to cover in just 16 weeks. Give yourself plenty of time to read through everything, and ask questions if any arise. Each written lecture includes historic photographs* and key terms and phrases in bold. Some might actually be videos that you get to take notes on (these will include outlines). As you read through the lectures, make a note of those key terms and phrases and any information that might be new to you.

This will adequately prepare you for your quizzes and your final exam. Each written lecture is grouped by a general theme and for the most part goes in sequential order. At the bottom of each page, you can simply click on NEXT and Canvas will take you to the next written lecture, activity, or quiz.

*Some of the lectures will include extremely graphic images. I apologize in advance, but history really isn't pretty at times, and it should always be experienced accurately, no matter how we feel personally.

Quizzes

You will be quizzed on every written lecture, so be sure to read carefully and take great notes. This means that all of your quizzes are—that's right—**open-note!** I don't expect you to memorize anything so don't feel too overwhelmed; I understand that not everyone speaks English as their first language and/or is a strong test taker. However, I need to make sure that you are understanding core concepts, and it is always best to test your knowledge as soon as it has entered your brain, so I allow the use of notes on the quizzes immediately following the lectures. All of your quizzes will cover the lecture or lectures that preceded it, and you **get two chances** to take each to maximize your points.

As mentioned above, these quizzes do have due dates to hopefully help you manage your time. Make note of those due dates and try your best to meet the deadlines.

Activities

Our activities will vary and will often include discussion questions, video (audio/visual) components with critical or summary questions, and of course, short answer questions that require your analysis and understanding of the subject matter. These short answer questions will have rubrics attached to them so you'll know what I'm looking for and how I grade them. Each is given various point values depending on the length of the activity, so some activities are short and fun, while others require just a bit more time and analysis from you. To give you an idea, some are worth 5 points while others are worth 20! Be sure to read the introductions and instructions carefully and follow all of the directions for each assignment for maximum points.

Also, I will very often leave comments on some assignments, so be sure to check Canvas to see if I've left you a note of advice! With the exception of discussions, all of your activities do not have the same deadlines as the rest of the Modules. You can decide when to tackle the activities and complete them at your own pace. The last day you can turn them in will also be the last day of class (May 19th).

Discussions

Within occasional Units, we will engage in a class discussion. Again, please read the instructions carefully, and be sure to think about your responses before you post them. Also, because these are "discussions," be sure to respond to each other and discuss the topic at hand thoroughly to get the maximum amount of points. Each discussion is due on the day the Module is due. That way our discussions line up with the topic that they cover, and hopefully, we'll all be in the discussion roughly at the same time. Also, be sure to check back on a discussion to see if anyone asked you a question or if they answered one of yours!

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. GELO 1 (US1): Describe the principal events, developments, ideas, politics, and international relations in all the territories now in the United States from the beginnings of this society until the present. While considering these topics, students will be asked to analyze certain subtopics. **Assessed by primary source activities, quizzes, activities, and discussions.**

2. GELO 2 (D2): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **Assessed by primary source activities, quizzes, discussions, and activities.**
3. GELO 3 (D2): Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. **Assessed by primary source activities, quizzes, discussions, and activities.**
4. GELO 4 (D2): Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. **Assessed by primary source activities and discussions.**
5. GELO 5 (D2): Compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems in the context of U.S. history. **Assessed by primary source activities, quizzes, and discussions.**

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: Apply historical knowledge and analysis to contribute to contemporary social dialogue.
4. CLO 4: Generate a historical argument that is reasoned and based on historical evidence.
5. CLO 5: Generate significant, open-ended questions about the past and devise strategies to answer them.
6. CLO 6: Read the history text, study and take notes and then apply the knowledge in class.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be provided via Canvas.

However, if you'd like extra support on the material, I highly recommend Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty!* This text has many available editions and all of them are helpful so the cheapest edition will work just fine.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. Since this course is worth 3 units, prepare to spend approximately 9 hours of work per week on this course.

Final Examination

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment. At the end of your historic journey, we will have a cumulative final exam. This exam will be a glorious combination of quiz questions from quizzes you will be taking throughout the course. It will not be timed and it will not be proctored, so consider it a take-home exam. It will, however, be cumulative so prepare to review everything you learned from the start to the end of the course. And yes, you will be allowed to use your notes.

I will publish the final exam a week before it is due so feel free to take it whenever you're ready. **LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Grading Information

Quizzes, discussions, activities, and the final exam cannot be made up except in the case of a documented, valid reason, and you must contact me BEFORE these assignments are due and NOT on the day they are due. Any absence that is excused must be accompanied by official documentation.

Attending the course is not graded (participation), but again, please be mindful of all deadlines. Hopefully those deadlines encourage you to manage your time wisely.

I will offer the course two extra credit opportunities, but they won't be worth much so don't hinge your grade on them! Both are surveys that ask about your experience with history courses, and the first will be posted under Module 0 at the beginning of the course, and the other will be posted near the end. Each will be worth 5 points.

Your course grade will be determined by your total amount of points in the course based on the following scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	723-695	96 to 100%
<i>A</i>	694-673	93 to 95%
<i>A minus</i>	672-651	90 to 92%
<i>B plus</i>	650-622	86 to 89 %
<i>B</i>	621-601	83 to 85%
<i>B minus</i>	600-579	80 to 82%
<i>C plus</i>	578-550	76 to 79%
<i>C</i>	549-528	73 to 75%
<i>C minus</i>	527-507	70 to 72%
<i>D plus</i>	506-478	66 to 69%
<i>D</i>	477-456	63 to 65%
<i>D minus</i>	455-434	60 to 62%

Classroom Protocol

1. I expect students to come to class prepared. Try and create the most comfortable and thought-provoking environment possible. Grab a notebook or note-taking device and a huge glass of water and sit somewhere comfy and quiet. I'd also recommend grabbing some headphones-- play some brain-tickling music while you read, and enjoy the videos that are often posted per Unit at full volume. I promise that you will actually learn something if you log in to class *ready* to learn!
2. Fair warning-- discussions can often get a little heated. Opinions and discourse should always be presented in a respectful manner. Though perspectives may differ, students must understand that the scientific method of data collection and rational analysis of evidence is what governs conclusions and defines truth both in the university and in our secular society. We each come from a different background, and each of us is unique. In my class, you are safe and respected for that fact. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. Want an "A+" in my class? Here's the trick: give me "A+" worthy work! Manage your time wisely and take care to properly read through the lectures and assignments until you understand them. Then make the effort to carefully construct well-thought-out responses to the activities. Your grade will reflect the effort you put into the course. YOU are in charge of your grade, not me!
4. Have a gap in your understanding? Email me! Don't quite understand what I'm looking for in your responses? Email me! I genuinely want you to succeed and I love talking about history so don't be shy. Email me, and I'll get back to you within 48 hours.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

HIST 15 Course Schedule**

Unit	Topics, Readings and Assignments	Due Dates
0	Hello & Welcome <i>*Discussion: Get to Know Your Classmates!</i>	-----
1	PaleoAmerica & Colonization Quizzes (3)	FEB 3
2	Expansion, Slavery & Moving Towards Independence Quizzes (3)	FEB 10
3	Revolution! Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: Was it Really a Revolution?</i>	FEB 17
4	Building a Republic & Its Early Years Quizzes (3)	FEB 24
5	The Market Revolution & Conquest of the West Quizzes (3)	MAR 3
6	The Abolitionists, Slavery & Impending Doom Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: "Ain't I a Woman?"</i>	MAR 10
7	Civil War! Quizzes (2) Discussion: Just Checking In	MAR 17
8	Reconstruction & Its Impact Quizzes (2) <i>*Activity: Causes of the Civil War</i>	MAR 24
9	The Gilded Age & American Imperialism Quizzes (3)	APR 7

10	The Progressives, World War I & the Roaring '20s Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: The Progressives</i>	APR 14
11	The Great Depression & World War II Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: Code Breakers</i>	APR 21
12	The Korean War, The Red Scare & Rebellion Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: Surviving the Apocalypse</i>	APR 28
13	The Radical 1960s Quizzes (3) <i>*Activity: Radical 60s & Modern Times</i>	MAY 5
14	Nixon, Reagan, Clinton & the End of the 20th Century Quizzes (3) Discussion: Making History	MAY 12
FINAL	FINAL EXAM	MAY 19

**These assignments do not have the same due dates as the quizzes listed with them. As stated above, these assignments are due on the last day of class, May 19th, before midnight.*

****This schedule is subject to change with plenty of notice. Always be sure to check Canvas for updates!**