History 205-3 Credits

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Course Description:

A survey of the early American national experience, this course is designed for the general student with emphasis on politics and society. Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate knowledge of the major themes and chronological periods of American history. They will also demonstrate a deeper understanding of historical method, and the role of interpretation in the writing of history.

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Course Objectives:

After completing this course, students should be able to communicate the following:

1. Recognize and correctly identify persons, institutions, and events of importance in American history 1492 to 1877.
2. Recognize the major themes in the development of American politics, society, and culture during this period;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the global context of American history;
4. Apply historical perspective to contemporary issues;
5. Recognize and critically evaluate historical interpretations;
6. Analyze documents in their historical context; and
7. Construct well-written short answer questions using basic academic writing conventions.
8. Write a book review on a American History topic related to the time period.
Learning Strategies:

- Online Lecture Notes
- Discussion Board
- Open Book Chapter Quizzes
- Topical Videos
- Assigned Outside Readings
- Short Writing Assignments

Required Text: Order from Doane Bookstore!

John Mack Faragher, Yale University
Mari Jo Buhle, Brown University
Susan H. Armitage, Washington State University
Daniel H. Czitrom, Mount Holyoke College
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Assessment and Grading Rubric

This course will consist of chapter tests and assignments, discussion board posts and a final paper. I will read all your assignments, but will not necessarily provide formal critiques on each assignment. If I see problems in your work I will provide necessary feedback.

If you have any questions about your assignments and assessments, please let me know and I will give you assistance.

I will post assignments in advance so that you can work at your own speed. Final evaluation will follow the rubric provided. If you need additional time for your work due to illness or special situation please let me know and we can work out a different time schedule.

Assessment Policy

I use a point system. Each item is worth a select amount of points.

- Chapter tests: Points vary by Chapter
- Written Essays: 10 points
Video Essays       10 points
Discussion Board   5 points

**Academic Integrity Policy**

*The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.*

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**Grading Scale**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Below 60 F

*I have a set of grading standards that I plan to follow on each area of the work in this course. See Grading Standards.*

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**Grading Standards**

The text below defines the outlines of the standards for the grades of A, B, C, D, and F, in my classes at Doane College.

**A** implies excellence in written and oral presentation, performance, attendance, discussion, class participation and attitude. It is the highest level of professionalism in my classes. The work is, on the whole, not only clear, precise, and well-reasoned, but insightful as well.

**B** implies above average in written and oral presentation, performance, attendance, discussion, class participation and attitude. It is the next level of professionalism in my classes. The work is, on the whole, not only clear, precise, and well-reasoned, but does not have the depth of insight.

**C** implies average in written and oral presentation, performance, attendance, discussion, class participation and attitude. It is the next assessment level in my classes. The work is, on the whole, inconsistently clear, precise, and well-reasoned, and does not have the depth of insight or even consistent competence. This level of
work is not acceptable for consideration for continuation in either undergraduate or graduate courses.

D implies below average work in written and oral presentation, performance, attendance, discussion, class participation and attitude. It is the next assessment level in my classes. On the whole, the student tries to get through the course by means of rote recall, attempting to acquire knowledge by memorization rather than through comprehension and understanding. The work is also inconsistently clear, precise, and well-reasoned, and does not have the depth of insight or even consistent competence. This level of work is not acceptable for consideration for continuation in either undergraduate or graduate courses.

F implies unacceptable work in written and oral presentation, performance, attendance, discussion, class participation and attitude. It is the next assessment level in my classes. On the whole, the student tries to get through the course by means of rote recall, attempting to acquire knowledge by memorization rather than through comprehension and understanding. The work is also inconsistently clear, precise, and well-reasoned, and does not have the depth of insight or even consistent competence. This level of work is not acceptable for consideration for continuation in either undergraduate or graduate courses.

Caveat: Due to the constructivist nature of this course the above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.