



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN TIRANA

Course: United States History I

Instructor: Bledar Kurti

Office Hours: Can be arranged at students' request.

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Course Description: The purpose of this course will be to examine the important events and people that helped shape the United States of America; A country that rose to the status of “regional power” 100 years after its formation, went on to become a “global power”.

In addition, the course will deal with such questions as: what is history, who makes it, and how should we interpret it?

Textbook:

Boyer et al. (2006). *The Enduring Vision*. Boston: Houghtton Mifflin.

Required Additional Materials

During the class meetings, students will be given some supporting materials which will help to have a better understanding of certain events in the U.S. history. Certain materials will be taken from primary and secondary sources, internet, newspapers, magazines and will be used for class discussions, but could also be part of the questions during tests. Students will also be shown several DVDs, documentaries about the explorers of the New World, War for independence, the Civil War, Slavery and the making of America, etc ...

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Know and master the chronology of events and important facts in the U.S. history until 1865.
2. Reach a high knowledge of certain events and figures that changed the world's politics and other peoples' way of living.
3. Have a better understanding of how the New World was founded, colonized, became independent and how the United States established itself as the most democratic country in the world.
4. Demonstrate good language skills and use proper historical and political terminology.

5. Understand the importance of the U.S. history and approach issues with the appropriate point of view.

Content of the Course:

- 1 – Course introduction / Themes/ Requirements. Native peoples of America to 1500. (Chapter 1).
- 2 – The Age of Exploration, 1400 – 1625, (Chapter 2). The Rise of Colonial America, 1625 – 1700, (Chapter 3).
- 3 - Colonial Society, 1660 – 1750, (Chapter 4).
- 4 – Road to Revolution, 1750 – 1776, (Chapter 5).
- 5– Revolution and its aftermath, 1776 – 1788, (Chapter 6).
- 6 – The New Republic, 1789 – 1800, (Chapter 7).
- 7 – Mid-Term Exam
- 8 – Louisiana Purchase War of 1812 / Missouri Compromise / Monroe Doctrine, (Chapter 8).
- 9 - Manifest / Destiny / Westward Expansion, 1815 – 1840, (Chapter 9). Politics / Religion and Reforms, 1824 – 1840, (Chapter 10).
- 10 - The Old South and Slavery, 1830 – 1860, (Chapter 12).
- 11 - Immigration, Expansion, Sectionalism, 1840 – 1848, (Chapter 13). From Compromise to secession, 1850 – 1861, (Chapter 14).
- 12 - Civil War, 1861 – 1865, (Chapter 15)..
- 14 – Final Exam.

Course Requirements

Attendance: I will be keeping track of your attendance every hour. Missing classes could affect your grade. Any absence should be excused with a valid reason and document which should be submitted at the Records Office. Your absences will be observed and dealt with in accordance with the UNYT policy.

Participation: Contribution during the class discussions is very important and will be taken into consideration in your final grade. All the students are most welcome to ask any question or raise any topic relevant to the subject during the class sessions. Interaction is essential in the class: it produces a better and more effective learning.

Presentation: Each students will be asked to give a presentation. This presentation could be individual or in group, depending on the number of the students on each class. The presentation will be in writing as well as given verbally in front of the class. It will consist of a research topic, visual aids, supporting materials, etc.

General Requirements

In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly

enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask your instructor for clarification.

Criteria for Determination of Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Attendance - 10%
Participation - 10%
Presentation - 15%
Short essays - 15%
Mid-term exam - 20%
Final exam - 30%

The grading scale listed below is the official UNYT grading scale for all courses

| Letter Grade | Percent (%) | Generally Accepted Meaning |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | 96-100 | Outstanding work |
| A- | 90-95 | |
| B+ | 87-89 | Good work, distinctly above average |
| B | 83-86 | |
| B- | 80-82 | |
| C+ | 77-79 | Acceptable work |
| C | 73-76 | |
| C- | 70-72 | |
| D+ | 67-69 | Work that is significantly below average |
| D | 63-66 | |
| D- | 60-62 | |
| F | 0-59 | Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course |

Technology Expectations

Assignments are to be word-processed and formatted according to UNYT Writing Center Guidelines. Continuing and regular use of internet is expected.

Bledar Kurti / October 2007.