

History 1000. Themes in American History

Baruch College, CUNY • Fall 2002

Section 1 (BD13, Monday and Wednesday, 7:50-9:05 am): Room 3165.

Section 2 (TV13, Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 -10:45 am): Room 9140.

Professor Zachary M. Schrag

Vertical Campus 5/257 • Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 4-5 pm.

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Introduction

This course is designed as an introduction to this nation's history that will encourage additional study of history, whether in college or for personal satisfaction. It examines four episodes of American history between 1750 and 1975, paying particular attention to questions of place. The first unit considers the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, particularly the Ohio River Valley, and how debates over that land contributed to the creation of the United States. The second unit focuses on lands west of the Mississippi and their fate before, during, and after the Civil War. The third unit explores the emergence of the United States as an urban nation in the early 20th century, and the fourth covers America in the decades after World War II, when new technologies forced Americans to understand place in new ways.

Assignments

All reading assignments are drawn from John Murrin et al., *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People*, Third Edition. (Wadsworth, 2002), available in the bookstore. You are expected to read each week's chapter prior to the start of Monday's class.

Quizzes (50%). There will be 11 multiple choice/identification quizzes, based on each week's reading. Your grade will be based on your best ten quizzes. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Memorization Quizzes (Optional). On September 18 and October 9, you will have the opportunity to take extra quizzes, in which you will be asked to write, from memory, the *exact* text of the Declaration of Independence up to the phrase, “effect their safety and happiness” (Sept. 18, textbook page A-6), and the Gettysburg Address (October 9, text on website). Spelling and punctuation will not count, but each word skipped or misplaced will result in a deduction of 1/3 of one point. These quizzes are optional, but they may replace poor grades or absences on the regular chapter quizzes.

Exams (Midterm, 15%, Final, 25%). Format to be announced.

Attendance and Participation (10%). You are expected to arrive in class promptly, with cell phones and beepers turned off. Late arrivals or early departures may be counted as absences.

One-Minute Papers (0%). At the end of lectures (when I remember) I will ask you to write brief, one-minute papers stating the most important theme of the lecture and the most confusing part of the lecture. You are not to put your name on these papers, and they will not be graded or returned, but they will help make the class more responsive to your needs.

Schedule

Introduction

Week 1.

September 4. Why Study American History?

Unit One: Beyond the Mountains

Week 2.

September 9. America at 1750. QUIZ 1: Chapter 4.

September 11. Clearing out the French

Week 3.

September 16. NO CLASS

September 17. (Monday Schedule) Colonial Discontent. QUIZ 2: Chapter 5.

September 18. The War for Independence. EXTRA CREDIT QUIZ 1.

Week 4.

September 23. Coming Together. QUIZ 3: Chapter 6.

September 25. The New Nation

Unit Two: Beyond the Mississippi

Week 5.

September 30. America at 1830. QUIZ 4: Chapter 9.

October 2. The Nation United

Week 6.

October 7. The Emergent West. QUIZ 5: Chapter 13.

October 9. Sectional Crisis. EXTRA CREDIT QUIZ 2.

Week 7.

October 14. NO CLASS (COLUMBUS DAY)

October 16. Mechanized War. QUIZ 6: Chapter 14

Week 8. Review for Midterm

October 21. Postwar Compromise

October 23. MIDTERM EXAM

Unit Three: Beyond the Farm

Week 9.

October 28. America at 1919. QUIZ 7: Chapter 19

October 30. Culture Wars of the 1920s

Week 10.

November 4. Production and Consumption. QUIZ 8: Chapter 24

November 6. Heroes of Technology

Week 11.

November 11. Boom and Bust. QUIZ 9: Chapter 25

November 13. The New Deal

Unit Four: Beyond Place

Week 12.

November 18. America at 1945. QUIZ 10: Chapter 28

November 20. Suburbs and Cities

Week 13

November 25. Missiles and Rockets. QUIZ 11: Chapter 29

November 27. Civil Rights

Week 14. Write Two Multiple Choice Questions for Exam

December 2. Vietnam

December 4. Things fall apart

Conclusion

Week 15. Study for Exam

December 9. America since 1976

December 11. Course Review

Final Exam

7:50 section: Monday, December 23, 8:00 – 10:00 am.

9:30 section: Wednesday, December 18, 10:30-12:30 pm.