

## HISTORY 2111

United States History I, 1492-1876.....Fall Semester 2009

Roger Soiset, M.A.

Classes: Section 007 TR 1:30-2:45pm in J-109

Section 008 TR 3-4:15pm in J-109

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Office Hours—10:00am to 1:00pm MW or by appointment

### Course Description:

**U.S. History I is an introduction to American civilization from the age of exploration and colonization through the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course focuses on central themes and issues evident in the growth of the American nation including institutional change, cultural development, and political evolution as Americans faced them in the past. Themes treated in the course include: early America and the British Empire; the American Revolution; establishing the new nation; the era of Andrew Jackson; technological, industrial and transportation revolutions, social and cultural life, expansion and sectional crisis; the Civil War and Reconstruction.**

**Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:**

- 1. Identify historical issues and explain the way those issues are interpreted;**
- 2. Classify and discuss historical data and come to informed conclusion about that data;**
- 3. Cite knowledge of the American past and understand how it relates to the present;**
- 4. Describe the cultural values of the U.S. and the role of minority views in shaping those values.**

**Required Text:** *America: A Narrative History* (Volume One) by George Tindall & David Shi; 6<sup>th</sup> brief edition, ISBN 0-393-92424-6.

**Testing:** There will be three major tests and a final exam, each counting 20% of your grade (the lowest of the four will be dropped). In addition there will be unannounced quizzes, the lowest of which will be dropped. The

cumulative average of these will be 15% of your grade. Another 25% will be from a course project.

**Attendance/Participation:** After the first few classes, roll will not be taken. But attendance is critical if you wish to do well. Tests will come primarily from notes given. Note: poor attendance by the class is very likely to generate a quiz on that day.

**Makeup tests:** Either major scheduled tests or quizzes can be made up at the instructor's convenience *if the absence is excused*. Traffic court, Braves games and family reunions are not valid excuses. Military drills, documented illnesses and jury duty are.

**Academic Honesty:** See the College Student Handbook for the SPSU policy on academic dishonesty. My own policy is: first offense, a zero on whatever is the subject of said dishonesty; second offense, expulsion from class.

**Class Project:** A list of suggested topics will be distributed on the first day of class. All students are to select either one of my suggested topics or something else *if the alternate topic has been approved*. Otherwise, no approval is needed—unless the student wishes to exercise the oral option. Oral presentations must be approved and scheduled; failure to present on the scheduled day can result in a zero for the project (*two letter grades!*). Unless doing an oral, all written projects are due December 7. One letter grade will be deducted for each class day the project is late.

**Final Exam:** Those who have maintained a 90 or better average in all work with no deductions for missed tests might be eligible to exempt the final. See the instructor about exempting the final if you think you qualify. The date of the final is not yet known; when that is determined you will be notified by email.

**Note-taking:** Success in a course that is primarily lecture will depend on your ability to take notes. Much of the material that will be presented is not in your text, and you will be tested on material that is presented in class.

**Test Schedule:**

1. September 16 (chapters 1-4)
2. October 14 (chapters 5-9)
3. November 18 (chapters 10-15)
4. Final exam date TBD (chapters 16-18 as well as material from student orals)