

History 1700 Syllabus

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Course Title: American Civilizations
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American Institutions Requirement

This course satisfies the American Institutions category of the Dixie State College General Education requirements.

Office Hours: 11:00 to 11:50 am on MWF; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 to 6:00 pm on TH

Required Texts:

1. Murrin, Johnson, McPherson, Gerstle, Rosenberg and Rosenberg, Liberty, Equality Power, Concise Fourth Edition
2. Ten sets of historical documents posted on the **Readings Page** on Mr. Green's website. These are in both Microsoft Word and PDF format. You will need to print out each set.

Recommended

The study guide is available electronically. Find the link on the website and the URL in your textbook.

Dixie State College's Liberal Education Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of human development and the human condition.
2. Students will understand the ideas, people, and events in the past that are generally thought to be important.
3. Students will develop informed points of view based on knowledge in psychological, social, economic, and/or political theory which can be expressed orally or in writing.

Gifts

Gift from students to the teacher can be misinterpreted. While the thought will be appreciated, Mr. Green cannot accept gifts under any circumstances. I would be better for all concerned if they were not offered.

History 1700 Course Objectives

1. Students will master and appreciate the story of the origin, rise, and current state of American Civilization.
2. Students will understand the major themes of American history including:
 - the evolution of democracy
 - the relationship of the United States to other nations
 - the importance of religion
 - the role of capitalism and reform
 - the impact of American culture on immigrants and other minorities
 - the relationship Americans have with the land
 - the effect of economic transformation
 - the causes and consequences of sectional conflict
3. Students will demonstrate their mastery of the story and the themes of American Civilization through their:
 - performance on exams

Class Interruptions

Please turn off your cell phones, radios, walkmen, and alarms such as watches and palm pilots during class. Electronic disturbances of this class will not be allowed.

- written work
 - attendance and participation in class activities
 - completion of library assignments
4. Students will relate the concepts, ideas and facts that they acquire in their study of United States history to their present life through a deeper understanding of themselves, public issues, and current events.

Student Duties

You must commit to a fifteen week program of rigorous study. For the average C+ to B-) Dixie College student, this course will demand two hours out-of-class study for every hour we meet in class or 6 hours a week. This means careful reading: in order to perform well on exams and class assignments you will have to work with your textbook, as opposed to just reading it. It also means you will do college level writing. Finally, you must be willing to consider viewpoints different from your own and to express your opinion in class.

An eminent mathematician once remarked that he was never satisfied with his knowledge of a mathematical theory until he could explain it to the next (person) he met in the street. This is hardly exaggerated; however, we must remember that a satisfactory explanation entails duties on both sides.

Attendance

Missing class will involve costs. There is no such thing as an excused absence even for athletics, forensics, field trips, or other college sponsored activities. As a matter of policy, I will not go over or in any other way make up lectures or other activities for students who miss class. I will make no adjustments nor will I allow exceptions to policies regarding missing quizzes or exams when the reason is discretionary such as a vacation, the deer hunt, or a visit home. This said, consideration will be given for rescheduling some class activities in the event of school sponsored activities, illness, or accident and if consultation is done privately (in Mr. Green's office) before the scheduled time of the activity.

Special Needs

If you are a student with a physical or mental impairment and would like to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in Room 201 of the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility for services based upon complete professional documentation. If you are deemed eligible, the Disability Resource Center will further evaluate the effectiveness of your accommodation requests and will authorize reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability.

Grading

At the end of the quarter, I must make a judgement concerning how much of the content of the class you have learned. I will use the following formula to make this assessment:

- + **midterm exam (grade times 20%)**
- + **final exam (grade time 30%)**
- + **textbook tests (average grade on 6 test scores times 35%) and**
- + **document quizzes (average grade on all pop quizzes times 15%).**

You must take both the midterm exam and the final exam to pass the class.

Grade Creation

All grades in all the textbook and document quiz categories (above) will be determined using one of the following two methods. First, your score on your will be divided by the high score in the class. If your

score is within 95% of the high, you will receive an A. The breakdown will then descend by percentages of the high until the a score that is 60% of the high earns a D-. However, if the average grade for the class, calculated using the first method, is less than a C, a second method will replace the first. Instead of dividing by the high score, the denominator will be manipulated until the average grade for the class is set near C. Further adjustments will be made if there are several sections of the class and significantly differentiated denominators between the classes. If there are multiple sections of the class that use the same measuring instrument, as when all section take the same exam, the average will be calculated from all sections rather than from just your class.

Exams

Two major exams will be given during the semester accounting for 55% of your grade – the midterm is worth 20% and the final is worth 25%.

Exam Schedule

The date of each exam is listed in the schedule of semester activities in this syllabus. Each will be administered in the classroom. The midterm will cover lecture material for the first half of the semester. The Final will cover lecture material for the second half of the semester only.

Missing the Final Exam

The date and time of your final exam are listed in the schedule bulletin and on Mr. Green's web site. You must take your final with your class on the correct day at the correct time. Student's missing finals for any reason without written permission from Mr. Green and the Dean of Arts, Letters, and Sciences will not be allowed to make up the exam. Students arriving late for the final will have 10% reduction of their final exam grade.

Exam Questions

Each exam will be constructed using the same 50 point format. First, you will match 8 passages from the class documents with their authors or sources. The passages will be selected from that passages list at random except that three questions will come from the final passage set (Part 5 for the Midterm and Part 10 for the Final). Each passage correctly identified is worth one point making a total of 8 points possible. Second, you will answer 4 ID questions that you pick from a list of 8 options. Each choice will be worth 5 points for a total of 20 possible. Finally, you will answer one essay question that you will choose from a list of 3 options. Your answer will be worth a possible 22 points.

A list of all the possible ID items essay questions is posted on the Exams and Quizzes page of the American History the web site. All questions on the midterm exam will be taken from the Midterm Exam lists, and all questions on the final exam will come from the Final Exam lists.

Exam Content

The Matching, ID and essay questions for each exam will be drawn from the issues from the lectures and class discussions only. They will have nothing to do with the textbook or an encyclopedia or other source. Each question will be graded based on class discussion revolving around the documents and the Power Point slides.

Exam Format

This is a written exam. You will need to bring a blue book to class. You can pick them up at the bookstore for \$.25 The best answers will receive the highest scores. Failure to show competence with the topic addressed in the question will result in no credit.

You must bring the following to each exam: a pen or pencil, a blue book (purchase at the bookstore); You may also bring with you any notes, written or typed to your exam as long as you do not bring your textbook or any copied, scanned, or otherwise reproduced part or section of your textbook. Be careful, however. You will put yourself at a disadvantage if you use your notes too much during the exam. Be prepared to answer most of the questions without referring to your notes; use them only to check the details you have forgotten.

Exam Grading

Both the midterm exam grade and the final exam grade will be determined using an average. Your exam score will be manipulated using percentages so that average grade for the class is set at C. At this point the computer will calculate each exam grade with approximately half above C and half below.

Late or Make-up Exams

Early exams are possible but highly unlikely. (See the attendance policy explained above.) An early or late midterm will require private consultation with Mr. Green (in his office, not the classroom) and will require evidence of school sponsored activities or real emergencies before they will even be considered. In addition, an early final will also require permission of the Dean of the Division of Arts, Letters, and Sciences.

Textbook Tests

Textbook Tests will account for 30% of your grade. You do not have to take all the Textbook Tests to pass the class.

Textbook Test Content

Six Textbook Tests will be held during the semester – one for each three chapter section in the text. Each Textbook Test will have 50 questions chosen at random by a computerized testing program furnished to Mr. Green by the text publisher. Each question is from a text bank also provided by the publisher. The Textbook Test questions, in other words, are all written by the author and selected by the computer – not by Mr. Green. These Textbook Tests are designed to insure that you thoroughly read, study, and understand the material in your textbook.

Textbook Test Points Possible

Mr. Green will instruct the computerized testing program to select 9 to 10 questions from each chapter so that each test will have 49 substantial questions. In addition, a logistical question will be included with each test, making a total of 50 points per test and 300 points per semester possible.

Textbook Test Rules

Each Textbook Test will be conducted in the testing center in the Browning building. You will generally have several days, including a weekend to take the exam. You will have as much time as you need to finish the Textbook Test, so long as you do it one sitting. You must bring a SCANTRON sheet, a #2 pencil, and you will be allowed to bring **one** 8½" by 11 piece of paper on which you may write, using both sides, any notes you may need to stimulate your memory. Please leave everything else home.

The dates for all the Tests are listed on the Semester Schedule which was passed out to you on the first day of class and linked to on the Syllabus page of the American History website.

No Late or Make-up Textbook Tests

Because each Textbook Test is available at the testing center over several days, it should not be necessary to ever make up a Textbook Test. Certainly forgetting to go to the Textbook Test, getting stuck in Salt Lake or Las Vegas, or an upcoming family vacation will not count as acceptable excuses and will

not be accepted. (See the attendance policy above.) Sometimes school sponsored activities or real emergencies will arise. These will be dealt with privately (in my office, not in the classroom) by consultation with Mr. Green before the Textbook Test begins.

Document Quizzes

Document Quizzes will account for 15% of your grade. You do not have to take all the Document Quizzes to pass the class.

Document Quiz Content

Ten Document Quizzes will be held during the semester – one for each set of Documents we will use during the semester. Each Document Quiz will have three to five matching questions using passages from the assigned documents. All questions will be taken from lists of passages that are posted on the Exams and Quizzes page of the American History website.

Document Quiz Schedule

The dates for all the Quizzes are listed on the Semester Schedule which was passed out to you on the first day of class and linked to on the Syllabus page of the American History website.

No Late or Make-up Document Quizzes

Document Quizzes are preparation Quizzes and cannot be made up. Certainly forgetting to go to the Document Quiz, getting stuck in Salt Lake or Las Vegas, or an upcoming family vacation will not count as acceptable excuses and will not be accepted. (See the attendance policy above.) Sometimes school sponsored activities or real emergencies will arise. These will be dealt with privately (in my office, not in the classroom) by consultation with Mr. Green before the Document Quiz begins.