

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
History 11, "Political and Social History of the United States, I" (1214), 3 units
Spring 2015, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:10 AM to 12:35 PM, GC 470

Instructor: Dr. Richard Olivas
Office: GC 380A (in the General Classroom building, 3d floor)
Office hours: Mon, 11 AM–1 PM; Tues & Thur, 12:45–2:00 PM; Wed, 5:00–6:30 PM; and by arrangement
Office phone: 310-287-4509 (Please leave a message if there is no answer.)
Email: rolivas@wlaac.edu
Website: www.wlachistory.com (for lecture outlines, syllabus, exam study guides, study helps, announcements, etc.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: History 11 is the first part of a two-semester introduction to the political and social history of the United States. During this semester students will learn about the major themes and issues of U.S. history from the first settlements to the Civil War. It focuses on political and social developments in the making of the United States, but it also includes economic and cultural trends.

REQUIRED READING: James A. Henretta et al. *America: A Concise History*, 6th ed., Volume 1: To 1877. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015 (ISBN-10: 1-4576-4865-2; ISBN-13: 978-1-4576-4865-6). It is permissible to use the 5th edition. While most exam questions are drawn from the class lectures, you should nevertheless read the book to familiarize yourself with the historical narrative. If you would like to improve your reading skills, please consider taking a course like Learning Skills 030, "Reading/Computer Aided Instruction" or Learning Skills 050, "Intro to Computer Assisted Instruction–Language Arts" (choose "reading speed and comprehension" option) at the Library's Learning Skills Center (see Spring 2015 Schedule of Classes, pp. 77-78). ☺

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: In accordance with Board Rule 9803.28, academic dishonesty is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Cheating will result in automatic failure in the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action (Schedule, pp. 134-35).

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT: According to Board Rule 9803.15 and related rules, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be tolerated. To maintain a positive learning environment, the instructor reserves the right to separate disruptive students who sit next to, or nearby, one another (See "Rules & Regulations," §6, in Schedules of Classes, p. 134).

COURSE STUDENT-LEARNING OUTCOMES: Using primary and secondary sources, students will be able to explicitly and critically convey their knowledge about colonial America, the origins and significance of the U.S. Constitution, the growth of slavery, and westward expansion in the antebellum U.S., and how these historical events relate to important issues in 21st-century America.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is mandatory. Students who are excessively absent [i.e., more than three (3) classes] may be dropped at the instructor's discretion. Absences begin to accumulate from the first day of class (i.e., February 10), not from the date students add the class. Roll is taken at the beginning of class. Three (3) late arrivals equal one (1) absence. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time, and stay throughout the class period: "every time, on time, for the whole time."

DROPPING THE CLASS: Students are responsible to drop themselves from classes they no longer attend (Schedule, pp. 11, 136).

TAPE RECORDING POLICY: State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for approval (see Schedule of Classes, p. 137). Recorders and Google Glass are strictly prohibited. If you need help learning how to take notes, consider taking Learning Skills 051B, "Efficient Note Taking," at the Learning Skills Center (see Schedule of Classes, p. 78). ☺

POLICY ON VISITORS: Class sessions are reserved for students officially enrolled in WLAC (See Schedule of Classes, p. 135). Visitors may be brought to class by prior consent of the instructor only.

POLICY ON PAGERS & CELLULAR TELEPHONES: The policy is simple: pagers and cell phones should never sound in class. Please silence them before class begins. If your phone accidentally rings in class, turn it off without answering it. If you answer a cell phone in class—or get up and leave class to do so—you will be asked to leave for the remainder of that day. Phones, purses, and backpacks are not allowed in laps or on desktops during class. Please put them away. Bluetooth headsets, audio head gear, and Google Glass may not be worn during class, nor should you text-message during class. Students using laptops or other tablet-type computers for note-taking must sit at the back of a row in the last seat or desk. These rules help ensure that students are free to learn in a distraction-free environment. ☺

OFFICE OF DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES: The DSP&S office is located in Student Services Building, Room 320. The College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The DSP&S has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education.

EXAMS AND STUDY GUIDES: There will be three in-class, closed book exams. Their format combines multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Study guides are provided before the exam to students as a courtesy, not as a right.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: Make-up examinations are given only under exceptional circumstances, and they must be arranged in advance with the instructor.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS: Exam I (Tuesday, Mar 17): 30%
 Exam II (Tuesday, Apr 28): 35%
 Exam III (Thursday, Jun 4): 35% (To verify final date, see Schedule of Classes, p. 16)

COURSE GRADING SCALE: A= 88% and above D= 56%-67%
 B= 78%-87% F= 55% & below
 C= 68%-77%

LECTURE/READING SCHEDULE: N.B. Instructor reserves the right to modify the plan below.)

Part I: A Colonizing People, 1492-1776

1. Intro & Three Worlds Meet (2/10, 2/12, 2/17)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 1

2. The First Settlements: Colonizing a Continent (2/19, 2/24)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 2

3. The First Settlements: Mastering the New World (2/26, 3/3)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 3

4. Colonial Society Matures (3/5, 3/10, 3/12)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 4

(Exam 1: Tuesday, March 17. Review Henretta, chapters 1-4 and lecture notes.)

Part II: A Revolutionary People, 1776-1820

5. Bursting the Colonial Bonds (3/19, 3/24)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 5

6. A People in Revolution (3/26, 3/31)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 6

7. Consolidating the Revolution (4/2. There is no class the week of 4/6-4/9, due to Spring Break. Class resumes Tues., 4/14.)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 7

8. Creating a Nation (4/16, 4/21)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 8

10. The Early Republic: Society and Politics (4/23)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 9

(Exam 2: Tuesday, April 28. Review Henretta, chapters 5-9 and lecture notes.)

Part III: An Expanding People, 1820-1877

11. Life in the North & the Old South (4/30, 5/5)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapters 10, 11

12. Reforming America in the Antebellum Age (5/7, 5/12)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 12

13. Moving West (5/14, 5/19)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 13

14. The Union: Imperiled and Severed (5/21, 5/26, 5/28)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 14

(Exam 3: Thursday, June 4, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Review Henretta, chap. 10-14 & lecture notes.)