

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
History 11, "Political and Social History of the United States, I" (1210), 3 units
Fall 2013, MW, 8-9:25 AM, GC 470

Instructor: Dr. Richard Olivas
Office: GC 380A (in the new 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
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Website: www.wlachistory.com (for lecture outlines, syllabus, exam study guides, study helps, announcements)

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*, 5th ed., *Volume 1: To 1877*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012 (ISBN-10: 0-312-64328-4; ISBN-13: 978-0-312-64328-7). 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 Fall 2013 *Schedule of Classes*, pp. 60-61). ☺

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. 114-15).

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT: According to Board Rule 9803.15, 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. 114).

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., August 26), not from the date students add the class. Three (3) lates 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*, p. 10).

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. 117). 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. 61). ☺

POLICY ON VISITORS: Class sessions are reserved for students officially enrolled in WLAC (See *Schedule of Classes*, p. 114). 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. Cell phones, PDAs, Sidekicks, and similar devices 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 use text messaging during class. 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 Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119. 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 (Wednesday, Oct 2): 30%
Exam II (Wednesday, Nov 6): 35%
Exam III (Wednesday, Dec 11): 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 (8/26, 8/28. There is no class on Monday, 9/2. Class meets again Wednesday, 9/4.)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 1

2. The First Settlements: Colonizing a Continent (9/9, 9/11)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 2

3. The First Settlements: Mastering the New World (9/16, 9/18)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 3

4. Colonial Society Matures (9/23, 9/25, 9/30)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 4

(Exam 1: Wednesday, October 2. Review *Henretta*, chapters 1-4 and lecture notes.)

Part II: A Revolutionary People, 1776-1820

5. Bursting the Colonial Bonds (10/7, 10/9)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 5

6. A People in Revolution (10/14, 10/16)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 6

7. Consolidating the Revolution (10/21, 10/23)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 7

8. Creating a Nation (10/28, 10/30)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 8

10. The Early Republic: Society and Politics (11/4)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 9

(Exam 2: Wednesday, November 6. Review *Henretta*, chapters 5-9 and lecture notes.)

Part III: An Expanding People, 1820-1877

11. Life in the North & the Old South (There is no class on Monday, 11/11. Class resumes 11/13; 11/18)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapters 10, 11

12. Reforming America in the Antebellum Age (11/20, 11/25)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 12

13. Moving West (11/27)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 13

14. The Union: Imperiled and Severed (12/2, 12/4)

Required reading: Henretta, Chapter 14

(Exam 3: Wed., Dec 11, 8-10 AM. Review *Henretta*, chap. 10-14 & lecture notes.)