

Course: United States History 211 – The Formative Period

Professor: Dr. George N. Vourlojianis (Ver lo jon us)

Telephone: (216) 397-4579

Email: gvourlojianis@jcu.edu

Office: 249 Administration Building – History Corridor – B267

Office Hours: I check my emails and telephone messages at least twice a day - once in the early morning before 10 and then again in the late afternoon before 6:00 p.m. Keep in mind that during the week I do check messages at other times as well. I do not check messages on Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to meet with me on campus I am available by appointment.

Class Times: 24/7 from June 17 –July 19, 2013. It is incumbent upon you to continually check the class website for new postings and changes.

Text: *The American Pageant, Volume I: to 1877 (Fifteenth Edition)* by Kennedy etc.

Supplemental: *Black Robe* by Moore

Course Description & Content: The period investigated during the course encompasses the Age of Discovery through the post-Civil War Reconstruction. The course will trace the circumstances that precipitated a coming together of three distinct, diverse and often hostile cultures and how a new, unique and vibrant nation was created, almost destroyed and then, recreated anew. The major topics discussed will include: The discovery, European colonization, native peoples, kingdoms of West Africa, the introduction of slavery, the American Revolution, the promulgation of the Constitution and the creation of the government, early foreign policy, antebellum reform movements, Manifest Destiny, sectionalism, the causes of the Civil War, the Civil War and the Reconstruction. At the end of our visit together the student will have a knowledge of the diverse phenomena and peoples that came together and created the United States of America. During the course of our journey students will be exposed to interpretive and critical thinking exercises. In addition to weekly on-line class discussion forums, these skills will be applied to the written word through the medium of the supplemental reading assignment and essay writing. To convey this adventure to you, the professor will use lectures, reinforced by the text, supplemental reading, videos, maps, discussions and perhaps, an occasional song. Student questions and discussions are welcomed and encouraged throughout our time together.

Tentative Schedule:

Chapter assignments are from the reading of *The American Pageant*.

June	17	Chapters 1 – 2
	18	3 – 4
	19	5
	20	
	21	6 – 7
	22	

	23	
	24	8
	25	
	26	
	27	Examination I
	28	9 – 10
	29	
	30	11 – 12
July	1	
	2	
	3	13 / Black Robe Assignment Due
	4	Independence Day – Enjoy!
	5	
	6	14 - 15
	7	
	8	16
	9	
	10	
	11	Examination II
	12	17 – 19
	13	
	14	
	15	20 - 22
	16	
	17	
	18	
	19	Examination III

Assignments, Examinations, Grades & Grading Schedule: The class grade will be based upon three examinations given on material from the lectures, study guides and textbook readings, and a written assignment based on *Black Robe*. Each examination will be worth 50 points and the written assignment 35 points. Therefore, the total number of class points is 185. During the course of the semester if you wish to determine your grade, divide the points you have attained by the total number of points. This will give you a number that has a value as a percentage. The percentage value and grade schedule are as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = Below 60. There are **NO** extra credit assignments, rewrites or grade curving. *It is what it is!*

If a grade is questionable or borderline (between C+ and B-) the instructor in making the final grade determination will consider attendance, class participation and general attitude. If a student misses an examination, a make-up will be given **ONLY** if the professor has been contacted by the student in advance to inform him of the tragic circumstances that have prevented you from taking the examination at the appointed time. Make-ups will be given at the discretion of the professor. **ALL** make-ups will be given on Wednesday, July 15. It is the student's responsibility to remind the professor that they have been permitted to take a make-up on that day. If a make-up is missed a grade of **F** will be issued for that examination. There is no make-up for the final or third examination. Examination format and submission will be discussed in a separate posting. Late *Black Robe* assignment papers will be not be accepted. Failure to follow any of the aforementioned instructions will result in a loss of points or possibly a course grade of **F**.

Students with Disabilities & Other University Policies: In accordance with university policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course please contact the professor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student with Disabilities in Room 7-A of the Garden Level of the Administration Building. The telephone number is (216)397-4263. **Note:** Accommodations will not be granted retroactively. For policies governing academic dishonesty, plagiarism, withdrawal guidelines, FERPA restrictions/guidelines, and student conduct consult the University Register.

Note: This is an on-line course and subsequently your comings and goings onto the class website are not monitored by the professor in the same way they would be in a “land-based” class. The class operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In order to complete the work you may come and go as you please. The course gives you a lot of flexibility with regard to time. But remember that the responsibility for completing the required work is totally on you. If you experience any technical difficulties during the class contact the Distance Learning staff immediately.

This syllabus does not constitute a contract. To maintain the integrity of the course, the professor reserves the right to change this syllabus and any of its contents at any time during the course by notifying the student verbally or by written addendum. It is the student’s responsibility to adjust to any changes made.

Have Fun and Success in the Course!