

**History &137  
U.S. History 2  
Spring 2012**

Instructor: David Norberg  
Office: Salish Hall; Second Floor  
Office Hours: Tuesday 6:30 – 7:00am; and by appointment  
Course Website: <http://davenorberg.net/history>  
Email: [history@davenorberg.net](mailto:history@davenorberg.net)  
Class Meetings: MTWThF 7:00 – 7:50 a.m.  
Room: Salish 255

**Overview**

This course is a broad survey of the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how the peoples of America understood their world and the events they lived through. Other central themes will include: the rise of America to superpower status, the role of the federal government, regionalism, changes in American identity, and how different peoples have shaped the contours of American History.

**Objectives**

1. To understand the main themes and key events of Modern American History.
2. To develop skills of historical analysis, synthesis, discussion, and writing.
3. To develop a greater understanding of the field of history, how and why interpretations of the past vary, and why history is important.

**Assessment Goals:**

Green River Community College is attempting to implement individual competencies into the curriculum. This course will help improve your skills in the following areas:

**1. Critical Thinking:**

In this course, you will read, listen to lectures, watch short videos, and discuss information and ideas with your classmates. There are ways to do each of these activities that demand critical thinking and ways that do not. For example, critical thinkers are active rather than passive readers. They read texts closely, note key ideas, look up difficult words, work hard to understand difficult passages, and keep up a dialogue with the text in the margins. Critical thinkers are also active rather than passive listeners. They listen carefully to lecture and/or discussions, try to understand statements from speaker's perspective, and try to understand the assumptions behind those statements. Critical thinkers recognize that others may see the world differently than they do and see those perspectives not as threats but as part of the continuing and necessary dialogues that are inherent in civilizations. Critical thinkers think clearly, logically, and specifically about issues, and can refer to specific details and information to support their generalizations. Part of my job as an instructor involves teaching you to be critical thinkers by explaining and modeling the behaviors of critical thinkers.

**2. Written Communication:**

Writing in this course will analyze, interpret, and synthesize the various readings and other course materials. Additional elements critical to writing clearly and effectively are clear focus and ideas, coherent structure and organization, correct grammar, careful editing, and effective use of language.

### **3. Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning:**

In this course you will be asked to analyze real-world data in individual and small-group work. Students will use data from censuses, opinion polls, etc. to form and support historical arguments. These sources must be approached in a critical manner. Students will be asked to consider how data was obtained, the limits and drawbacks to using each set of data, and the benefits of working with quantitative data. Students will also be asked to analyze, contextualize, and interpret symbols found in cartoons, historical paintings, maps, and photographs.

### **4. Responsibility:**

Regular attendance, punctuality, class preparedness (including reading materials and completing assignments before class discussion), timely submission of assignments, and an atmosphere of mutual respect are all required of you as students of this course.

Your goals as students and mine as an instructor may differ, but our basic responsibilities are essentially the same. I have attempted to structure this course with some flexibility, but it is important that you follow these responsibility guidelines. I understand that your life is busy, and that you probably have a job and other responsibilities beyond school. However, I stand by these responsibilities and will expect them to be fulfilled by everyone equally. Ultimately, it is up to you to take ownership of this class and your experience in it.

### **Differently-abled clause**

If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information I should know about, or if you have special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class. You can reach me by phone at 833-9111, 4768. Or, you can schedule an office appointment to meet me in the BI Office Building, office number 16 during my office hours or at an alternative mutually agreeable time. If this location is not convenient for you, I will schedule an alternative place for the meeting. If you use an alternative medium for communicating, please let me know well in advance of the meeting (at least one week) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

### **Course Policies**

**1. Attendance:** Regular attendance is required and will be part of the course grade. You will be counted as absent if you are late to class or spend the class period on work unrelated to the course.

**2. Academic Honesty:** WAC 132J-125-200 on plagiarism and cheating states that:

- (1) Any student who, for the purpose of fulfilling any assignment or task required by the faculty as part of the student's program of instruction, shall commit plagiarism or otherwise knowingly tender any work product that the student falsely represents to the faculty as the student's work product, in whole or in part, shall be subject to discipline.
- (2) Any student who knowingly aids or abets the accomplishment of cheating, as defined in subsection (1) of this section, shall also be subject to discipline.

All exams are closed-book and closed-note, unless otherwise specified in writing. All work submitted must be produced independently and for this class specifically, unless otherwise noted. Exam and quiz questions may not be shared with other students. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question and may result in a 0.0 for the course. Please see me if you have any concerns or if this policy is at all unclear to you.

- 3. Make-Ups and Late Policy:** Assignments are due in class and will be considered late if they are turned in after class or if you are absent on the due date, except in extreme situations. You are welcome to email assignments, but you must submit a hard copy. If I do not receive your email, for any reason, the assignment will be counted as late. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late, including weekends.

Make-up exams may be taken without penalty if arranged with me prior to the exam or in extreme situations such as severe illness, death of a family member, and other significant emergency. In these cases, please contact me as soon as possible and provide documentation of the emergency. I will give you a new due date for the exam. Otherwise, missed exams will be counted as late and penalized 5% per day late, including weekends. All make-up exams must be approved by me before they are taken.

- 4. Participation:** I encourage and expect you to participate actively in class discussions and group activities. To earn full credit for participation you will need to come to class prepared and stay focused on the material at hand. In general, positive contributions to the class will benefit your participation grade. Lateness and other actions that disrupt or detract from the class will have a negative effect on your participation grade. Cell phones must be turned off unless there are special circumstances. (Let me know.) Please do not leave it on vibrate or text message during class. Both are distracting.
- 5. Grade Scale:** Grades will be assigned and calculated using the 100 point scale and can be converted to the 4.0 scale and letter grades as follows:

95-100	4.0	A	75	2.0	C
90	3.5	A-/B+	70	1.5	C-/D+
85	3.0	B	65	1.0	D
80	2.5	B-/C+	60	0.5	D-

### Required Reading

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, Seagull Edition, Volume 2
- Jacqueline Jones Royster, ed., *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Crusade of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900* (This text is available for free online.)
- Selected Primary and Secondary Sources

### Course Requirements and Assessments

Essay on Ida Wells	15%
Quiz	2.5%
Mid-Term Exam	22.5%
Essay on the Role of Government	20%
Final Exam	25%
Attendance	7.5%
Participation	7.5%

### Class Schedule

Week 1            April 2 – 6  
 Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Preface  
 Introduction; Reconstruction

- Week 2            April 9 – 13  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapters 15 and 16  
Urbanization and Industrialization; Reform Movements  
**Quiz:** Friday
- Week 3            April 16 – 20  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapter 17  
Reform Movements; Imperialism  
**Essay on Ida Wells Due:** Friday
- Week 4            April 23 – 27  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapter 18  
Progressive Era Diplomacy and World War One  
**No Class:** Wednesday (In-Service Day)
- Week 5            April 30 – May 4  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapter 19  
1920s; Great Depression
- Week 6            May 7 – 11  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapters 20 and 21  
Great Depression; World War Two  
**Mid-Term Exam:** Monday
- Week 7            May 14 – 18  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapters 22 and 23  
Cold War Introduction; Truman Admin.; Eisenhower Admin.
- Week 8            May 21 – 25  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapter 24  
Kennedy and Johnson Administrations
- Week 9            May 28 – June 1  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapter 25  
Johnson and Nixon Administrations  
**No Class:** Monday (Memorial Day)  
**Essay on Role of the Government Due:** Tuesday
- Week 10           June 4 – 8  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapters 26  
Age of Limits, Reagan Admin., and Current Events
- Week 11           June 11 – 15  
Readings in *Give Me Liberty!*: Chapters 27 and 28  
Final Exams  
**No Class:** Tuesday (Study Day)  
**Final Exam:** Thursday, 7:00am to 8:50am