

HSTAA 101 – Survey of the History of the United States

Autumn Quarter 2005
Section AD Friday 9.30 - 10.20, MEB 243
Section AF Friday 10.30 - 11.20, MEB 243

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Office Hours Tuesdays 10.30-11.30, Thursdays 12.00 – 1.00 and by appointment

Section Objectives

Our Friday discussion sections will focus on the acquisition and development of basic historical skills – learning how to critically read primary sources and how to contextualize this evidence to make it useful to historical analysis. We will integrate the readings with lectures and discuss what you need to know and do to write meaningful papers and acceptable exams. If you skip section, your work and your grade in the class overall will suffer.

Section Requirements

- Come to class every week - and come on time.
- Be prepared for discussion. The small group section is your chance to talk about and analyze new concepts as well as ask questions about the material. *It is very important that you do the reading and think critically about it before coming to section.*
As you do each reading, ask yourself:
 - What is the author's purpose behind writing this piece, and what audience is he or she writing to?
 - Why are we reading it? What can we learn from this source?
 - How does this reading add to or contrast with what we are hearing in lecture and from other sources?
 - Is there anything particularly surprising or interesting in this piece?

Take notes as you read, and be prepared to support your arguments with evidence from the text itself. This will aid you when writing papers and preparing for exams as well!

Try not to censor your reflections on what you have read out of fear of “being wrong.” It has been my experience that many times a thought that seems “wrong” turns out, in the end, to be of vital interest to other members of the class and generally enriches our understanding. Everyone is here to learn – by asking questions and sharing your thoughts, we will all benefit as we explore these new ideas together.

It's possible that I will ask you all to prepare a short written response for section, but this will depend on my sense of how diligently you all are preparing for discussion in the first weeks of the quarter.

- Bring the text and documents to class with you every week.
We will spend a great deal of section looking at specific passages of text. This is exceedingly difficult when one does not have the text! For my section, I would prefer you to PRINT the online documents and bring them to section.

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Office Hours

I will hold my office hours on Tuesdays from 10.30 to 11.30 AM and Thursdays from 12.00 to 1.00 PM in Smith 103A. I will also be available by appointment.

Additional Guidelines

- Email: Please feel free to email me with questions or to set up appointments to meet with me. My email address is jalee@u.washington.edu. I check email regularly and will generally respond within 24 hours of receiving your email (and often sooner!). I may also use email to communicate important info to you, so please remember to check your email account regularly.
- Absences: If you know in advance that you will need to miss section, please let me know right away. As stated in the main course syllabus, missing three meetings of section will automatically result in a 0.0 participation grade.
- Drafts of written work: I encourage you to bring me rough drafts of your essays and papers, which I will accept up to five days before the assignment is due. This will allow ample time for me to read it carefully and return it to you to re-write.
- History Writing Center: The main course syllabus contains important information about the History Writing Center—an invaluable resource that I encourage you to utilize!
- Study Buddy: You might consider exchanging contact information with another student in the class. If you are ill and must miss class, your study buddy can let you copy their notes and keep you posted on any in-class announcements.

Please keep in mind throughout this course that you are free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about the course material, your assignments, or anything else, for that matter. I am here to help you achieve success in this class!

An Educational Partnership

A final note: I treat this class as a partnership through which, I hope, I will learn from you as much as you will learn from me. Ask questions. Take positions and defend them with evidence and logical argument. Challenge me, challenge the readings and lectures, challenge your peers. But remember to treat everyone with respect and integrity. Conversations about the past can often become quite passionate. Remember to listen carefully and respectfully and maintain civil relations even during disagreements. This is your class—our class—and I hope you consider it an important investment.

Due Dates

Put these on your calendar today! As Professor McKenzie noted, there are no make-ups for exams and late papers will be penalized 0.3 grade points per day late. (Weekends count as two days.)

Monday, October 10 — first essay due (in class)
Wednesday, October 26 — second essay due (in class)
Monday, November 7 — midterm exam
Tuesday, November 22 — third essay due in class
Wednesday, December 14 — final exam