

HISTAA 101 – Survey of the History of the United States

Fall Quarter 2005

Section AB Friday 9:30-10:20, LOW 216

Section AE Friday 10:30-11:20, MEB 243

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:50-5 pm, Wednesday 10:30-11:20 am, and by appointment

Section Objectives:

Our Friday discussion sections will focus primarily upon the acquisition and development of basic historical skills - critical reading of primary sources and learning 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, you might 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 to what we are hearing in lecture and from other sources?
 - Is there anything you found particularly surprising or interesting?

Take notes on the reading, and be prepared to support your arguments with evidence from the text itself.

Now, it is possible that I will ask you all to prepare a short written analysis (a response essay of one page or so) 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. Or, I may occasionally ask you to prepare short written responses to the readings at the beginning of the class period. If I do ask for written responses, completion of these assignments will be counted toward your participation grade.

For further information on participation grading policies, please see the main course syllabus.

- Bring the text to class with you every week. We will spend a great deal of time in class 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 rather than download them to your laptop.

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- Schedule a meeting with me early in the quarter I would like to meet with each of you individually outside lectures and sections by the time the second essay is due (Wednesday, October 26). You do not need to prepare a question or bring in extra work, but this will be a good opportunity to talk about any questions you have about the class or individual assignments. You are, of course, more than welcome to schedule additional meetings with me at any point, either during my regularly scheduled office hours or at a mutually agreed upon time.

Additional Guidelines

- Email I encourage you to email me to arrange meeting times or to ask simple questions about the course assignments, requirements or course content. I will do my very best to reply to your emails within 24 hours. I may also use email to communicate important announcements and reminders to you, so please remember to check your email account regularly.
- Absences If you know in advance that you will need to miss class, please let me know right away. As stated in the main course syllabus, missing three days of section will automatically result in a “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.

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.

Important Dates to Remember

October 10 – First Essay Due
October 26 – Second Essay Due
November 3 – No Class
November 7 – Midterm Examination

November 11 – Veteran’s Day Holiday
November 22 – Third Essay Due
November 24-25 – Thanksgiving Break
December 14 – Final Examination