

HSTAA 105 – Peoples of the US - Section AB

Section Meetings: Friday 12:30-1:20, Smith 313

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Office: 10 Smith Hall
Office Hours: M 12:30-1:30
W- 10:30-2:30, and by appointment

Purpose of Discussion Sections: The discussion sections are here to give you the opportunity to evaluate the meaning, purpose, and value of the readings for each given week. We will spend most of our time discussing the assigned readings and questions raised by each week's material. You will have ample opportunity to raise questions, try out new ideas, and to debate the issues of the course with your fellow students. Sections will **not** be primarily devoted to review of lecture material. While we will take time to answer questions and clarify certain points, it will be assumed that you have attended class for the week and have completed the assigned readings.

Expectations:

- 1) **SHOW UP.** While this material may seem familiar to some, the ways in which we are asking you to approach and think about these materials and events may be quite different than what you have been exposed to in the past. The section meetings are designed to allow you to learn the analytical skills that you will be required to demonstrate on your exams and essays.
- 2) **BE PREPARED.** First, you simply must do the assigned readings before section and I would highly recommend that you complete them before attending the lectures for the week as well. Bring your texts, reading notes, and/or exercises to class and refer to them as needed.
- 3) **PARTICIPATE.** Participation by way of completion of assignments and speaking in class is mandatory for each student. I understand that for some it is difficult to speak in front of a group. You may need to make an extra effort to be sure to speak out and I will make every effort to ensure that all students are able to be heard. Participation is not necessarily based on how often you speak.
- 4) **BE CRITICAL.** I strongly encourage you to approach the readings, the documents, the professor and even, perhaps, your teaching assistant in a critical manner. There are many approaches to the texts and issues we will be examining this quarter and no one methodology or interpretation has a monopoly on the truth. As you will see, scholars have come to very different conclusions based upon the same evidence that you will be examining. You are encouraged, and somewhat required, to advance your own arguments and be able to criticize those of others.
- 5) **BE REPECTFUL** I will respect you as intelligent individuals who have opinions, feelings and your own areas of expertise. I will expect that you will act in a professional manner while in my class and treat your fellow classmates in a similar manner. This includes arriving on time, turning off all cell phones, and showing appropriate courtesy while in class.

Assignments and Grading: Your section grade is worth 20% of your final grade. In addition to class participation, this grade may include a variety of activities including exercises, quizzes, and writing assignments, etc. The best way to prepare for these assignments is to complete the reading for the week and to be ready to answer the questions for that week's discussion. For complete procedures please consult the main course syllabus.