

HISTORY 202—HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

SUMMER 2003

SYLLABUS

MICHAEL WEISS

Class Schedule:

WED 6:00-9:50 P.M

T-215

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Office Hours: EVERY DAY- 8::00-8:50 A.M.

Required Texts: Goldfield et al, *The American Journey* (Unabridged edition), 2003
Wheeler & Becker, *Discovering the American Past*, Volume I, 5th edition, , 2002

Recommended Search Engines:

www.dogpile.com

www.mamma.com

www.northernlight.com

www.copernic.com

(get their free, basic download at this site)

GENERAL COURSE PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND OBJECTIVES

History 202, "History of the United States," is the second in the series of three 3-credit academic transferable courses covering the history of our nation. In this class we begin with the Jacksonian era, duringr which the United States began its dynamic path to political growth and industrial development. Other topics are the reform era and the development of the West. The major focal point, however, of the course is the Civil War, its causes and its effects on the nation.

1. INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT: The courses utilizes a variety of instructional techniques designed to provide a feel for the presence of history. The course has a strong emphasis on visuals. The classroom has an excellent video projector to provide material to illuminate lectures.

A lecture outline is provided on the board and a video viewing guide sheet accompanies the videos. Excellent students always take thorough notes and completely fill out the guides. You'll need the memory of Rain Man coupled with a great intellect to do well without putting anything down on paper during the class. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) offers a variety of self-paced mini courses on note and test taking. The college offers an excellent course entitled "College Success."

The instructor, thanks to E-Bay, garage sales, and other sources, has an extensive collection of period artifacts in the form of clothing, coins, pocket watches, jewelry, magazines, and printed material. This should help to demonstrate that all this history really did occur and that it is still alive.

There is a class website. If you go to the LB website at: www.linbenton.edu and then go to the instructor's name or department you can get to it. This website serves several functions: 1. It provides a week-by-week account of class activities, assignments, and course direction. If you've missed a class you should visit the site. 2. The website also provides access to several excellent history websites, which will definitely enhance your understanding and enjoyment of the course. 3. Students should go to the class web site in order to find a class assignment.

READING: Students in this class should read at high school level or above. Please examine the required text and be sure that you can read and *understand* it before you continue in this class. The instructor's lectures *add* to text material and are not meant to be a substitute for reading the text.

2. GRADES: There has been some confusion, particularly at the end of the term, regarding the "Y" and "In" grades. Here is what they mean:

Y = No basis for a grade. You've rarely attended class nor have you submitted assignments. This grade is *never* given to a student who simply ceases attending class *after* taking the midterm and submitting some of the assignments.

IN = Incomplete. You've been a fine student, attending class on a regular basis and have turned in most of the work. Due to no fault of your own something has prevented you from completing the course. You communicate this to the instructor and sign a written agreement indicating what is missing. A default grade is assigned on the basis of work already completed. This default grade will become your course grade if the promised missing work is not completed by the end of the following term.

PASS/NO PASS = Not available in this course.

3. ATTENDANCE: This is not a correspondence course. There are only eight four-hour class sessions this term. If you cannot attend most of them you should not take this course. If your schedule does not allow you to complete assignments on time or to remain in class for the full session then this is not the class for you this summer.

EXAMS:

MIDTERM = 20 POINTS

FINAL = 30 POINTS

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS,

Written: 3 X 10 POINTS EACH = 30 POINTS

Oral: 3 X 7 POINTS EACH = 21 POINTS

TOTAL POINTS IN CLASS = 101 POINTS

THE WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSOCIATED WEBSITES WILL BE POSTED ONLY ON THE CLASS WEBSITE. THE FIRST ORAL PRESENTATION BEGINS ON YOUR SECOND CLASS SESSION OF THE WEEK. THE FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT IS ALSO DUE YOUR SECOND CLASS SESSION.

5. PLAGIARISM: Please note that no matter how much you like someone else's writing you cannot use their words as your own. You need to summarize and paraphrase. If it is discovered that you've submitted someone else's work it will be tantamount to failing the entire course.

6. ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES: You cannot obtain full credit for assignments submitted late to the instructor.

7. Please return all borrowed material to the instructor by the end of the term.

8. Please bring your texts to every class session. We will often refer to them. Spot checks may be done for extra credit.

9. EXTRA CREDIT (Up to 10 points): Extra credit is only available to students who are coming to class and doing decent work. It is not for those who "see the light" during the end of the term, hoping to resurrect their grade from the grave. Unlike the situation in high school, where sometimes grades are been salvaged by a tepid paper, read only by the instructor, extra credit is only available if you:

- **Are doing C+ work or better
- **Are attending class regularly
- **Present your report to the class in a lively fashion
- **Supplement it with visuals (see instructor for advice and assistance)
- **Select a topic related to current class material
- **Have it approved *beforehand* by the instructor

Credit will be assigned based upon observable effort and excellence

TEXT READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS

IF YOU'VE BEEN ABSENT PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CONTACT PERSON
AS WELL AS WITH THE CLASS WEB SITE TO SEE IF DATES AND
ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN REVISED. THIS ASSIGNMENT SHEET IS NOT SET
IN TABLETS OF STONE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE
CHANGES.

Week 1 **TEXT:** Ch. 10, "The Jacksonian Era, 1824-1845"
June 25

Week 2 **TEXT:** Ch. 11, "Industrial Change and Urbanization"
July 2

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT: Ch. 7, "Away From Home: The Working Girls
of Lowell"

ORAL REPORTS WILL BEGIN ON YOUR FIRST CLASS SESSION OF THE WEEK
WRITTEN REPORTS ARE DUE YOUR LAST CLASS SESSION OF THE WEEK

Week 3 **TEXT:** Ch. 12, "The Way West, 1815-1850"
July 9

COMPLETE ORAL REPORTS THIS WEEK

Week 4 **TEXT:** Ch. 13, "Slavery and the Old South, 1800-1860"
July 16

Week 5 **TEXT:** Ch. 14, "Reforming Antebellum Society, 1815-1850"
July 23

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT: Ch. 3, "The Peculiar Institution: Slaves Tell
Their Own Story"

ORAL REPORTS BEGIN ON YOUR FIRST CLASS SESSION OF THE WEEK
WRITTEN REPORTS DUE ON YOUR LAST CLASS SESSION OF THE WEEK

QUESTIONS **FOR MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED**
TAKE IN LRC BETWEEN FRI., FEB. 6 AND THURS., FEB. 13

