TEXTS:


Assorted readings to be downloaded from the Canvas site

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

**Reading/discussion:** This is an online course exploring U.S. history from Christopher Columbus to 1865. This exploration will take place through a combination of reading and online discussion, where the texts (a main textbook, two supplemental books, and additional readings to be downloaded from the Canvas site) serve as the primary form of content delivery. After reading the chapters of the supplementary texts, students will then log onto the site to discuss the material in a forum where the instructor will pose questions and supply additional context in order to enhance the student’s understanding of the material. Students are encouraged to read at their own pace; however, they **must** read the assignments prior to the exams over that material. *Note:* Students can read ahead if they choose, but the quizzes over the Oakes chapters and the discussion threads over the supplemental readings will not be available until after the due date for the exam over the preceding material has passed.

REQUIREMENTS:

**Exams:** There will be three exams (two midterms and a non-cumulative final) given during the semester, with each exam worth 20% of your grade for the course. The exams will be part multiple choice (30 questions worth 1 point each, with the questions to be drawn from the material covered in the Oakes textbook), part critical-thinking short answer (4 paragraph-length
responses to 4 of 8 prompts provided over the material covered in the Oakes textbook, with each response worth 10 points) and part essay (an essay worth 30 points written in response to one of two questions, with the questions covering the material in the supplemental readings). Students will have 75 minutes to complete the exam, which they can take at anytime during the period provided, with the exam to be completed by 11:59 P.M., Pacific Daylight Time on the final day in which the exam is being offered. Test-taking tip: It is recommended that the student type out their essay in a word processing program (making sure to save it periodically) and then copy and paste it into the space provided.

**Quizzes:** Throughout the semester, students will be required to complete a series of quizzes over the assigned chapters from the Oakes textbook. Each quiz will cover two chapters; the quizzes will be timed and students will have two opportunities to take the quiz before the deadline. The deadlines are listed in the “Schedule of Readings and Deadlines” section of this syllabus and on Canvas, and will be worth 10% of your grade for this course.

**Online Discussion:** Student participation in the online discussion forums for the supplemental books is **required**, with such participation worth 10% of your grade in the course. This grade will be based on two factors: 1) participation in every discussion forum within the discussion threads provided (each chapter of the supplemental readings), and 2) the depth, relevance and originality of the contribution. Contributions should consist primarily of the student's reflections over the material covered in the chapter (including their interpretation of the author's arguments), and can include (but should not be limited to) questions over the material (which other students are welcome to answer) and comments on earlier contributions. The student's discussion grade will be assessed based on the student's contribution to the class discussions over the readings assigned for that segment. Inadequate posts can be improved by the student in response to follow-up questions posed by the instructor. The deadline for contributing to discussion boards for the supplemental readings is provided in the “Schedule of Readings and Deadlines”; I will provide feedback on the postings, though I may not do so for postings submitted less than twelve hours prior to the deadlines.

*Note on student conduct:* While different perspectives are encouraged and expected, it is paramount that the discourse remains respectful. Because of this, and in the interest of encouraging the freedom of expressing differing opinions and varying perspectives, personal attacks or condescending attitudes will not be tolerated and will have a negative impact on the student=s discussion grade.

**Reviews:** On the day before the start of the exam at each supplemental reading is scheduled to be discussed, students are required to submit to Canvas a 3-4 page review of that work, which should identify the author’s thesis/argument, summarize the reading, and offer the reader’s opinion of what they read. The reviews will be graded on content, organization, and grammar; each review will be worth 10% of your grade for the course. **NOTE: Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and students found to have plagiarized will be subject to the sanctions outlined in the Student Handbook.**
**Due Dates:** All final due dates are “drop dead” due dates. In other words, we will not be returning to a chapter or supplemental reading once the completion date passes. Any and all missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

**Technical issues:** If a student cannot submit an assignment by the due date because of a Canvas technology issue, then the student is required to notify the instructor of the problem by email before that assignment's due date. The student must explain the nature of the technical problem in the email. The student must provide evidence of technical inability to access Canvas or the technical inability to submit responses to Canvas. Evidence of technical difficulty will include a copy of the student's email correspondence with the SCC Canvas Help Desk. A copy of the Help Desk response to the student with regard to this particular issue is also required from the student. Be aware that Canvas provides the instructor with the ability to check the exact time and date of all assessments or assignment attempts. Any and all missed assignments will receive a grade of zero. *The only exception to this policy is if the instructor has been notified by the administrator of the SCC Canvas server that the Canvas site is either working improperly or not working; if he is so notified then an exception will be make to the makeup policy. In such situations, the instructor will post an announcement extending the due dates of the impacted assignments or make other arrangements.*

**User Error:** User error does not qualify a student for any kind of makeup or retake opportunity. Completing and submitting the papers and exam responses by their due dates is the sole responsibility of the student. If you receive an incomplete score because of failure to submit the test by the due date, then your score for that event will be recorded as a zero (0). It is highly recommended that students submit assignments several days in advance of the due date so that technical and/or content issues can be addressed in a timely manner.

**GRADES:** Your final grade in the course will be determined by taking the average of the three exam scores, the quizzes, the grades for the papers, and the class participation results: 90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 60=D, $\downarrow$ 60=F. *No individual extra credit work will be considered.*

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND DEADLINES:**

**PART I**

*Reading:* Oakes, chapters 1-5; Hutchinson, "The Trial of a Heretic" and Otis, "The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved"

*Quiz deadlines:* Oakes:

Chapters 1-2: June 7
Chapters 3-4: June 10

Chapter 5: June 13

Discussion deadline: Hutchinson and Otis readings: June 13

First Exam: June 14-June 15

PART II

Reading: Oakes, chapters 6-10; Johnson, Soul by Soul

Quiz deadlines: Oakes:

Chapters 6-7: June 18
Chapters 8-9: June 21
Chapter 10: June 24

Discussion deadline  Johnson: June 24

Second Exam: June 25

PART III

Reading: Oakes, chapters 11-15; Burlingame, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Quiz deadlines: Oakes:

Chapters 11-12: June 28
Chapters 13-14: July 1
Chapter 15: July 5

Discussion deadline  Burlingame: July 5

Final Exam: July 6