SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Christopher Parillo, M.A.  COURSE: US History I
DEPT: Social Sciences  CATALOG: HIS 103 CRN 94204
SEMESTER: Fall 2010  DAY AND TIME: WED. 6:00-9:00 PM
LOCATION: Orient Building, Room O135

Required Readings
- Extracts from various primary sources, newspaper, journal, and text extracts (to be distributed in class throughout the semester).

Contact Information:
- Office: Orient Building
- Office hours: Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 PM (no appointment necessary), appointments can be made for other times (if necessary)
- Phone: (631)548-2575
- E-mail: parillc@sunysuffolk.edu

Objectives of the Course:
Welcome Foundations of American History! This course is designed to help you to:
- Analyze the roots of American History and indicate how an understanding of past events and historical processes helps to better appreciate current society.
- Demonstrate the changes in American society in history through human behavior via family, government, cultures and the environment.
- Evaluate the significance of key issues in American history such as the roles of race, ethnicity, individuals, technology, economic development, American ideals, American vices, American political structure, the formation and maintenance of the Union of states, the expansion of slavery westward, and the tragedy of Civil War.
- Demonstrate the value of historical research through the use of primary sources and film analysis.
- Continue in the development of effective reading and writing through text assignments, supplemental reading assignments, film study assignments, and unit exams.

Procedures for accomplishing these objectives:
- Lectures and student discussions
- Class participation
- Student analysis art work, photographs, film and other relevant “artifacts” for the historical periods to be studied
- Writing assignments
- Reading assignments (text book, supplemental reading related activities)
- Examinations
**Student requirements for successful completion of the course:**

- **EXAMS (60% of the final grade)**
  Three (3) exams will be given at regular intervals throughout the semester (see attached calendar). They will cover both in-class lecture notes and text readings. Exams will consist of vocabulary matching, essays, and true/false statements.

- **SUPPLEMENTAL READING ASSIGNMENTS (20% of final grade)**
  There will be two supplemental reading assignments from a variety of sources. Complete each reading and answer the questions attached. Please submit your responses typed. Please see the attached calendar for supplemental reading response due dates.

- **Film study critiques (20% of final grade)**
  There will be two films that will be studied relevant to early American History. Guidelines and explanations for the film study assignment will be distributed at the end of the film study. A critique of each film (including interpretation of the establishing shot, themes, motifs, historical relevance) is required. Please see attached calendar for the film study critique due date.

**ON TIME ASSIGNMENTS**-Assignments handed in prior to, on, or 24 hours after the due date (via e-mail) is deemed to be “on time” and will be given a full evaluation (A through F).

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**-Any assignment handed in that does not meet the above criteria is deemed to be “late” and will be given “credit only” (D or F).

**Attendance Policy:**
You are expected to attend every class session. You are responsible for ALL that transpires in class whether or not you are in attendance. You are allowed one absence without penalty. Two or more absences is considered excessive and will lead to failure in the course OR being dropped from the roster unless you speak to me AND I allow for extenuating circumstances. If you stop attending class but do not officially drop the course I will assign you an “F” rather than a “W” at the end of the semester. Furthermore, college policy states, “A student may withdraw from a course and be guaranteed a W any time up to the mid-semester date...After the mid-semester date, the designation awarded shall be at the discretion of the instructor.”

A 3 credit course requires student seat time of 45 hours. In missing one evening class, a student will have missed an ENTIRE WEEK of class time. Missing more than one class means at least TWO WEEKS of class time lost and, as a result, the student WILL BE DROPPED from the class as the student will not have enough seat time.
Course outline:
The following is a general calendar for class lectures, exams, and written assignments. Any changes to the outline will be announced in class.

Week 1 (9/1) (Read Brinkley Chap.1) Intro. to the course; Pre-Columbian America; The Columbian Exchange

No class 9/8/10

Week 2 (9/15)(Read Brinkley Chap.2 & 3) Colonization of the Americas; life in Jamestown colony; life in New England; Salem study

Week 3 (9/22)(Read Brinkley Chap.4 & 5) The Great Awakening; Young Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin; the French and Indian War

Week 4 (9/29) The road to the American Revolution, the Revolution & the War for Independence; changes in American gov’t and society

Week 5 (10/6)(Read Brinkley Chap. 6) The Articles of Confederation, and the creation of the US Constitution.

UNIT EXAM I-Brinkley Chapters 1 Through 5 and notes (9/1 to 9/29)

Week 6 (10/13) (Read Brinkley Chaps. 7 & 8) The Federalist period and “Jeffersonian Democracy” (1789-1820); Thomas Jefferson and his contemporaries.

Week 7 (10/20)(Read Brinkley Chap. 9 &10) “Jacksonian” Democracy; The “American System” takes hold as the nation slowly divides.

Week 8 (10/27) (Read Brinkley Chap.11 &12) “The Peculiar Institution” of Slavery in America; Emergence of American national Culture; Rules of Film.

Week 9 (11/3) Slavery in America

UNIT EXAM II-Brinkley Chaps. 6 Through 11; notes from 10/6 to 10/27.
COURSE OUTLINE (Continued)

Week 10 (11/10) (Read Brinkley Chap. 13) Early 19th century reform Movements, Manifest Destiny and its impact on American politics & society; The Road to Civil War; Compromise of 1850; Kansas-Nebraska Act; Dred Scott; the role of abolitionists

11/17 (Read Brinkley Chap. 14 & 15) Manifest Destiny and its impact on American politics & society; The Road to Civil War; Compromise of 1850; Kansas-Nebraska Act; Dred Scott; the role of abolitionists

Week 11 (11/24) No class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 12 (12/1) The American Civil War (all aspects); Reconstruction plans

Week 13 (12/8) Impact of Reconstruction

Week 14 (12/15) UNIT EXAM III-Brinkley Chaps. 12 through 15; notes From 11/3 to 12/8).

Supplemental reading assignments calendar
There will be two supplemental reading assignments. Below is the calendar:

Reading assignment #1-DUE DATE 11/10 (De Tocqueville’s tour of America)

Reading assignment #2- DUE DATE 12/1 (Analyzing the Gettysburg Address)
**Text readings:**
The study of history requires your personal pursuit. The most essential task is reading the text. You are required to read Perry and you will be assessed from your readings in the text. Notes, lectures, and discussions in class are designed to “round out” your personal study rather than “substitute” for reading.

**Film Study Critiques**
There are two film study critiques. A film critique is a typed, double spaced (size 12 font) three to four page page summary. Each film has a one-page film study critique guide attached to it. When putting together your response for each film study, answer the following question: “What historical relevance does this film have?” Be sure to include specific details from each film and discussions surrounding each film.

Film study #1 (Michael Mann’s “Last of the Mohicans”) is due 10/13.

Film study #2 (Steven Speilberg’s “Amistad”) is due 12/1.

**Plagiarism Policy:**
The college’s policy on plagiarism can be found on page 67 of the student handbook. Please be aware that plagiarism can result in your failure of this course. You will be asked to sign a statement of integrity and attach it to each paper you hand in for this course.