The History of the United States

Dr. Robert Tinkler
Office: Trinity 218
Office Hours: Mon., 1:30-3:30 pm; Tues., 3:30-5:30 pm
Office Phone: 898-6054 (with voicemail)
E-mail address: rtinkler@csuchico.edu

Themes
Our foray into the past will focus on the question: “What is an American?” This may appear to be a simple question with an equally simple answer, yet it has often been (as it is today) a terribly contentious one. In examining American identity (identities?), we’ll pay particular attention to how Americans have grappled with issues related to:

- ethnicity and immigration
- political and social ideals (such as liberty and equality)
- personal and community values (including ideas about morality, sexuality, gender roles, and families)
- the United States’ role in the world

Objectives
This course is designed to help you:

- **Learn History** -- gain a greater knowledge of the basic “facts” and especially of the significant questions and themes of American history.
- **Recover History** -- practice the detective work of history by examining a variety of historical sources.
- **Think Historically** -- learn to understand the past on its own terms, while recognizing how our views of it are shaped by our own experiences.
- **Connect to History** -- appreciate how your own experience relates to the nation’s past.
- **Hone Skills** -- develop reading and study skills that will serve you well always.

Other Important Information
- **Class Sessions** – I will offer lectures that set out key themes and historical arguments, but I always encourage questions and comments. Because class sessions are so central to the course, absences should be avoided.

- **Readings** – Reading is crucial to this course. There is a textbook—*Exploring American Histories* by Nancy Hewitt and Steven Lawson—that provides a narrative of the history we’ll be studying; it’s available at the Chico State Wildcat Store. I strongly recommend you buy a copy or perhaps share one with a classmate. There is one copy on 2-hour reserve at the Meriam Library Circulation Desk. We will also occasionally consider short documents (posted on Blackboard unless otherwise noted).

- **Quizzes** – You will take six short quizzes during on selected Fridays noted in the syllabus. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions and you will need to bring with you to class a small (15-question) scantron sheet, which is available in snack bars around campus, including the one in the Chico State Wildcat Store. Each quiz will cover specific textbook chapters and documents as noted below—in addition to material covered in class on the Monday and Wednesday of the week the quiz is given. All quizzes will be given at the beginning of class; if you’re late, you’ll give yourself less time to complete a quiz – or you may miss it altogether. A missed quiz is recorded as a 0 (zero). Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped (in other words, your top five scores will count). Please note:
  - There may also be unannounced “pop quizzes,” which will be factored into your overall semester quiz grade.
  - Remember to bring a small (15-question) scantron sheet with you for each quiz.
  - There will be NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES. If you can’t make it to a quiz because of illness, oversleeping, an out-of-town trip, etc., that quiz will simply be a candidate for being dropped.

- **Exams** – Exams may include objective questions as well as short written sections including essays and identifications. The particular format of each exam will be announced in advance, and you will receive a “study guide” before each exam. Each exam will cover roughly one-third of the course: Exam 1 (on February 19) covers material (lectures and readings) from January 25 to February 17; Exam 2 (on March 30) covers material (lectures and readings) from February 22 to March 28; and Exam 3 (the final) covers material (lectures and readings) from April 1 to May 13. The day and time of the final will be announced by the university via your Portal account by mid-semester.
Disabilities – If you have a documented disability that may require reasonable accommodation, please contact the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. You should also contact me privately as soon as possible. Note that in-class quizzes will be allotted no more than ten minutes, so, if you require more time, we’ll need to make arrangements in advance. The ARC office is located in 170 Student Services Center. The ARC phone number is 898-5959; the V/TDD or Fax is 898-4411. Visit the ARC website at http://www.csuchico.edu/arc/.

Grading – Your course grade will be based on:

- Quizzes: 30%
- Exam #1: 20%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Exam #3 (Final Exam): 25%

Grading is a measurement of how well you have learned course material; it is not an evaluation of your overall intelligence. There will not be a “curve” in course grades. Instead, your work will be evaluated according to a standard set of criteria for each aspect of the course. Grading will be on a 100-point scale, distributed as follows:

- A: 93-100
- A-: 90-92
- B+: 88-89
- B: 83-87
- B-: 80-82
- C+: 78-79
- C: 73-77
- C-: 70-72
- D+: 68-69
- D: 60-67
- F: Below 60

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class topics may change.

Any changes in readings, exams, or assignments will be announced in advance.

I. ORIGINS OF A NATION

1. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 1 & pp. 31-32 (“The Protestant Reformation”)
   Jan 25 (M) North America: Lands and Peoples Before Columbus
   Jan 27 (W) Renaissance and Reformation
   Jan 29 (F) European Expansion and the Atlantic Slave Trade

2. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, finish chapter 2 & also read chapter 5
   Feb 1 (M) The British North American Colonies
   Feb 3 (W) Cracks in the Empire
   Feb 5 (F) The Case for Independence
   Quiz 1 (covers Hewitt & Lawson, chapters 2 & 5)
   This is the last day to add or drop classes through the Portal. After this date, dropping the class requires special permission of the instructor.

3. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 6 & “A People Divided” documents (Blackboard)
   Feb 8 (M) The War for Independence
   Feb 10 (W) What Kind of Revolution?
   Feb 12 (F) A People Divided

4. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 7
   Feb 15 (M) Constitution Making, I
   Feb 17 (W) Constitution Making, II
   Feb 19 (F) EXAM 1 (Covers all readings and class presentations up to February 17)
   This is the last day to add or drop a class or to change a grade option without a serious and compelling reason approved by the instructor, History Department Chair, and Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.
### II. 19th CENTURY AMERICA: EXPANSION AND EXPLOSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22 (M)</td>
<td>Jeffersonian Visions and Realities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24 (W)</td>
<td>Jacksonian Society and Politics, I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26 (F)</td>
<td>Jacksonian Society and Politics, II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   - Feb 29 (M) The Slaveholders’ Regime
   - Mar 2 (W) America’s Manifest Destiny, I
   - Mar 4 (F) America’s Manifest Destiny, II
   - Quiz 2 (covers all reading for the week)

7. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 12
   - Mar 7 (M) Crises of the 1850s
   - Mar 9 (W) The Secession Crisis
   - Mar 11 (F) “And the War Came”: An Overview of the Civil War
   - Quiz 3 (covers Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 12)

8. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapters 13 & 14
   - Mar 21 (M) The War and Emancipation
   - Mar 23 (W) America’s Reconstruction, I
   - Mar 25 (F) America’s Reconstruction, II
   - Quiz 4 (covers Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 13)

### III. SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28 (M)</td>
<td>Dealing with Difference: Jim Crow and Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 30 (W)</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (covers material covered in class and readings from February 22 to March 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1 (F)</td>
<td>Into a New Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 4 (M)</td>
<td>Cultural Conflict in the 1920s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 6 (W)</td>
<td>The Great Depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8 (F)</td>
<td>The New Deal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. READING: Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 23
   - Apr 11 (M) WWII: Origins and Fighting Abroad
   - Apr 13 (W) WWII at Home
   - Apr 15 (F) Ending the War
   - Quiz 5 (covers Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 23)
12. READING:  Hewitt & Lawson, chapters 24 & 25
Apr 18 (M)  The Early Civil Rights Movement
Apr 20 (W)  JFK, the Cold War, and Civil Rights
Apr 22 (F)  Inside SNCC

13. READING:  Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 26
Apr 25 (M)  LBJ and the Great Society
Apr 27 (W)  Struggles in the Fields
Apr 29 (F)  America in Vietnam
            Quiz 6 (covers Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 26)

14. READING:  “A Kind of Memo” (Blackboard)
            “NOW Statement of Purpose” (Blackboard)
            “Feminist Information” (Blackboard)
            “More on Gay & Lesbian Issues Since Stonewall” (Blackboard)
May 2 (M)  1968
May 4 (W)  The Feminist Movement
May 6 (F)  To Stonewall and Beyond

15. READING:  Hewitt & Lawson, chapter 27 & pp. 733-741
            “Goldwater, Young Americans for Freedom, and Ronald Reagan (1960-64)” (Blackboard)
May 9 (M)  Conservative Origins
May 11 (W)  Conservative Resurgence
May 13 (F)  Reagan’s America

FINAL EXAM:  Day and Time To Be Announced by the University Via Your Portal
The final exam covers material from April 1 to May 13.