History of the United States from 1877 to the Present
Course Syllabus

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Office: by appointment
Classroom: C Wing Room 39

El Camino College Mission Statement: El Camino College offers quality, comprehensive educational programs and service to ensure the educational success of students from our diverse community.

I. REQUIRED TEXT:
   2. Weekly handout of primary Sources

II. Course Description: This course is a chronological survey of American historical development from 1877 to the present. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of American social, intellectual, political, economic, and diplomatic institutions. Special topical consideration will be given to the nation’s culture and diversity. The emergence of the United States as a superpower is analyzed against the background of world history.

III. Course Prerequisites: Recommended: Eligibility for English 1B

IV. Course Objectives: Students will learn to:
   1. Describe and assess the process by which the United States was economically transformed and modernized in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
   2. Analyze the role of industrialists and inventors during the era of the American Industrial Revolution.
   3. Evaluate major American political, religious, and cultural values for the 1877 to 1914 period.
   4. Compare and contrast the changing demography of America in the 1877 to 1914 and 1945 to present periods.
   5. Determine the processes of assimilation and acculturation expected of immigrants to the United States from 1900 to the present.
   6. Discuss and evaluate the interaction of majority and minority groups during the 20th century.
   7. Identify and analyze various American political reform movements such as Populism, Progressivism, the New Deal, the Fair Deal, Civil Rights, and the Great Society in terms of causation, sequence of events, concepts and development.
   8. Conceptualize and discuss the meaning of conservatism, liberalism, and radicalism in American history from the post World War II era to the present.
9. Summarize and analyze the development of American foreign policy since 1945 including the rise of the United States as a world power and leader among a large community of nations.

10. Trace and evaluate United States diplomacy and armed conflict through isolationism, imperialism, and collective security policies of the 20th century.

11. Compare and contrast the core political and philosophical ideas and modes of expression in American culture in the 20th century.

V. Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students should demonstrate the following skills:

A. Given primary and/or secondary source(s) pertaining to a significant aspect of economic, political, social, or cultural patterns in United States history since 1877, students will develop and persuasively argue an historical thesis in a written or oral assignment that effectively uses the sources as evidence.

VI. Assessment Activities: The following activities will be used to assess mastery of student learning outcomes:

A. Three exams worth 15 points each 45
B. PSD worth five points each 15
C. Essay #1 20
D. Essay #2 20

Total Possible Points – 100

VII. Evaluation Criteria

1) Your grade will be computed based on 100 points. There are no make ups for missed exams. Under some circumstances I may allow a 5 pt extra credit assignment but you need to see individually.

2) Late Policy: Essays will marked down one full letter grade for every day they are late.

3) Email submissions: I prefer paper copies turned in during class on the due date. If you make prior arrangements with me to email your paper- it is your responsibility to ensure that I get it on time and in a format that I can open. You should not consider your paper submitted until you receive an email confirmation from me. Even if you are sending it in word or pdf format copy and paste your paper in the body of email just in case there is a problem with the attachment. I would rather reformat for you than dock points for a late submittal.

4) In-class work that will include class and small group discussions and exercises. Primary Source Exercises consist of reading primary documents- documents written by the people of the period we are studying. You will read, analyze and form some interpretation or idea about the meaning of such document and what it may reveal to enhance our understanding of history. Participation in these activities is required and assignments will be assessed to determine your understanding of course material and your progress towards achieving course goals.

5) Exams will consist of short answer identification questions and a written essay.
6) Two take home written exams of about 5 - 7 pages each, typed and double-spaced. These assignments will require an analysis of course material, secondary sources and primary documents. They will be evaluated and graded according to the following criteria:

**Answer** ------ Did you answer the question assigned? All parts?

**Evidence** ---- Are your statements supported with evidence from class materials such as readings and lectures?

**Analysis** ---- To what extent does your essay demonstrate your use of critical thinking? Is there depth to your analysis? Is your argument presented logically and convincingly? Does it show your ability to synthesize diverse material and concepts?

**Expression** -- Is your essay coherent, well-organized and written with clarity? Is your use of grammar and spelling correct?

VIII. Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 - 0</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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VII. Attendance Requirements: (Include College Policy; attachment provided)

1. **Attendance at first class**
   Students who enroll in class but do not attend the first scheduled class meeting may be dropped from the roster. A student who registers for a class and never attends is still responsible for dropping the class.

2. If you miss more than three (3) class meetings, you may be dropped from the class. Three (3) tardies will equal one absence. Please notify me by email or phone before any missed classes. Excused absences will still count towards this total.

VIII. CLASSROOM MISCONDUCT

1. Dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism or knowingly furnishing false information to the College.
2. Turn off and remove phones, Ipods, bluetooth components and other communication/electronic devices while in class. Do not leave class to accept any calls. You may not use text messaging devices while in class.

IX. Special Accommodations: Any student who has a disability and has special needs is to alert me of this by the second week of the semester so that special accommodations can be made.

X. Disclaimer Statement:
   Students will be notified ahead of time when and if any changes are made to course requirements or policies.
## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

### Week 1
**What is Freedom?**
- Aug. 31: Intro and Review Syllabus
- Sept. 2: Read the Preface
  - Film: Clips from Reconstruction

### Week 2
**Reconstruction 1865 – 1877**
- Sept. 7: Discuss Chapter 15
- Sept. 9: Review Question 1, 3 & 4 Pg. 555

### Week 3
**Gilded Age 1870 - 1890**
- Sept. 14: Chapter 16
- Sept. 16: PSD

### Week 4
**Freedom’s Boundaries, 1890 – 1900**
- Sept. 21: Chapter 17
  - Review Questions: 1, 4, 5
- Sept. 23: Exam #1: Chapters 15 -17

**Last Day to Drop without Notation**

### Week 5
**The Progressive Era, 1900 - 1916**
- Sept. 28: Chapter 18
- Sept. 30: PSD
Wee
k 6  World War I, 1916 - 1920
October 5  Chapter 19

Oct. 7

Wee
k 7  The Twenties: 1920 – 1932
Oct 12  Ch. 19 - finish group discussion on documents
Oct. 14  DuBois - Review Question: 4

Wee
k 8  The New Deal, 1932 – 1940
Oct. 19  Chapter 21  Focus Question Pg. 756: 1, 4 5

Wee
k 9  The Four Freedoms WWII, 1941 – 1945
Oct. 26  Chapter 22  Ch. 22 Review Questions: 1, 3, 4
  Essay DUE
Oct. 28  PSD – Korematsu vs. U.S.

Wee
k 10  U.S. and Cold War 1945 – 1953
Nov. 2  Chapter 23  Review Questions: 1, 6

Nov. 4  Exam #2: Chapters 21 - 23

Wee
k 11  An Affluent Society, 1953 - 1960
Nov. 9  Ch. 24

Nov. 11
### Week 12

**The Sixties**

- Nov. 16: Chapter 25  
  Review Questions: 1, 5

- Nov. 18: PSD: Student Manifestos

**Last Day to Drop**

### Week 13

**Triumph of Conservatism, 1969 – 1988**

- Nov. 23: Chapter 26  
  Review Questions: 2, 3, 4, 5

- Nov. 25: NO CLASS – HAPPY TURKEY DAY

### Week 14

**Globalization**

- Nov. 30: PSD – Ch. 26

- Dec. 2: exam # 3

### Week 15

- Dec 7: Chapter 27  
  Review Questions: 1, 4, 5

- Dec 9: Film: Roger and Me

### Week 16

- Dec. 14: PSD and help with essay

- Dec. 16: Essay #2