

History 1377, Section 05466
Scholar's Community
Fall 2006
Professor: Dr. Moretta
Aud. 1, 10-11:00 a.m. MWF.

Teaching Assistant Information:

LaGuana Gray
E-mail: laguanagray@aol.com
Office: AH 662
Phone: 713-743-3125
Office hours:

Bernice Heilbrunn
E-mail: berniceheilbrunn@yahoo.com
Office: AH 662
Phone: 713-743-3125
Office hours: W 11-1

Stephen Sundquist
E-mail: stfrsundquist@sbcglobal.net
Office: AH 662
Phone: 713-743-3125
Office Hours: M 11:30-1:30
W 11:30-12:30

J. R. Wilson
E-mail: jr.wilson@sbcglobal.net
Office:
Phone:
Office hours:

Required Texts: Moretta, et. al., *American Dreams, American Reality*, Volume I; Moretta, *William Pitt Ballinger*; Oats, *Fires of Jubilee*; Lon Tinkle, *Thirteen Days to Glory*.

Attendance: Regular, consistent attendance is an essential component of your overall success in this course. In a lecture-driven course such as this, there is a direct correlation between success on exams and attendance, so I urge you not to miss class. At the end of the semester, if you have not missed any classes, you will receive 20 points added to your final total points.

Exams & Grading: This semester you will have two book exams (*Thirteen Days to Glory* and *Fires of Jubilee*), a paper, and three major exams, including the final. Each exam will cover a particular historical period. The final exam will cover only the last part of the course; it is not comprehensive. All exams, including the book tests will be valued at 100 points. That makes for an easier, more comprehensible grading scale. So, 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60 is failing. The last day to drop is in early November; come to see the TA's before this date to make sure that you are passing and see what you might be able to do to bring your grade up.

Review Sessions: There will be review sessions before each exam, so take advantage of those. They are extremely beneficial. In addition to review sessions before every major exam, we will have discussion/review sessions every Friday from 1-2 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. These are not mandatory but I **strongly** urge you to attend them as regularly as possible. If you are unable to attend these sessions, we strongly urge you to come by the TA office hours. I guarantee your status in this class will be greatly enhanced.

Turn off your cell phone, pager, pda, and/or other electronic equipment when you come to class. If it rings during lecture, you will be asked to leave. Having your cell phone go off during class is rude and disrespectful, to your fellow students and to your professor. Further, ALL electronic equipment is strictly forbidden during exam periods, without prior, documented approval.

Course Calendar and Reading Assignments:

ALL DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!!

Changes will be announced in class. It is solely the students' responsibility to obtain information announced in class.

First Multiple Choice Exam: Monday, Sept. 25th (*American Dreams, American Reality*, Chapters 1-4)

Second Multiple Choice Exam: Monday, Oct. 17th (*American Dreams, American Reality*, Chapters 6-8)

First Book Exam: Monday, Oct. 30th (*Fires of Jubilee*)

In class Essay Exam: *Thirteen Days to Glory*, Monday, November 13th.

Take Home Essay Exam (Paper): Due, Monday, December 4th. (*William Pitt Ballinger*)

Final Exam: TBA. (*American Dreams, American Reality*, Chapters 10-12.)

Make-up Policy

-Late papers (for the take-home exams) will NOT be accepted.

-Make-up exams are only available with a documented medical excuse (such as a doctor's note or note from the campus health center) and must be scheduled with a TA as soon as possible. It is YOUR responsibility to provide documentation and schedule a make-up exam.

As you are already aware, this is a special class—you are in a very unique, nurturing program the likes of which are very rare on university campuses. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to have a very successful first year in college. None of you, if you apply yourself, should fail this course. You have a multitude of wonderful resources, both human and technical at your disposal to help and guide you through this course. But you have to be willing to put forth the effort. We want this class to be fun and rewarding, yet challenging enough that you learn something of value. All of your previous "knowledge" of history is to be thrown out. Your minds are now historical "tabula rasas" (blank slates) upon which I will imprint true wisdom and knowledge. What you will learn in this class are things you never thought real; all your previous misconceptions, fallacies, half-truths, stereotypes, etc. will be purged, and when you walk away in May, after a year with me, you will have become true students in every sense of the word. You will be filled with knowledge you never thought yourself capable of attaining. I promise you that. We all want you to succeed in this course. Our most important job, as always, is to impart wisdom and knowledge; to instill in you a desire to learn, to question; to understand the larger historical picture, and most important, to learn how to think. Your TAs are charged with this mission. So am I and all of us are available to help you in any way we can, so this course will be a meaningful and fun learning experience for you. You have four first rate teaching assistants whose experience and knowledge of history is most impressive. They are excited to share all that with you so do not hesitate to let them show off!! In other words, if you are struggling in this course, seek their help and guidance. Do not be shy or too proud. That's silly and you will only end up hurting yourself. So we all look forward to a fun and enlightening semester.

The key themes for History 1377 are: the European conquest of the New World; the Columbian exchange; the destruction of Native Americans; the origins of chattel slavery; "becoming

America”: the colonial origins of American society and culture; the causes of the American rebellion; the emergence of sectionalism; the democratization of American society; the reform impulse; the beginnings of industrialization; Anglo-American westward expansion and the clash of cultures in the Spanish/Mexican Borderlands; diverging North and south; and the causes of the Civil War.

Upon completion of History 1377 you should be able to:

1. Take the historical ideas and concepts learned and make reasonable judgments about their meaning and significance.
2. Explain the origins and development of fundamental socioeconomic, cultural, and political institutions.
3. Identify the major historical issues and themes of each particular period of study in American history and its relationship to the present.
4. Demonstrate a reasonable ability to synthesize factual and conceptual information into a coherent thought process in written articulation.
5. Understand abstract or theoretical ideas or arguments more effectively, confidently.
6. Take a main issue or theme and argue it by combining factual and conceptual data.
7. **To Learn How to Think!**