

**College of Alameda:  
History 7A History of the United States to 1877  
Summer 2021  
June 21 – July 23, 2021**

**3 Units**  
**M-F**  
**Instructor: TBD**  
**Email: TBD**  
**Location: Online**



**Course Description and Goals:** This is an online survey class which covers the development of the United States from the arrival of the first Native Americans to Reconstruction. The cultural, social, economic, geographic, diplomatic and political factors involved in the evolution of American society are also analyzed through a variety of chronological topics. Class session will include lectures, group work, films, and discussion boards. Students will examine primary and secondary historical sources and will develop skills needed to learn the essential information presented in college history textbooks.

**Required Texts:** One text is required and is available in the College of Alameda bookstore under the History 7A label.  
Divine et al, *American History*, Brief Tenth Edition, Volume I, 2010. Maddox et al, ISBN 978-020-590-5195

Students are responsible for the assigned pages in the textbook and should complete readings before the lecture. Additional short readings, particularly primary documents will be handed out at lectures.

**Attendance:** The college requires class attendance. The lectures will be presented on Zoom and attendance is required and mandatory. Students may be dropped after six cumulative hours of absences. Zoom records attendance and I conduct polls and chats during class as a method of instruction and as a method for taking attendance. Four late

arrivals will be counted as one absence. Please contact me in advance if you must miss a session. Tests can only be made up if students present documentation of a valid excuse. Plagiarized work will result in a 0 grade for the assignment.

If you anticipate an emergency call, please email me before the class session begins.

Students will be expected to conform to the conduct standards set by the Peralta Community Colleges and the California Education code.

**Grading:**

The students' grade will be determined by the following:

Midterm: 20%

Individual Projects: 20%

Final: 40%

In-class assignments and participation: 20%

Plagiarizing will result in a 0 grade for the assignment and possible administrative action.

All sources used in assignments must be cited.

The letter grade equivalents for percentages for the course are a: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, and F: 59 or less.

**Individual Projects:** This requirement may be met by one of the following:

1. Film critique
2. Book report
3. Poster or original artwork
4. Musical performance or original drama based on class content.
5. Visit to museum or historical site and report
6. PowerPoint or other presentation software presentations

Individual projects are due on the day of the final but may be turned in at an earlier time.

**Individual Projects: Films**

There are many wonderful feature films and documentaries that are relevant to California history. The following list provides you with some suggestions. If you would like to review a film that is not on this list, discuss it with me.

*Twelve Years as a Slave*

*1492*

*Lincoln*

*Amistad*

*Amazing Grace*

*Anne of a Thousand Days*

*Beloved*

*Black Robe*

*Cold Mountain*

*Elizabeth*

*Elizabeth: The Golden Years*  
*Gangs of New York*  
*Gettysburg*  
*Glory*  
*The Last of the Mohicans*  
*The Mission*  
*The Patriot*  
*Benjamin Franklin: PBS*  
*The Donner Party: PBS*  
*Slavery and the Making of America: PBS*  
*John Adams*  
*Twelve Years as a Slave*

### **Movie Critique:**

1. What is the context of the film? What historical period and what historical figures are incorporated into the film? Summarize the plot of the film.
2. How accurate is the film? What parts of the film are historically accurate and what is misrepresented?
3. How does the film expand your awareness of the past? Did the film make an impact on you and did you find it engaging?

The critique should be two to three pages and should be typewritten.

### **Individual Projects: Book Reviews**

You may choose a fiction or nonfiction book. The following list provides some suggestions.

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*  
Bernal Diaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*  
Peter Acroid, *The Life of Thomas More*  
Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*  
Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*  
La Wanda Cox, *Lincoln, and Black Freedom: A Study in Presidential Leadership*  
Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts 1810 to 1860*  
W.J. Eccles, *The French in North America, 1500-1783*  
Brian S. Fagan, *The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America*  
Rudolph M. Lapp, *Blacks in Gold Rush California.*  
Manuel G. Gonzales, *A History of Mexicans in the United States.*  
Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery, 1619-1877*  
Mary Beth Norton, *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*

### **Book Review Guidelines:**

1. What historical period is the author writing about?
2. Write a summary of the book.

3. Did the author of this work change your perspective or understanding?
4. Would you recommend this book to other students?
5. The critique should be two to three pages and should be typewritten.

**Individual Projects: Poster or original artwork:** The project should include a one-page description of the project's historical context.

**Individual Projects:** Museum visit or visit to an historical site. One of the best choices is the Oakland Museum which is close to campus. There are many wonderful local exhibits that are relevant to our course. Please write a two-page report on your visit. Hopefully, the museums will open this spring. A virtual tour of a museum will be an option.

**Individual Projects:** Musical performances or original dramas: Please discuss your project with me. The project must deal with the historical issues of this course. The project should include a one-page description of the project's historical context.

**PowerPoint or other digital presentation:** The presentation should have at least ten slides and should include the equivalent of one double-spaced page of text.

I can set up a module to share student work, but participation is not required.

### **Class Sessions:**

The following approximates the content of our sessions. Chapter references are taken from the Divine textbook.

### **Week of Jun. 21**

Welcome Assignment and What did you find discussion boards  
Review of course outline

The role of geography in American history  
Native Americans histories before conquest  
Europe, Asia, and Africa on the eve on conquest: an overview  
The Reformation  
Chapter 1

Exploration and Settlement: Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, and the English  
The Atlantic Slave Trade  
Chapter 1

### **Week of Jun. 28**

The first English colonies  
Conflict: The European wars, the Stono uprising, and Bacon's rebellion  
Chapter 2  
The growth of the English colonies

Chapter 3

The Great Awakening  
War for Empire  
American Nationalism  
Chapter 4

**Week of Jul. 5**

The American Revolution Chapter 5

Chapter 6

The New Republic and constitution  
The midterm will be passed out.

Establishing a new government  
The first presidents  
Emergence of party politics  
Chapter 7

The Louisiana Purchase  
The War of 1812  
Chapter 8

**Week of Jul. 12:**

A market revolution  
Nation building  
Chapter 9

The America of Andrew Jackson  
The Trail of Tears  
Chapter 10

Slavery and Reform  
Chapter 11 and 12

The Spanish-American War  
Chapter 13

**Week of Jul. 19**

Sectional Conflict  
Crisis of the 1850's  
Realignment of the political parties

Civil War  
Chapters 15  
Final study questions will be passed out.

Individual projects are due.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Develop individual ideas based on the interpretations of the ideas of others

Analyze issues from a multicultural perspective

Communicate reasoned ideas

### **Late Work Policy**

Assignments should be turned on a due date and 5 % will be deducted per week. Please communicate and I will give you extensions based on circumstances.