

Utah State University-College of Eastern Utah

**HIST 1700  
American Civilization  
ONLINE**

**Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2011**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Susan Rhoades Neel

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 am (in CBB 243)

Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm (online)

And by appointment

**INSTRUCTOR'S HOMEPAGE:** <http://www.srn teach.us>

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

*Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner (available at the CEU Bookstore)

This course provides an overview of United States history from the seventeenth through twentieth centuries with an emphasis on the development of key ideas and institutions and the impact of these processes on the diverse peoples of America.

The online section of *American Civilization* is a 3 credit-hour general education, introductory-level survey course. All instruction, including assessments, is conducted online through Blackboard. Students should plan to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week reading and viewing required course materials, preparing weekly learning journals and assignments, and studying for exams.

This course requires the use of a computer with an internet connection. Microsoft Word is required unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## **I. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objective of this course is to examine the complex and changing ideals of liberty, freedom, and democracy as experienced by various groups in America from the era of the Revolution through the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. The goal is to understand the ideas and institutions of democracy as they have changed over time and to appreciate the continuing challenge Americans face in translating these ideals into lived experience. We will explore these issues as they

played out on the public stage of politics and business and in the private lives of ordinary people. Our topics will range from presidential leadership to changing habits of eating, from wars to music, from the rich and famous to the anonymous millions who helped make America such a distinctive civilization.

### **A. Learning Objectives--Knowledge**

1. Know the basic chronology of American history with detailed knowledge of key events during the American Revolution, the Civil War, the industrial revolution, and the Civil Rights movement.
2. Understand the concepts of freedom and democracy as they have changed over time and as experienced among different groups of Americans.
3. Understand the relationship between historical events in the arena of government and the economy and those events in the arenas of social experience, daily life, and culture.
4. Understand the relationship between broad historical processes and the actions of individuals, both ordinary and extraordinary.

### **B. Learning Objectives--Skills**

1. Describe/define key events, people, and institutions and place them in historical context by discussing their significance to larger historical trends and processes.
2. Exercise historical imagination in order to understand ideas and practices of past peoples in their own context and to systematically compare and contrast the past to the present.
3. Conduct research and convey the knowledge gained through various mediums including written essays and multimedia projects.
4. Utilize digital technologies to conduct, organize, and communicate work appropriate to a college-level or professional environment.
5. Exercise disciplined habits of work, including managing time for study, meeting deadlines, submitting assignments according to instructions, and maintaining active engagement over the entire semester.

## **II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In order to accomplish the course objectives, students will be required to acquire information from a variety of course materials including films, web sites, and a

textbook. Students will be required to demonstrate what they are learning through written and multimedia assignments and exams.

### **A. Computing and E-mail Requirements**

1. Students must have access to a functioning computer with an active internet connection.
2. All e-mail communications in this course will be conducted through the Blackboard email system.
3. All assignments must be completed in Microsoft Word unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Microsoft Word is installed on the computers in all CEU computer labs.

### **B. Attendance and Participation**

There are no attendance requirements for the online section of HIST 1700. However, students are required to submit assignments and take exams on the scheduled dates.

Students are welcome to submit assignments prior to the due date, but no late assignments or exams will be accepted.

### **C. Required Course Materials**

1. The required textbook for this course is *Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner. Copies can be purchased at the college bookstore.
2. Students are required to view a set of short videos called “Questioning Liberty,” in which the author of the textbook, Professor Eric Foner, discusses key themes from the book. Students can access these videos, free of charge, through the course web site on Blackboard.
3. Additional required materials, including essays, films, and web sites, are provided to students at no cost through the HIST 1700 course web site, which is accessible through Blackboard.

### **D. Required Projects and Assignments**

**1. *Weekly Learning Journals.*** Students are required to submit 12 Weekly Learning Journals, each containing a 250-word response to questions about that week’s required reading and viewing. Learning Journals are worth 20 points. Learning Journals will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Detailed instructions for the Learning Journals are available on the course web site.

*Weekly Learning Journals are worth 240 pts or 24% of the final grade.*

**2. Final Essay.** Students are required to complete one Final Essay. Essays involve writing a 3-4 page paper on how the idea of freedom has changed in America since the time of the American Revolution.

*Final Essays are worth 75 pts or 7.5% of the final grade.*

**3. Unit Projects.** Students are required to complete four Unit Projects. Each Unit Project introduces students to different aspects of the course learning objectives and requires students to use different learning skills, such as exercising historical imagination, writing an historical essay, or using digital technology to interpret historical events.

*Unit Projects are worth 75 pts each for a total of 300 pts or 30% of the final grade.*

### **E. Assessments**

**1. Students will take an Introductory Quiz using Blackboard.** The Quiz tests students' knowledge of the course requirements and policies and provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of the Blackboard, Turnitin, and USU-CEU e-mail system logon procedures. Students must pass the Introductory Quiz before they can move on to the other requirements in the course.

*The Quiz is worth 60 pts. or 6% of the final grade.*

**2. Students will take four Unit Exams each worth 75 pts.** The Unit Exams will cover required course materials, including the textbook. Exams will be taken through Blackboard. The Unit Exams are open book but they must be completed during a specified time frame.

*Unit Exams are worth a total of 300 pts or 30% of the final grade.*

**3. There is no final or comprehensive exam.**

## **III. GRADING**

Grades will be based on the instructor's evaluation of student participation and performance on the required assignments, projects and exams using the rubrics posted on the course web site.

There will be a total of 1000 points possible, distributed as follows:

240 pts = Weekly Learning Journals

75 pts = Final Essay

300 pts = Unit Projects  
60 pts = Introductory Quiz  
300 pts = Unit Exams  
25 pts = Course Evaluations

The grading scale is as follows:

A	930 - 1000 points
A-	900 - 929 points
B+	870 - 899 points
B	830 - 869 points
B-	800 - 829 points
C+	770 - 799 points
C	730 - 769 points
C-	700 - 729 points
D+	670 - 699 points
D	630 - 669 points
D-	600 - 629 points
F	0 - 599 points

#### IV. COURSE POLICIES

**A. Computing.** Students are responsible for having access to functioning computer equipment and an active internet connection. Students are welcome to use their personal computers or the USU-CEU internet-connected computers in the Reeves Computer Lab.

***Lack of required computer hardware or software or computing skills are not acceptable excuses for failing to take exams or submit assignments.***

**B. Communication.** Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during her regularly scheduled office hours. The instructor is available online during these hours for students who are not able to visit in person. To chat with the instructor online during office hours, please log on to Blackboard, select SRN ONLINE OFFICE HOURS. Follow the instructions to set up the WIMBA tool and enter the instructor's "virtual" office.

Students who are not able to visit during these hours are welcome to schedule an appointment for another time. If you schedule an appointment but are not able to make it, please call or e-mail in advance to cancel.

Students are also welcome to contact the instructor via the Blackboard e-mail system. The instructor cannot discuss course work or grades except through the Blackboard e-mail system. Students should check their Blackboard e-mail

regularly for course announcements and communications from the instructor. Students will held accountable for course information distributed through the Blackboard e-mail system.

The instructor makes every effort to respond to e-mail from students within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekends. Students are expected to make timely responses to e-mail inquiries from the instructor.

**C. Late Materials.** All assignments and exams must be turned in by 11:59 pm on the scheduled due date. No late materials will be accepted, except in cases of personal or family emergency for which students can provide written documentation.

**D. Missing/Rescheduling Exams.** Exams must be taken at the scheduled time. In cases of personal or family emergency, students who provide a written excuse and/or documentation may reschedule the exam at the instructor's convenience.

**E. Withdrawals/Incompletes.** The last day to withdraw from the course with a full refund is January 31. No refunds will be given for withdrawals after January 31 and a "W" will appear on the transcript. Students who do not officially withdraw from the course will receive an "F" even if they never attend class. Students who have completed a least 75% of the course requirements but are unable to finish the remaining requirements due to documented illness or family emergency may request an incomplete (I) grade. Incomplete grades are granted at the discretion of the instructor.

**F. Academic honesty policy.** All assignments, projects, and exams required for this course must be the work of the student who submits them. Students who submit plagiarized, falsified, or copied work will receive no credit for the assignment, project or exam. Students who have submitted plagiarized, falsified, or copied work will not be given an opportunity to redo the assignment, project, or exam.

**The instructor will report all violations of the HIST 1700 academic honesty policy to the Dean of Students in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined under the Student Conduct Code.**

**G. Courtesy in class and online.** It is expected that students will treat their fellow classmates and the instructor with courtesy during class, at meetings, and in all online communications. Courtesy includes using polite and civil language, being quiet and attentive when others are talking, and maintaining an environment conducive to learning.

Use of rude or offensive language and disruptive or hostile behavior will not be tolerated. Students who engage in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Conduct Code.

**H. Accommodation.** Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. If you are a student with a disability or special need, please contact the USU-CEU Disability Resource Center immediately to arrange for accommodations that can assist you with this course. The Disability Resource Center is located in the SAC Building, Room 118. You may also contact the office by phone at (435-613-5670) or by e-mail at [DisabilityCenter@ceu.edu](mailto:DisabilityCenter@ceu.edu).

## V. SCHEDULE

<b>Welcome and Introductions January 10 - 21</b>
<b>WEEK 1 (January 10 - 14)</b> <b>ASSIGNED MATERIALS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Give Me Liberty</i>, “Preface”</li><li>• “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #1, #2, #3</li></ul>
<b>WEEK 2 (January 18 - 21)</b> <b>ASSIGNED MATERIALS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #4 and #5</li></ul>
<b>Introductory Quiz: Friday, January 21 – Monday, January 24</b>
<b>UNIT ONE: Freedom’s Foundations January 24 – February 11</b>
<b>WEEK 3 (January 24 - 28)</b> <b>ASSIGNED MATERIALS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Give Me Liberty</i>, Chp. 4</li><li>• “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #6 and #7</li></ul>
<b>WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #1 DUE: Friday, January 28</b>
<b>WEEK 4 (January 31 – February 4)</b> <b>ASSIGNED MATERIALS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Give Me Liberty</i>, Chps. 5 and 6</li><li>• “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #8 and #9</li></ul>

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #2 DUE: Friday, February 4**

**WEEK 5 (February 7 - 11)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 7 and 8
- “Questioning Freedom,” films clip #10, #11, and #12
- “Making the Constitution” films clips #1, #2, and #3

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #3 DUE: Friday, February 11**

**Unit 1 Project DUE: Friday, February 11**

**Unit 1 Exam: Friday, February 11 – Monday, February 14**

**UNIT TWO: A New Birth of Freedom  
February 14 – March 4**

**WEEK 6 (February 14 -17)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 11 and 12
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #13, #14, and #15
- “Fanny Kemble,” film clips #1, #2, and #3

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #4 DUE: Friday, February 17**

**WEEK 7 (February 22 -24)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 13 and 14
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #16, #17, #18, and #19

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #5 DUE: Friday, February 24**

**WEEK 8 (February 28 – March 3)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 15
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #20, #21, #22, and #23

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #6 DUE: Friday, March 3**

**Unit 2 Project DUE: Friday, March 4**

**Unit 2 Exam: Friday, March 4 – Monday, March 7**



**UNIT THREE: Facing Freedom's Boundaries**  
**March 14 – April 1**

**WEEK 9 (March 7 -11)**

**SPRING BREAK**

**WEEK 10 (March 14 - 18)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 16 and 17
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #24 and #25
- “Coney Island,” film

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #7 DUE: Friday, March 18**

**WEEK 11 (March 21 - 25)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 18
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #26, #27, and #28
- “Triangle Fire,” film clip #1

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #8 DUE: Friday, March 25**

**WEEK 12 (March 28 – April 1)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 19 and 20

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #9 DUE: Friday, April 1**

**Unit 3 Project DUE: Friday, April 1**

**Unit 3 Exam: Friday, April 1 – Monday, April 4**

**UNIT FOUR: Fighting for Freedom**  
**April 4 - 29**

**WEEK 13 (April 4 -8)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 22 and 23
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #29 and #30
- “The Murder of Emmett Till,” film

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #10 DUE: Friday, April 8**

**WEEK 14 (April 11 - 15)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 24
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #31 and #32
- “Eyes on the Prize,” film clips #1 and 2

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #11 DUE: Friday, April 15**

**WEEK 15 (April 18 -22)**

**ASSIGNED MATERIALS:**

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 25
- “Eyes on the Prize,” film clips #3, #4, #5, and #6
- “Crisis,” film clips #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5

**WEEKLY LEARNING JOURNAL #12 DUE: Friday, April 22**

**WEEK 16 (April 25 - 29)**

**NO ASSIGNED MATERIALS**

**Final essay and Unit 4 Project DUE**

**Unit 4 Project DUE: Friday, April 22**

**Unit 4 Exam: Friday, April 29 – Monday, May 2**

**Final Essay DUE: Friday, April 29**

***THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE INSTRUCTOR’S DISCRETION. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO STUDENTS IN CLASS AND/OR VIA E-MAIL.***