

College of Eastern Utah

**HIST 1700
American Civilization**

**Syllabus
Fall Semester 2009**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Susan Rhoades Neel

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OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays, 12:00-2:00 pm

Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30 pm

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00 pm

And by appointment

INSTRUCTOR'S HOMEPAGE: <http://www.srnteach.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.

American Civilization is a 3 credit-hour general education, introductory-level survey course. Classes meet twice weekly for 75-minute lectures, discussions, films, and student presentations. In addition to attending class lectures students should plan to spend approximately 6 hours per week outside the classroom reading required course materials, preparing assignments, and studying for exams.

This course requires the use of a computer with an internet connection to conduct research, deliver course assignments, and to take exams. 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, public oral presentations, and multimedia projects.
4. Utilize digital technologies to conduct, organize, and communicate work appropriate to a college-level or professional environment.

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

1. Attendance is required. Beginning with the second week of the semester, roll will be taken at the start of each class session. Students must arrive on time to be counted as in attendance.

Students who miss more than three class sessions will have their final course grade reduced by one-third of a letter grade.

C. Required Course Materials

1. The required textbook for this course is *Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner. Print or digital 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.

D. Required Projects and Assignments

1. *Weekly Projects.* Students are required to submit 12 Weekly Projects of approximately 250-words. Students will receive 25 pts for each correct assignment they submit. Weekly Projects involve gathering information on a specified historical subject from the world wide web and writing a 250-word description of the subject and its significance. Weekly Projects will be submitted electronically through Blackboard Vista. Detailed instructions for the Weekly Projects are available on the course web site.

Weekly Projects are worth 300 pts or 30% of the final grade.

2. Term Projects. Students are required to complete one Term Project. Term Projects involve writing a 3-4 page essay on how the idea of freedom has changed in American since the time of the American Revolution.

Term Projects 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 and 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 25 pts. or 2.5% 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 discussion, projects and exams using the rubrics posted on the course web site.

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

300 pts = Weekly Projects
75 pts = Term Project
300 pts = Unit Projects
25 pts = Introductory Quiz

300 pts = Unit Exams

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

To help students better understand how projects will be graded, a set of rubrics are available on the course web site by clicking on the button labeled, "Grading." You may find it helpful to read these rubrics before you begin work on the assignments.

IV. COURSE POLICIES

A. Attendance. Students who miss more than 3 class sessions will have their final course grade reduced by one-third of a letter grade.

Class sessions begin at the time designated in the CEU class schedule and students are required to arrive on time in order to be counted as in attendance. Tardiness is disruptive to other students and the instructor. Students who are late may be asked to leave or may find the classroom door locked.

No absences will be excused except in the case of documented illness or family emergency or for CEU-sponsored activities.

Documented illness or emergency means a written statement from a physician stating that a student is not able to attend class. Excused emergencies require written documentation. Funerals, weddings, and family holidays do not constitute an emergency.

Students involved in CEU-sponsored activities such as college athletics, student government, CEU Ambassadors or the SUN Center must inform the instructor at least 24 hours in advance of their absences and provide a written excuse from the faculty or administration sponsor of the event. The written excuse (digital is acceptable) must be addressed to the HIST 1700 instructor and must include the student's name, state the specific date class will be missed, and include a Current

Grade Status Report (as per Section 4.14 of the CEU Policy and Procedures Manual).

The HIST 1700 instructor will verify excused absences and acknowledge accepted excuses via e-mail to students. No excuses are accepted unless acknowledged by the instructor.

B. 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 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 the 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. 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 CEU 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 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.

V. SCHEDULE

Welcome and Introductions August 18- 21

WEEK 1 (August 18-21)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, “Preface”
- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #1, #2, #3, #4, #5

Introductory Quiz: August 21-August 24

**UNIT ONE: Freedom's Foundations
August 24- September 18**

WEEK 2 (August 24-28)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 3 and 4
- "Questioning Freedom," film clips #6 and #7

WEEK 3 (August 31-September 4)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 5 and 6
- "Questioning Freedom," film clips #8 and #9
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WEEKLY PROJECT #1 DUE: Friday, September 4 at 11:59pm

WEEK 4 (September 8-11)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 7
- "Questioning Freedom," films clip #10, #11, and #12
- "Liberty!" films clips #1, #2, and #3
-

WEEKLY PROJECT #2 DUE: Friday, September 11 at 11:59pm

WEEK 5 (September 14-18)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 8

WEEKLY PROJECT #3 DUE: Friday, September 18 at 11:59pm

Unit 1 Project DUE: Friday, September 18

Unit 1 Exam: September 18-21

**UNIT TWO: A New Birth of Freedom
September 21-October 9**

WEEK 6 (September 21-25)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chps. 11 and 12

- “Questioning Freedom,” film clips #13, #14, and #15
- “The Africans,” film clips #1, #2, and #3

WEEKLY PROJECT #4 DUE: Friday, September 25 at 11:59pm

WEEK 7 (September 28-October 2)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #5 DUE: Friday, October 2 at 11:59pm

WEEK 8 (October 5-9)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #6 DUE: Friday, October 9 at 11:59pm

Unit 2 Project DUE: Friday, October 9

Unit 2 Exam: October 9-October 12

**UNIT THREE: Facing Freedom’s Boundaries
October 12-November 6**

WEEK 9 (October 12-14)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEK 10 (October 19-23)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 17

WEEKLY PROJECT #7 DUE: Friday, October 23 at 11:59pm

WEEK 11 (October 26-30)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #8 DUE: Friday, October 30 at 11:59pm

WEEK 12 (November 2-6)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #9 DUE: Friday, November 6 at 11:59pm

Unit 3 Project DUE: Friday, November 6

Unit 3 Exam: November 6-November 9

**UNIT FOUR: Fighting for Freedom
November 9-December 4**

WEEK 13 (November 9-13)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #10 DUE: Friday, November 13 at 11:59pm

WEEK 14 (November 16-20)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

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

WEEKLY PROJECT #11 DUE: Friday, November 20 at 11:59pm

WEEK 15 (November 23-24)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- *Give Me Liberty*, Chp. 25
- “Eyes on the Prize,” film clip #3

WEEK 16 (November 30-December 4)

ASSIGNED MATERIALS:

- “Eyes on the Prize,” film clip #4

WEEKLY PROJECT #12 DUE: Friday, December 4 at 11:59pm

Unit 4 Project DUE: Friday, December 4

Unit 4 Exam: December 4-December 7

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