

AMERICAN HISTORY I Spring 2016 Syllabus

AMH 2010 (Section #20297) – 3 credit course Monday & Wednesday 8:00

Instructor: Mr. Frederick Pierson Niceville campus – Building 420

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“Life must be lived looking forward, but it can only be understood by looking backwards.”

- Soren Kierkegaard

I. Purpose:

The NWFSC catalog describes this course as, “the social, political, and economic development of the American people [with] particular emphasis on American intellectual and political thought leading to an emergence of basic American character, ideas, [and] attitudes.” We will remain true to this description. With its unprecedented history of freedom and prosperity, the United States has been considered to be “exceptional” in the annals of world history. Is this really true, and if so, what in our pre-1865 past has made us this way?

II. Requirements

- A. 60% of your grade will consist of three (3) exams, each of which will be weighted at 20%. You will take four (4) exams altogether, but you will be allowed to drop your lowest score. All students, however, must take the Final Exam. The first three exams are tentatively scheduled for February 10th, March 9th, and April 11th. The Final Exam will be given on Wednesday May 4th. Exams will be based primarily on the lectures and will not be cumulative; that is, they will only include material covered since the previous exam.**
- B. 14% of your grade will consist of a take-home exam. This exam will be due on February 22nd.**
- C. 26% of your grade will consist of two (2) papers, each of which is worth 13% of your grade. The 1st will be a research-based paper of at least 1400 words, which will be due on March 16th. The 2nd will be a book critique, a 975-word critical evaluation of a book on American history. The due date is April 18th. No papers will be accepted more than two weeks past the due date, and no papers will be accepted after the last day of class.**

III. Grading guidelines are as follows:

A = 90-100%	C = 70-79%	F = below 60%
B = 80-89%	D = 60-69%	

IV. Attendance and Class policies

Woody Allen has said that 80% of life is just showing up. This is certainly true for this course. You are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Students who stop attending class, or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus, may receive a failing grade of "FA." An "FA" grade is a failing grade in GPA calculations and may impact the receipt of federal aid in subsequent courses.

By the end of the semester, if you have missed more than eight (8) classes your grade may be reduced by the following: 9 classes - 2%, 10 classes - 4%, 11 classes - 6%, 12 classes - 8%, 13 classes - 10%. If you miss 14 or more classes you will receive an 'F' for the course. If you foresee numerous absences, you might want to take this subject as a D2L course.

If unforeseen circumstances, such as illness, family emergency, or deployment, prevent you from attending class, please see me.

Because you may be marked absent if you are late, it is your responsibility, not mine, to inform me that you are tardy. Three (3) instances of tardiness will be considered the equivalent of one (1) absence. Because you are allowed to drop one (1) exam, no make-up tests will be given.

Cell phones, pagers, and other such devices should be on vibrate or silent mode during class. No student should initiate conversations, including texts, during class. Use of electronic communication devices during examinations may constitute grounds for disciplinary action; such devices must be completely out of sight during exams. Urgent situations may arise, however, that necessitate the student making or receiving a phone call. If such is the case, excuse yourself and discretely leave and return to the classroom.

Incomplete grades may be awarded when the student is unable to finish the required work because of unforeseen extenuating circumstances such as illness or TDY assignment. To receive an "I" grade the student must have successfully completed a significant portion of the required coursework and be able to finish the remaining work without attending class. An "I" grade will automatically convert to a grade of "F" if the student does not complete the remainder of the coursework by the established deadline.

- V. **Textbook – Visions of America 2nd Ed. by Jennifer D. Keene, Saul Cornell, and Edward T. O’Donnell. You may use the 1st edition if you like but the purview of the course will only include material covered in the 2nd edition. It’s your call.**
- VI. **You will be responsible for knowing the various testing and due dates for all assignments, whether or not you have attended the class when any changes may have been announced. It is your responsibility (not mine) to keep informed of any changes in course requirements and due dates and, of course, to obtain and digest any material you may have missed due to absence.**

In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will be rescheduled going forward.

As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, students may not bring children with them to class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in classroom or other college facilities where potential hazards exist.

- VII. **Constructive questions, comments, and criticisms of any kind are appreciated (really!). I sincerely hope you enjoy this material and allow your beliefs to be shaped as you are faced with its truths.**
- VIII. **Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, and other items included in the *NWFSC Catalog and Student Handbook*. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed therein. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range all the way from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action.**

RESOURCES

The *Academic Success Center (ASC)* is located in the Activities Center on the Niceville Campus. The ASC provides free learning support services such as tutoring, ESOL, and writing assistance for all NWFC students. Individual and group tutoring is available a wide range of subjects on a walk-in basis and by appointment. For more information call the Academic Success Center at 850.729.5389 or visit our website at [Free Tutoring](#).

Reading to Learn (R2L) is a project of Northwest Florida State College designed to support students' learning through direct instruction of reading strategies. Students may access R2L at our website: [Reading to Learn](#)

Math Labs are located in the Math Building L, Room L-131, on the Niceville Campus and in Building 7, Room 702 on the Fort Walton Beach Campus and Room 131 at the Crestview Center. The math labs are open to all students and provide free walk-in tutoring for all mathematics courses. For lab hours, students may call the Math Department at 850.729.5377 or visit our website at [Math Lab](#).

Smarthinking is an online, real-time tutoring offered free to students, who may access this service via RaiderNet.

Open Computer Labs. There are numerous open computer labs throughout the Northwest Florida State College campuses. Students may access our website for lab locations and hours: [Computer lab location and hours](#)

Testing Center. Testing Centers administer college admissions tests, placement tests, proctored exams, ACT/SAT, GED, CLEP, AND DSST (formerly known as DAN TES). General information concerning tests, hours may be accessed on the Testing Center website at [Testing Center](#).

Library, Online Reference Materials, and Resources. The library is a comprehensive, learning resource center providing information in print, digital, and multimedia formats to support the educational objectives of the College. In addition to in-house materials, online services and resources can be accessed through the LRC website. Library hours are posted each semester at the building entrance and on the LRC website at [Learning Resource Center](#).

Assistance for Military and Veterans. Northwest Florida State College supports our military and veterans students. You may contact NWFC Eglin AFB Education Services Building at 850.200.4190 or visit our website: [Support Our Military](#).

Students with Disabilities. If you have special needs for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact Tanya Ferrandes (ferrandt@nwfc.edu) at the Office of Disability Support Services, located in the Student Center (Room #SSC 228). Contact her at 729-6079.

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