INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF COURSE
The purpose of History 121 is for you to become knowledgeable about the major ideas, trends, events and personalities in US History from pre-Columbian American to the Civil War era.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students should be able to answer multiple-choice questions. These questions will test your specific knowledge and general understanding of the subjects listed in the text reading assignments and lecture schedule of the syllabus. In addition, students may choose to demonstrate their ability to write an informal journal or a formal book review.

TEXTBOOK: *The American Pageant, Brief Edition (paperback)*

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE:
Last day to withdraw without grade penalty or change to audit is Thursday March 20th. This must be done by the student through the Office of Admissions and Records – it will not be done by the instructor!

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings. Frequent absences almost always result in low grades. Attendance will be taken daily; however no credit will be directly added or lost due to attendance.
BASIS FOR FINAL GRADES:
To pass the course, a student must have an average of four passing grades. The lowest passing grade is 60. Your course grade will be based on four out of six of the following: (You may choose to do any combination of them.)
1st hour exam
2nd hour exam
3rd hour exam
4th hour exam (given at final exam time, non-cumulative)
Book Review
Journal
If you do five assignments, your lowest grade will be automatically dropped, if six assignments, your two lowest grades will be dropped. All requirements are of equal worth: 25% of your final grade.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Exams:
30 to 40 multiple-choice questions. Please buy Scantron forms ahead of time. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!

Book Review:
Must be on an approved (by me) work of non-fiction dealing with some aspect of U.S. History from pre-Columbian times to the Civil War.

Within the first week of class, a handout will be given with more information on the book review. If you miss class that day, it is your responsibility to get the handout.

Journals:
This must be kept in an 8½” by 11” notebook (for journal only – not with lecture notes).

If you journal is handwritten, this is the ONLY form of notebook that will be accepted. If you type your entries, they may be kept in a pocket folder. In your notebook, you are required to write a minimum of 1½ pages a week (if typed, about one typed page per week.) Your writing should be subjective; it should reflect your own ideas, thoughts and opinions about what you are learning. It works best to write one entry a week not one for each class. Your writing should include the following:
1. A general discussion of what you find the most interesting, informative, thought provoking, etc. of what you’re currently studying. It should NOT be a summary of your lecture notes, but
your own personal reaction to the material. It can relate to lecture material or text.

2. Any ways in which you can relate what you’re currently learning to contemporary American society. This can relate to political, economic, social or cultural issues.

**Your journal will be graded on:**

Meeting of length requirements, the clarity and quality of your observations, and generally, the extent to which you show me how well you’ve been analyzing the material. But it will NOT be graded on spelling, grammar, sentence structure, etc. (Although I’ll be happy if they are well done!) Also, please note there is a required turn-in of the journal mid-way through the course. I’ll read it and write comments, but will not grade it at that time. BUT IF IT’S NOT TURNED IN THEN, IT CAN’T BE SUBMITTED LATER. AT THE FINAL TURN-IN DATE, THE ENTIRE JOURNAL MUST BE SUBMITTED, INCLUDING THE FIRST HALF WITH MY COMMENTS.

**GRADING SCALE:**

- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- 59 – lower = F

**COURSE REQUIREMENT DUE DATES:**

**History 121-02**

1st hour exam: Friday, February 7
1st journal turn-in: Monday, February 24
2nd hour exam: Friday, March 7
3rd hour exam: Monday, April 7
Book review & journals due: Friday, April 18
4th hour exam (at final exam time): **Wednesday, May 7, 0800-0950**

**History 121-09**

1st hour exam: Thursday, February 13
1st journal turn-in: Thursday, February 20
2nd hour exam: Thursday, March 6
3rd hour exam: Thursday, April 10
Book review & journal due: Thursday, April 17
4th hour exam (at final exam time): **Thursday, May 8**
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Students are expected to follow the Information Technology Student/Patron Ethics Agreement as posted in computer areas and academic integrity standards as set down in the Student Handbook.

FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES:
In case of emergency, please follow the emergency procedure as discussed on the first day of class and as posted in the classroom.

NVCC IS A PLACE FOR LEARNING AND GROWING:
You should feel safe and comfortable anywhere on this campus. In order to meet this objective, you should: a) let your instructor, his/her supervisor, the Dean of Students or Provost know if any unsafe, unwelcome or uncomfortable situation arises that interferes with the learning process; b) inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes, if you have special needs or a disability that may effect your performance in this course.

TEXT READING ASSIGNMENTS AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Of</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 13 (16)</td>
<td>Old World Background for Colonization of the Americas</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 20 (23)</td>
<td>Continuation of above</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>January 27 (30)</td>
<td>Contrasting Colonies: Virginia and Massachusetts Bay</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>February 3 (6)</td>
<td>Colonial Society: A Portrait</td>
<td>Ch. 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>February 10 (13)</td>
<td>The Beginning of the End: The Coming of the Revolution</td>
<td>Ch. 6 &amp; 7</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>No Class – Presidents’ Day Holiday</td>
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<td>February 19 (20)</td>
<td>An American People: The Revolution and After</td>
<td>Ch. 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>February 24 (27)</td>
<td>Inventing a Nation: The Early National Years</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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## TEXT READING ASSIGNMENTS AND LECTURE SCHEDULE (cont.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Of</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3 (6)</td>
<td>Continuation of above</td>
<td>Ch. 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>March 10 (13)</td>
<td>No Classes – Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 17 (20)</td>
<td>The Age of the “Common Man?” Jacksonian America</td>
<td>Ch. 13 &amp;14</td>
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<td>March 24 (27)</td>
<td>“Our Great National Evil” Slavery in the United States</td>
<td>Ch. 17</td>
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<td>March 31 (April 3)</td>
<td>An Era of Reform: Social Change in Antebellum America</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
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<td>April 7 (10)</td>
<td>Continuation of above</td>
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<td>April 14 (17)</td>
<td>Expansion and Sectional Conflict: American life at Mid-Century</td>
<td>Ch. 18</td>
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<td>April 21 (24)</td>
<td>The Gathering Storm: 1846-1861</td>
<td>Ch. 19 &amp; 20</td>
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<td>April 28 (May 1)</td>
<td>Continuation of above</td>
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HOW TO SUCCEED IN HISTORY 121...
A few strong recommendations!

1. Attend class regularly and develop good note-taking skills in lecture. These will be our primary source for study for your exams. Copying a friend’s lecture notes is no substitute for the real thing – your own notes!

2. Plan to spend a minimum of 30 to 45 minutes a week reviewing your lecture notes. Trying to learn it all the night before the exam is an almost-guaranteed way to fail any test!

3. Try to read the assignment chapters before class lectures.

4. If you are an LD student, or suspect that you may have a learning disability, please contact any of the counselors in the Counseling Center (Godwin Bldg.; phone 323-3200). And please let me know, so I can be of help.

5. Please save all returned exams and papers until the semester has ended, in case of any confusion regarding grades.

6. If you aren’t already program-placed and/or have a faculty advisor, please consider it. I’ll be glad to help you.

7. Last, but not least, if you have any questions – please ask me – before class, in class, after class, during office hours, etc.