

# HISTORY 102

## THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865

Sierra Hall 128 | Eileen Kerr, Instructor | Monday-Thursday 8am-10:35am

### Welcome!

Welcome to our history class! This semester we will be exploring American history together. Our goal: to learn about our nation's past, discover how lives in the past were both different and similar to our own, and discover how men and women very like us shaped the world we live in today. I love history and teaching, and I hope you will find a piece of the past that helps make sense of your own life today. Our classroom is our time machine - let's see where it will take us!

Eileen Kerr

### Contact Information

Office: Founders Hall, 120L  
Email: [profkerr15@gmail.com](mailto:profkerr15@gmail.com)

Office Hours:  
MTWTH: 7:30am-8:00am in  
our classroom, SH 128  
TW: 11am-12pm in FH 120L  
Or by appointment after class  
on West Campus

Class Website: [kerre.org](http://kerre.org)

### Introduction

History 102 is the second half of the United States history survey series. During the semester we will cover this history from the end of the Civil War through to the modern period. As we explore this period of America's history, we will examine events, developments and peoples and ask fundamental questions about them. Some of these include: How did race relations evolve through the 19th century? What were the impacts of the industrial revolution on ordinary people? What role should government play in helping Americans achieve the American dream? How did war shape American's lives and the world in which they lived? Why did the push for social justice for African Americans and other groups arise in the 1950s and what were the results? What were the consequences of the Cold War? How did terrorism become a central focus of American foreign policy in the 21st century? We will learn the story in lecture and reading, then develop stronger insights through examination of primary source documents through activities and discussions.



World War I Navy Recruiting Poster

### Study Materials

#### Required Textbooks:

Goldfield, *The American Journey*, volume 2, 6th edition, available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Argersinger, Joanne. *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents*. (Bedford, St. Martin's Press) Available at the bookstore.

#### Class Website (this is NOT Blackboard!):

My class website, [kerre.org](http://kerre.org) is where you will find study guides, announcements, reading assignments and grades. Please bookmark the page and check it regularly.

## Assessments Described

### Quizzes (15%/150 points total)

Generally, we will have a quiz each day of class, covering material from the previous day's lecture and textbook readings. The quizzes will be mostly multiple choice/matching, with sometimes a short answer added. Please purchase the **Scantron 815-E Quiz packet**, which we will use for these quizzes.

### Documents Reflections, Homework (15%/150 points total)

We will be reading and discussion primary source documents most days, and periodically you will be asked to write an informal reflection or answer questions based on the documents.

### Two Examinations (50%)

We will have two examinations, a midterm and a final. Each of the exams is worth 250 points. I will provide study guides and instructions for each exam approximately one week prior to the exam date. Exams are primarily written exams, including an essay component. Combined, these exams are worth 500 points.

### Term Paper (20%)

You will write one out-of-class paper this semester based on the Greenberg, *Manifest Destiny* book. More information on this paper and associated assignments will be provided during the first few weeks of class. The paper will be due at the date listed below. Worth 200 points.

## How will I evaluate your learning?

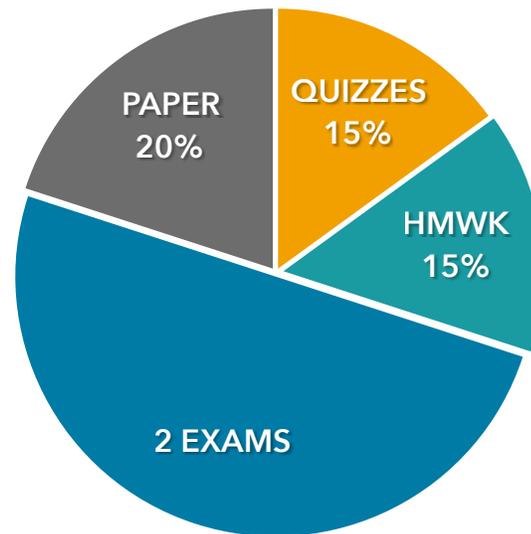
QUIZZES (150 points)

DOCUMENTS REFLECTIONS/HOMEWORK (150 points)

\*TWO EXAMINATIONS (500 points total)

\*TERM PAPER (200 points)

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 1,000



### Grading Policies:

From the above items, your grades will be calculated this way:

90%+ of 1,000 = A;  
 80-89% of 1,000 = B;  
 70-79% of 1,000 = C;  
 60-69% of 1,000 = D;  
 below 60% of 1,000 = F

PLEASE NOTE: Point values subject to change by instructor

**\*Items must be completed in order to pass the class**

### What Can You Do to Achieve the Grade You Desire?

Take notes in class - which means attend every day!!!

Participate in class activities and discussions

Turn in ALL assignments ON TIME

Study strategically through reading and reviewing notes

Come and see me after class or in my office - I like to help!

**COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN DETAIL:*****Course Learning Outcomes***

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate factual knowledge of key political, economic, social and cultural events and issues in United States history from 1865 to the modern period.
- Apply critical thinking to historical concepts and developments in history.
- Evaluate, analyze and interpret primary and secondary historical sources and make historical arguments based on these sources.

***Plagiarism, Cheating and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty (This is the 'mean' stuff)***

I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating in my class. Plagiarism is the deliberate copying of someone else's written work without acknowledging that person as a source, and it is cheating. This includes direct copying from a source like your textbook, my lecture notes, the Internet, and other students' work, changing those words around to "look" like your work, or stealing someone's idea or concept. If I find that you have committed plagiarism or any other type of academic dishonesty, you will be subject to severe consequences from me and from the MJC administration. Any assignment plagiarized will be considered a non-completion which will result in an F in the class per grading policy (below). I will also report any form of cheating to the Vice President for Student Services. Cheating could get you expelled from MJC. So, be careful, cite your sources when necessary, do your own work and if you have any questions about citation of sources, come and see me. I am always happy to help you learn proper citation methods.

***Make Up, Late Assignments and Attendance Policies***

I allow a make-up for the midterm and final exams only, with the following rules:

- You must inform me that you cannot take the exam prior to (or during) the date/time of the exam, if you do not, you will not be allowed a make-up,
- You must provide me with written proof of the excuse if I ask for it, and
- I will determine at my own discretion whether your excuse is extreme enough to merit a make-up.

There are no make-ups for daily quizzes, or homework/informal writing, and there is NO extra credit available except that which I offer to all students in the class.

Writing assignments are due at the time noted on the assignment. It will be considered late if not turned in by the due date when I ask for them in class. After that time, I will deduct one grade from your assignment for each class period that it is late up two class periods. After that, you may not turn in the assignment. This includes the Term Paper. Further instructions about the term paper are included in the term paper assignment.

Finally, I will drop students who are not participating regularly. I reserve the right to drop you from the class for non-attendance. If you have an emergency that will keep you out of class for more than two days you should inform me of this issue or you may find yourself dropped from the class.

**BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

This is a college class and I require that you behave as college students ought. Basic civility is expected of you. Review these simple rules to help make this class great by:

- Regular attendance, on time and prepared for class.
- Staying through the whole class period; no leaving class without prior permission.
- Turning OFF and putting away your cellphones and other electronic devices, ear buds put away.
- Sorry, but...NO COMPUTERS ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS unless you talk to me first!
- Respecting the instructor's and fellow students' right to speak without interruption.

**SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES:** (note that weekly assignments will be posted on class website)

Midterm Examination: Wednesday, May 25th

Final Paper Due: Monday, June 6th

Final Examination: Thursday, June 9th, 8am - 11am

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**SYLLABUS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE****WHAT DO I NEED TO PURCHASE TODAY?**

Goldfield, *The American Journey*, volume 2, 6th edition (purchase at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

Argersinger, *The Triangle Fire* (available at the bookstore)

Quiz Strips 815-E Scantron package (available at the bookstore)

Notebook for lecture notes

**WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING TO PREPARE FOR EACH DAY'S CLASS? THIS WILL DEPEND ON WHAT IS ASSIGNED, BUT YOU SHOULD BE DOING AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Homework assignment

Read Goldfield, assigned pages

Go over class notes to prepare for quiz

**WHAT WILL I BE EVALUATED ON?**

Daily quizzes

Homework/Documents Reflections

Midterm Exam

Final Exam

Term Paper

**WHAT MUST I COMPLETE IN ORDER TO PASS?**

Midterm

Final

Term Paper

*Failure to complete any of these will result in automatic "F" in the class.*

**MAKE UP POLICY - WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?**

No quiz make ups

Homework can be turned in only ONE DAY after due date (with a late fee)

Midterm/Final make ups only with legitimate excuse

Late term papers will los