

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SYLLABUS HISTORY 210.1M1
TOPICS IN U. S. HISTORY: WAR AND DIPLOMACY IN AMERICAN HISTORY
WINTER 2013
STETSON 265

www.buckmelton.com

Dr. Buckner F. Melton, Jr.

Email: buckmelton@buckmelton.com (this is my preferred means of contact)

Office hours: TBA; also by appointment

REQUIRED READINGS

Walter A. McDougall, *Promised Land, Crusader State*

William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4thed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course description and objectives: History 210.1M1 is an in-depth look at two broad, interrelated subjects: 1) the impact of historical development on why and how Americans use organized state force, and 2) the impact of historical development on America's foreign policy process and goals. It will cover all eras of American History from the colonial period up to and including Gulf Wars I and II and the War on Terror, time permitting. It will involve lecture, readings, class discussion, and other methods described below to introduce students to these subjects. No prerequisite courses are required. An ability to read and write at college level is mandatory.

By the end of this course, the successful student should:

- 1) Possess substantial knowledge of the facts presented in this course;
- 2) Understand the principles of historical cause and effect; and
- 3) Be able to apply knowledge of facts and causation to current events in such a way as to understand today's United States and world in a clearer fashion.

Examinations: The course will include a mid-term and a comprehensive final. Each exam will consist of two sections. The first section of each exam (counts 60%) will contain two broad essay questions, of which the student chooses one. The second section (counts 40%) will contain between five and eight names, terms, or phrases; the student will be asked to select several, to identify them, and to describe their importance.

Quizzes: For at least the first part of the term, I will give a quiz at the beginning of each class. Each quiz will cover only the information that we have covered in class the previous week. These quizzes are designed to encourage you to study your notes regularly instead of waiting until just before the exam, and to give you feedback on how well you are absorbing the material. *There will be no opportunities to take make-ups on quizzes.* If you miss a quiz, for whatever reason, you earn a zero on that quiz. (The value of any single quiz is low enough that if you missing or failing a single quiz, it should not have a major impact on your final course grade, but if you get into the habit of missing or failing them, your grade will suffer.) If class performance overall on quizzes is good, I may discontinue them at my discretion.

Movies: We will be watching portions of several movies during the term, and we may watch one or two movies in their entirety if time and circumstances permit. These may include *The Last of the Mohicans*; *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*; *Gettysburg*; *Tora! Tora! Tora!*; and *Thirteen Days*, among others. If you miss the class in which we watch a movie, you have the responsibility of watching it on your own as close to the scheduled date as possible.

Additional reading: In addition to the books listed above, each student will read one additional book from a list I will provide.

Papers: Each student will a paper of five page on major themes of the additional book (see above). You will turn in a first draft, to which I will mark up and return. You will also provide a copy of the first draft to a fellow student for critique, and in turn you must critique the paper of a fellow student. Then, following a conference with me, you will turn in a final draft to me, together with the marked-up first draft.

I may also assign shorter readings and short written assignments (of about a paragraph each) on those readings during the semester. These short assignments will count as part of the class participation grade.

Attendance/late assignments: I do take roll, but there is no required attendance policy for this course. Be warned, though, that the less often you show up, the poorer your class participation score is bound to be, and the poorer your performance on quizzes and other assignments is likely to be. In short, you'll get out of the course (and the grade) what you put into it. The responsibility is yours. *Given our schedule, missing even a single class will put you at a severe disadvantage to your fellow students in terms of exam preparation.*

Please make all reasonable efforts not to come into class late. This interrupts the class and it is a disturbance to your fellow students. Be on time. ("On time" means on time, not a minute or two after the class begins.) Turn off cell phones, or at least the ringers, and don't take or make calls or texts during class.

The papers are due on set dates at the beginning of class. For every day, or portion thereof, a paper is late, it will receive a ten-point penalty. This includes both first drafts and final drafts. (This

means if you are even a minute late to class on the day the paper is due, you will be penalized ten points on the paper.) If you foresee a problem in meeting a deadline, contact me *before the deadline* if at all possible so we can discuss the problem.

I discourage the electronic submission of papers and ask that if you plan to submit something electronically that you check with me beforehand if practicable. In any event, *you bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers you submit electronically arrive in my account before the deadline, and you bear the burden of proof that you submitted the assignment by the deadline.* This means that if you email me your paper and you type in the wrong address, or your ISP fails to get the paper to my inbox, or *my* ISP fails to deliver the paper to my inbox, or anything else happens to prevent delivery to my inbox, the problem is yours, not mine.

Examinations are mandatory. Make-up examinations will be considerably more difficult than the regularly scheduled ones.

Class Web page: Most course documents and handouts will be available for download on the website. You have the responsibility to check this page daily for updates. *You are responsible for learning any materials or carrying out any class assignments I post on the website.*

Poor performance: A student who receives an F on any assignment will need to meet with me to discuss the assignment in question. I also encourage other students performing at a lower- than- desirable level to arrange to meet with me as well.

Honor Code: The University Honor Code is in effect in this course. Suspected violations of the Honor Code shall be forwarded to the Honor Council.

Disabilities: Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting. The instructor will refer you to the office of Student Support Services (SSS) for consultation regarding evaluation, documentation of your disability, and recommendations for accommodation, if needed. Students will receive from SSS the Faculty Accommodation Form. On this form SSS will identify reasonable accommodations for this class. The form must be given to the course instructor for signature and then returned to SSS. To take full advantage of disability services, it is recommended that students contact the Office of Student Support Services, immediately. The office is located on the third floor of the Connell Student Center.

Miscellaneous: I encourage you to contact me at any time with any concern or question that you may have regarding any aspect of the course or with the study of history. Enjoy the class!

Grading system:

A	90 - 100
B+	85 - 89
B	80 - 84
C+	75-79
C	70-75
D	60-70
F	0-60

Assignment:

Paper	30% of grade
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Quizzes and class participation	10%

Calendar of major assignments: While these dates are subject to change, I don't anticipate making any changes unless something extraordinary happens.

Assignment**date/time**

Paper first draft due	Monday 28 January, beginning of class
Mid-term exam	Monday 4 February, beginning of class
Paper first draft returned	Monday 4 February
Mandatory paper conferences	Week of Monday 4 February, Time/place TBA
Mid-term exam returned	Monday 11 February
Final paper draft due	Monday 11 February, beginning of class
Drop day	Tuesday 12 February
Final exam	Monday 4 March