

Survey of U.S. History
History 2110, Georgia State University (CRN 83132)
Fall 2009

Dr. Marni Davis

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Class Meets: 627 GCB, T/R 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Office Hours: T/W 4:00-5:00 PM

Course Goals:

- To introduce students to a university-level discussion of the history of the United States, from before European colonization of North America until the present day.
- To introduce students to some of the key debates in the field of American history.
- To cultivate students' skills as readers and listeners, and to help students improve the clarity of their written and spoken communication, which will be of use both in the classroom and beyond.

Required Texts:

The following text is available at the GSU Bookstore:

- *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the America People (Compact Fifth Edition)* [2008]
- You will also be required to download several Primary Source Document Packets from uLearn. (Access to the class's uLearn site is absolutely necessary!)

Study Guides:

The professor will post a series of Study Guides to uLearn over the course of the semester. These guides will serve several crucial purposes:

- They will alert you to the required reading assignments for the coming weeks.
- They will list the *keywords* (people, places, events, and concepts) you should look for as you read the books, study the primary sources, and listen to the lectures. You will be tested on these keywords, so start defining them early in the semester, and organize a system for yourself so that you can study effectively.
- They will pose questions that you should keep in mind while doing the readings and listening to class lectures and discussions.

Components of Grade Assessment:

- There will be *three* tests given over the course of the semester. Each of these tests will cover several weeks' worth of Study Guides. *Each test is worth 25% of your final grade.* These tests will include both short-answer IDs and long-form IDs. (Details about test format will be given before the first test.)

- The professor will regularly ask the students to answer a set of reading questions, and will collect the answers at the beginning of class. *These “Homeworks” are worth 25% of your grade.* You will be able to drop or miss two of these assignments over the course of the semester without penalty. There will be no make-ups, so if you miss class or arrive late you are out of luck. (Late = ten minutes after class has begun. NO EXCEPTIONS.)

Grades range numerically as follows:

- 97-99 = A+ (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 98)
- 93-96 = A (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 95)
- 90-92 = A- (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 92)
- 87-89 = B+ (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as an 88)
- 83-86 = B (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as an 85)
- 80-82 = B- (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as an 82)
- 77-79 = C+ (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 78)
- 73-76 = C (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 75)
- 70-72 = C- (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 72)
- 66-69 = D (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 68)
- 65 or less = F (A paper receiving this letter grade will be counted as a 65)

FYI:

- With the exception of *Liberty, Equality, Power*, which is a big and heavy book, you must always bring that day’s assigned readings to class. This is crucial, since we will often spend class time discussing the language of these texts, and you will need to be able to refer directly to them in order to participate intelligently.
- I am more than happy to help students who need extra assistance, or who would like to work harder on their writing or discuss further a topic we’ve touched on in class. Do not hesitate to come see me during my office hours!
- If you email me, please be patient: expect a 24-hour turnaround for a response, and more than that on weekends.
- Missed tests may not be made up unless there are significant circumstances, which must be discussed with me either prior to the test date or within 24 hours of the missed exam. Any make-ups will be given during the class’s final exam session at the end of the semester.
- All cell phones, blackberries, computers, ipods, and other electronic devices must be turned off for the entirety of the class meeting. The penalty for failing to adhere to this policy is as follows: every time your device rings or vibrates or I see you texting, I WILL SUBTRACT A POINT FROM YOUR FINAL GRADE.
- Do not eat in class.
- Please treat the professor and your fellow students with the same respect with which you’d hope to be treated. Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior will be penalized, and, if severe and consistent, will be grounds for dismissal from the course.

- All forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, are strictly prohibited. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be considered grounds for serious penalty, which may include anything from an “F” on an assignment to an “F” for a final grade. For Georgia State University’s Policy on Academic Honesty, which includes definitions of “plagiarism” and “cheating,” look to the following website:
http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwdos/codeofconduct_conpol.html
- The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, if needed. It is the professor’s responsibility to inform the class of such changes in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to be attentive to these changes, when and if they happen.