

Three Rivers Community College  
US History I CRN 31170  
K201/GO1 Wed: 6:30 – 9:15

Chuck Marcotte, Instructor  
Voice mail: 823-2836  
E-mail: [cmarcotte@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:cmarcotte@trcc.commnet.edu)

## US History I Syllabus: Fall 2010

### Required Texts:

Brands et al. American Stories: A Brief History of the United States. Volume 1  
Twain, Mark. Huckleberry Finn

In addition to the above texts a series of primary and secondary source handouts will be provided.

**Course Description:** *Early American History* traces developments in American history from the colonial era to 1877 focusing on political, economic, social, and cultural developments.

**Course Objectives:** Lectures, selected readings (primary and secondary source) and assignments are designed to: provide the student with an understanding and appreciation of American History as well as enable the student to think critically and analytically in determining cause and effect relationships of historical movements.

**Attendance:** Lectures in this course complement and supplement the assigned readings; they do not repeat them. As a consequence your attendance is, in this course, a requirement. Each class represents a full week of academic instruction. More than two missed classes will result in a reduced grade (one-full letter grade for each additional class). Chronic lateness will be treated as an additional absence. You must sign the attendance sheet prior to each class. See me about any anticipated unavoidable absence well before the date in question.

### Assignments/Exams:

- ❑ A mid-term and final exam.
- ❑ An analytical book review (including a 5-10 minute presentation in class).
- ❑ Five critiques (about one [+]page[s] in length) on the articles from handouts that I give in class, or from articles of your own choosing that pertain to the topic.

In order to be successful in this class, you must read the assigned material carefully and participate regularly in class discussions. If classroom discussion is unusually weak or lacking, additional quizzes will take its place. The purpose of a quiz is to test that which would normally be determined through vigorous class discussion; therefore, when discussion is weak or limited to only a few students, a quiz will surely follow.

**Grading Policy:** *The five critiques, quizzes (if given) the test on Huck Finn and the book review will represent 50% of the final grade. The mid-term and final exams will account for the remaining 50%.*

**Further Notes**

- ❑ Quizzes and critiques missed due to absence or lateness cannot be made-up.
- ❑ Unless there are extenuating circumstances, absence from the mid-term exam must be made up prior to the next class. Absence from the final exam must be made up by December 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be your responsibility to make arrangements with me to make up exams.
- ❑ Late papers (i.e. book reviews, major essays, etc.) will lose one letter grade per day....**There will be no exceptions.** If you know you are going to be absent from class on the date a paper is due, either turn in the paper a week before or e-mail me the paper as an attached file before the start of class on the due date.
- ❑ Each of the assigned papers must be typed. Papers must use 10 to 12 point Times New Roman font (or a similar type font). **MLA format** will be followed for headings, headers, in-text citations and works cited pages (when applicable)
- ❑ Cell phones and beepers are NOT to be used in class.
- ❑ Check your e-mail. Topic outlines and articles may be sent as attached files in order to reduce paper use.

Please be advised that the instructor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus.

**College Withdrawal Policy:**

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> week of classes. From the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> week through the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

**Disabilities Statement:**

If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to notify Chris Scarborough, who is coordinating services to students with disabilities. Since Chris is available at TRCC only on Mondays, Tuesdays, and every other Friday, he should be contacted by phone at (860) 892-5751, or, if you prefer, by e-mail at [CScarborough@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:CScarborough@trcc.commnet.edu)

Date	Assignment
September 1	<b>Topics:</b> Introduction and discussion of syllabus and class requirements; discussion of assigned papers. <b>Overview: The World before Columbus</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 1 pp. 2-28
September 8	<b>Topics: English Colonization</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 2 pp. 30-58
September 15	<b>Topics: Colonial Ways of Life Critique 1 due</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 3 pp. 61-83.
September 22	<b>Topics: Struggle for Empire</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 4 pp. 86-116.
September 29	<b>Topic: The Road to Revolution and the Revolutionary War Critique 2 due</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 5 pp. 118-149
October 6	<b>Topic: The Republican Experiment</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 6 pp. 152-180
October 13	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>
October 20	<b>Topics: The Violence of Party Politics</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 7 pp. 182-208
October 27	<b>Topics: The Jefferson - Madison Administrations Critique 3 due</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 8 pp. 210-235
November 3	<b>Topics: Nation Building and Nationalism</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 9 pp. 238-260
November 10	<b>Topic: The Age of Jackson Huck Finn Test</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 10 pp. 262-287
November 17	<b>Topic: Slaves and Masters, Reform and Radicalism Critique 4 due</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 11 pp. 291-313 and Chapter 12 pp. 330-337
November 24	<b>No class: Thanksgiving Break</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 13 pp. 342-361
December 1	<b>Book Reviews due/Presentations</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 14 pp. 365-386
December 8	<b>Topics: Secession and the Civil War Critique 5 due</b> <b>Readings:</b> Brands: Chapter 15 pp. 531-564
December 15	<b>Final Exam</b>