READ THIS SYLLABUS TWICE PER DAY!!!!!!

Instructor: John Ulloa  
E-mail: ulloaj@smccd.net  
Office Hours: By Appointment Only  
Website: smccd.net/accounts/ulloaj

Required Text:  

Course Description:  
This course will examine U.S. history from Reconstruction (1865) to the present day, and it is worth three units of transferable history. For the purposes of this course, we will be interested how events and processes in this country have affected certain groups since 1865. The student is encouraged to “think outside of the box”. Although we will be following a schedule, the course will not always be approached in a linear fashion. If you are the type of student that prefers, “Roman numeral one, Point A…” lectures, this is not the class for you. The instructor prefers to facilitate thoughtful and critical discussion rather than deliver a barrage of facts and dates.

Goals/Aims:  
This course will explore institutions, society, culture, and foreign policies of the U.S. since Reconstruction. We will employ a Social and Cultural model for negotiating the material. Throughout the course the student will:

- Thematically survey the aforementioned period in the U.S. by relying upon (not entirely) a socio-cultural historical approach
- Develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills
- Become familiar with historical methods, theories, and processes
- Engage, reflect, and participate in a rich, intellectual forum
- Practice primary source research
- Develop an appreciation for history as a process, rather than names, facts, and dates

Prerequisites:  
Although there are no predetermined prerequisites for this course, it is highly recommended that students be eligible for English Composition prior to enrolling for this class. Writing is a key component to this course, and part of the student’s success depends upon how well he/she conveys ideas through the written word. If you are not eligible, or have not yet taken a composition course, do not panic!!! You can achieve success in this course, however it may require extra effort. There are several resources available to those that require extra guidance with developing writing skills.

Exams:  
There will be five exams given throughout the semester, and each will be comprised of multiple-choice questions (50 questions worth 1pt. ea.) directly from the readings and there will be an essay question worth 50 points. Each exam will be administered at the beginning of the class session and no extra time shall be allotted for students that show up late. NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!
Written Assignment:
There will be one research paper due at the end of the semester on a topic that is relevant to this course. This is a major writing assignment, and it should be taken seriously. You should begin the research process immediately as no late papers will be accepted. Papers will be 8-10 pages in length (not including annotated bibliography and cover page). Specific guidelines will be posted on the website above, and discussed in class.

Pop Reading Quizzes:
Four “pop” reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester. The format may be multiple-choice and/or short essay format. Be ready for anything. NO MAKEUP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN!

Participation:
Discussion counts as participation. Communicate!!!!!! Participation points can be accumulated throughout the semester by discussion pertaining to course material, coming to see me during office hours, communicating with me by phone or email. This all counts towards your participation points. Other opportunities to accumulate points will be highlighted throughout the semester. 200 points is the maximum amount that can be earned by any one student during the course.

Points Breakdown:
Exams 5 @ 100 pts. ea. = 500 pts.
Research Paper = 200 pts.
Participation = 200 pts.
Pop Reading quizzes 4 @ 25 pts. ea. = 100 pts.
Total Possible = 1000 pts.

Grading:
Grades will be determined by a straight percentage (points received divided by points possible).
A = 90-100 %, B = 80-89 %, C = 70-79 %, D = 60-69 %, F = 0-59 %

Students will not be “bumped up”. In other words, if you have an 89% at the end of the course, your final grade will be a “B”.

Attendance and Participation:
Regular attendance and class participation is key to the student’s success. Pace yourself, and plan to spend “quality” time with the material, both on your own, and with your classmates. Read, write, discuss, then reread, rewrite, and discuss again. Engage and grapple with the material, then ponder, repeat, revisit, revise, and dialogue. The most successful students participate regularly, listen actively, think critically, and record their thoughts. All students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in all class discussion. This class will only be as interesting as we collectively make it!!!
Schedule of Events:

Week 1: Aug. 28 – 30
Reading: N/A
Course Intro: History, Culture, Methodology

Week 2: Sep. 4 - 6
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 17
Reconstruction (PAPER TOPIC DUE 9/6)

Week 3: Sep. 11 – 13
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 18
A Transformed Nation: The West and the New South (E1 9/13)

Week 4: Sep. 18 - 20
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 19
Emergence of Corporate America (ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE 9/20)

Week 5: Sep. 25 - 27
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 20
An Industrial Society

Week 6: Oct. 2 - 4
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 21
Progressivism (E2 10/4)

Week 7: Oct. 9 - 11
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 22
Becoming a World Power

Week 8: Oct. 16 - 18
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 23
War and Society

Week 9: Oct. 23 - 25
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 24
The “Roaring 20′s” (E3 10/25)

Week 10: Oct. 30 – Nov. 1
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 25
The Great Depression and the New Deal

Week 11: Nov. 6 - 8
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 26
WWII (ROUGH DRAFT OF PAPER DUE 11/6)

Week 12: Nov. 13 – 15
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 27
The Cold War

Week 13: Nov. 20
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 28
“The Good Old Days” (E4 11/20)

Week 14: Nov. 27 - 29
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 29, 30
Vietnam – “The Bad Old Days?/Economic and Social Change in the Late 20th Century

Week 15: Dec. 4 - 6
Reading: Murrin, Ch. 31, 32
Power and Politics since 1974/History of the Present

Week 16: Dec. 11
Reading: N/A
FINAL MEETING 11:50am – 12:50pm (E5)
**Academic Misconduct:**
Plagiarism, cheating, or inappropriately “borrowing” someone else’s ideas are serious offenses. Guidelines for correctly citing sources are available on the Internet, the tutoring center, and the reference desk in any library. If any student is caught engaging in academic misconduct, he/she will be given an automatic “F” for the course and reported to the administration for disciplinary action.

Proper guidelines/expectations for written assignments will be reviewed in class, therefore there is absolutely no excuse for improper source citation in written work submitted by students.

**Other Stuff:**

- Each student **MUST** have an active email account.
- If you care about your grade, keep track of it yourself!!!
- No “extra credit”, you have plenty to do already!
- It is the **student’s responsibility to withdraw** from the course. The instructor **will not** “automatically drop” a student from the course. If you do not drop, you will receive and “F” for your final grade.
- Films and other media may be incorporated into the course.
- If my office hours do not work for you, we can communicate via email or by telephone. Arrangements can be made as necessary.
- Any/all of the above is subject to change.