

HISTORY 302 01: AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ERA  
Chaminade University  
Spring Semester 2002

Instructor: James H. Fujita      Classroom: Henry 221  
Office: Henry 206A              Class Meetings: 2:00-4:50  
Office Phone:                      Fridays  
Instructor Pager: 583-3440      Office Hour: Fridays, 1:00-2:00

COURSE CONTENT: According to the Chaminade University General Catalog description, History 302 covers American History from 1815 to 1877. History 302 is a course that examines the Age of Andrew Jackson, sectionalism, the Civil War, and the Era of Reconstruction.

PRE-REQUISITES: Any 100 or 200 level history course.

TEXTS: David M. Potter, The Impending Crisis: 1848-1861  
James M. McPherson, Ordeal By Fire, Vol. II:  
The Civil War

CLASS FORMAT: A mix of lectures, discussions, examinations with the aid of visual sources whenever possible. Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly and to read all assigned texts. Attendance is extremely important in the beginning of the semester because the two texts cover the period of 1848 to 1865. Since the course description states that the course is to cover the period, 1815 to 1877, there are periods when your only source of information will be the lectures. The Reconstruction Era covered in the last weeks of the class is also not covered by the texts so it is imperative that you attend lectures.

GRADING: Students in History 302 will be graded on a point system. Points will be awarded as follows:

Three Examinations: 100 Points Each (300 Points Total)  
One Book Review      100 Points

POINT SCALE: A = 400-360 Points  
                  B = 359-320 Points  
                  C = 319-280 Points  
                  D = 279-240 Points  
                  F = 239-000 Points

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Examinations: There will be THREE Examinations in this class. Each exam will be divided into Two Parts and will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 Points (3 x 100 = 300). Part One will be a short identification section worth 50 Points. In this section you will find at least 8 terms (names of peoples, places, and things). You will be asked to pick FIVE from this list and write a detailed short identification for each selection. You will include such information as who or what, where, roughly when, historical description, and historical significance for each term. Each will be worth up to 10 points (5 x 10 = 50). Part Two will be an essay Question. There will be at least Two essay questions. You will be asked to pick ONE and write a detailed essay worth 50 points. The Final Exam will not be cumulative. Each exam will cover 1/3rd of the course.

Book Review: Each student will be expected to write a 4 page typed book review worth 100 Points. Students will be given a choice as to what kind of bok review they would like to do. Since the period 1815 to 1848 is not covered by any of the assigned text, you may choose to look for a book which would be ideal in covering this period. You are to go to the library and find a book which you think might be suitable for use in this class. You will review the book and judge whether you were correct in your initial assessment or grossly in error. The book review will critique the book. If you do not wish to look for a book you can pick ONE of the two assigned text and write a detailed critique of the book. What are its strengths? What was its value in helping you to understand the period? Are there any faults and probems with the book?

## **BOOK REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Your typed review should be about 1000 words in length.  
(About 4 pages).
2. Your review should be headed with a full citation identifying the book.  
For example: Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Co. 1972.
3. Your review should touch upon the following items:
  - A. A brief statement about the author of the book. Make your comments about the author relevant to the review. Mention the author's educational background. Occupational background. Other works published. Expertise on the subject.  
  
Some relevant questions you might consider are:
    - 1) Did the author participate in the events described?
    - 2) Is he related to any of the book's subjects?
    - 3) Is he expanding on a doctoral dissertation?
    - 4) Does he have any reason to be biased?  
(Introduction, Preface, jacket-cover of the book, may be good places to find information).  
You might also consult sources like Who's Who in American Education, Directory of American Scholars, Twentieth Century Authors, Current Biography, Who's Who in America, and other biographical guides.  
You may also want to read other reviews of the book which can be found in newspapers and journals.
  - B. A statement on the subject and scope of the book is essential. What type of book are you reviewing? (Is it a biography, political history, memoir, military history, intellectual history)?
  - C. What is the Thesis of the book? Rare is a history book without a major theme or thesis. What is the author arguing? Trying to prove?
  - D. The Value of the Book. Did the author do everything he/she set out to do? Are his conclusions valid? Are his conclusions significant? For whom is this book intended? For Scholars? For students?
  - E. What are your criticisms of the book? Is it poorly researched?
4. Your review should represent your best writing. Proofread and edit your work before submitting it. Before writing your review you might want to go to the library and read examples of reviews in such scholarly journals as the American Historical Review, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of World History, etc.

HISTORY 302 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENT

Jan. 18 Introduction  
America in 1815  
Jan. 25 Topics to be covered in First Exam:  
Era of Good Feelings, Nationalism vs.  
Feb. 1 Sectionalism, Western Expansion,  
Feb. 8 Jacksonian Democracy

Feb. 15 FIRST EXAMINATION

The Impending Crisis

Feb. 22  
Mar. 1 America from 1848 to 1861  
Topics to be covered in the Second  
Examination: Sectionalism, Slavery,  
Abolitionist Movement, Western  
Mar. 8 Expansion, Move towards Secession,  
Outbreak of War

Mar. 15

Mar. 22 SECOND EXAMINATION

Ordeal By Fire

Mar. 29 SPRING BREAK

Ap. 5 America from 1861 to 1877  
Topics to be covered in the Third  
Exam: The Civil War, Reconstruction  
Apr. 12 of the South

Apr. 19 BOOK REVIEWS DUE

Apr. 26

May 3 THIRD EXAMINATION