

Virginia Highlands Community College
U.S History I
HIS-121

Syllabus

Fall 2018

Instructor.....Mr. Chris Mullins

Course Description:

This class is a survey of United States history from colonial times to 1877. A survey of the major political, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic developments in American History, including the Revolution, the Constitution, Jeffersonianism, Jacksonianism, sectionalism, slavery, expansionism, and the Civil War and Reconstruction

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to explain the contributions of various cultures, ethnic groups, and social movements to American development.
- Students will develop their ability to write thoughtful, clearly stated and well-supported essays about historical events.
- Students will exercise their ability to think critically.
- Students will improve their ability to raise vital questions, gather facts, use abstract ideas to interpret facts. And arrive at well-reasoned conclusions.
- Students will improve their ability to learn independently through a variety of forms of instructional technology.

Required Text:

America: Pathways to the Present by Cayton, Perry, Reed, Winkler, Prentice Hall, edition, 2003.

Course Requirements:

Final grades for the course will be based on your performance on the following:

Tests:

Several tests will be given during the session. They will consist of matching, multiple Choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

Writing Assignments:

During the session students will be given writing assignments. These will be based on short readings, textbook selections, and /or Web quests. More information on these will be distributed in class.

Research Paper:

Students will be required to do a 7-10 page research paper.

Grading Policy:

Requirements are weighted as follows:

- Quizzes.....10%
- Homework assignments/Writing assignments...25%
- Research Assignment....10%
- Tests55%

VHCC Grading Scale: _____ **JCHS Grading Scale: refer to handbook**

- 90-100.....A
- 80-89.....B
- 70-79.....C
- 60-69.....D
- Below 60...F

Course Policies:

Completion of Requirements:

If you must miss a class, test, or assignment it is your responsibility to talk with your instructor about scheduling make-up work.

Make-Up Policy:

Plan and prepare to take the tests with your class on the dates scheduled. If you must miss a test you MUST let me know in advance or on the day of the test through a message if

not in person. Also, if you miss a test for an unacceptable reason I may refuse to let you make-up the test.

Deadlines:

Writing assignments should be completed by the deadlines listed. Completed work may be turned in late, but 10 points will be deducted everyday it is late.

Honor Policy:

Academic Misconduct--receiving or giving unauthorized aid on an exam will be dealt with most severely. You are not allowed to use books, notes, or notebooks to take any exam in this course. You are not allowed to copy answers from a neighbor's exam. If you violate the honor code you will receive a zero for the exam and may be asked to leave the course.

Cell Phones:

Please remember to switch off all cell phones before class begins. The classroom is not a place for making or receiving phone calls.

Food and Tobacco in the Classroom:

Food is not permitted in the classroom. This includes candy bars and bags of chips. Please complete your dining activities before or after class. Tobacco in all of its forms is prohibited in the classroom. This includes chewing tobacco and snuff!
