

**HIST 108—Fall 2015****U.S. History, 1865-Present**

Antelope Valley College, Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences Division

**Course #76037, Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00am-9:20am, HS 105****Required Prerequisites:** College Level Reading and ENGL 101 or completion of ENGL 101.**Course Description****Instructor:** Dr. Shafer**E-Mail:** [kshafer2@avc.edu](mailto:kshafer2@avc.edu)**Phone:** (661) 722-6300, ext. 6906**Office:** Business Education Building, BE 214**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm-2:45pm or by appointment.

**Course Description:** A comprehensive interpretive analysis of the political and social development of the nation from 1877 to the present. Considerable attention is also given to economic developments and to cultural and intellectual currents. Includes reference to the postbellum political history of California inside the framework of general United States history.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:****Upon completion of course, the successful student will be able to:**

1. Identify major individuals from this historical period.
2. Appraise significant events from this historical period.
3. Recognize key problems relating to this historical period.
4. Compare and contrast historical events and problems in terms of background, substance, and impact.
5. Evaluate and assess the repetitive cycles of history.
6. Write a research-related paper in standard MLA format.

**HST 108 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:****General things to learn this semester:**

1. To learn about the many issues that Americans faced after Reconstruction.
2. To understand the variety of changes accomplished by the Progressive movement.
3. To be aware of the extent of governmental reforms of the New Deal.
4. To realize the stern posture of American foreign policy during the Cold War standoff with the Soviet Union.
5. To appreciate the events that made the Civil Rights movement successful.

**A Fair Warning:** In history, we deal with some serious and contentious issues such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, philosophy, social class, war, revolution, slavery, disease and death, along with some controversial and even notorious personalities, among other topics. In addition, we may read documents or see films that contain disturbing subject, content or images. In this class, I will attempt to present history as fairly and objectively as I can. Thus, our challenge is to deal with these issues as adults and in an impartially academic manner. Lastly, I also hope to challenge some preconceived notions and to prove why a familiarity with history is a useful, powerful and exciting (*NOT* Boring!!) knowledge to have!

**Textbook & Further Important Course Information:**

- *America: A Concise History, Vol. II*, Edition 6, by James Heneretta.
- *Clashing Views in United States History, Volume II, Reconstruction to the Present*, 2015.
- **Please note that one copy of both of the above texts will be on reserve at the AVC library.**

**The Importance of Using Blackboard and Launch Pad for this Class:**

- **All assignments, quizzes, study guides, instruction and help guides**, as well as news, announcements, schedule changes, my **Power Point lectures**, and most of your readings and documents **will be either on the course Blackboard or Launch Pad site.**
- **It is YOUR responsibility:**
  - A) To complete the required readings, retrieve postings and turn-in assignments **on schedule.**
  - B) To watch for possible changes to our schedule via email and **Blackboard.**
  - C) **To be prepared for class**, especially when we have discussions.
- Note that the AVC computer lab provides access to the class website and limited printing privileges.

**To access the course Blackboard website, follow these directions:**

1. Go to: <http://www.avc.edu/>.
2. Under the "Academics" headline, click on the *Blackboard* link.
3. Log-in, using your *MyAVC* username & password.
4. Click on your course number: (**Course #76037**).

**ATTENDANCE will taken TWOMINUTES after the scheduled beginning of each class. At THAT POINT, NO ONE is allowed in the room.**

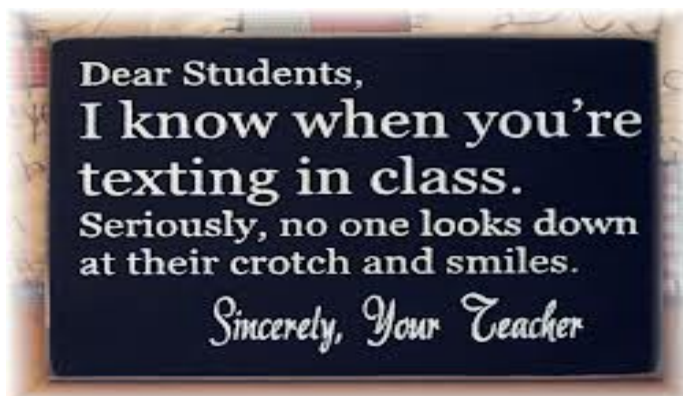
- A. Note that it **is your responsibility** to be sure that you are counted as present.
- B. Following AVC Rules in the college catalogue, **the instructor may drop a student from the course after three absences without prior notice.**
- C. **An Excused Absence is ONE of the Following:** Participation in an AVC-related event, written proof from doctor or hospital, or proof of court date, jury duty, military service, funeral service, or tow truck or car mechanic receipt.
- D. I will **NOT** inform you if you are coming close to being dropped. You are responsible for keeping track of your attendance record.
- E. **It is ultimately YOUR responsibility** to drop the class before the deadline to avoid either a "W" or a Failing Grade.
- E. If you do miss a class, **it is your responsibility to keep up with the class on the website, to meet any deadlines, or to get any material on the website.**

**Classroom Rules of Etiquette/Behavior:**

1. There will be **ZERO** tolerance for using cell phones or any other electronic apparatus for **texting, twittering, face booking, playing games, etc.**, or **web surfing during class time.** Violators may be told to leave and will be marked absent. Persistent violators will face a formal two-day suspension from class and all the consequences that follow.
  - A. **CELL PHONES & ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE IN THE SILENT MODE DURING CLASS** (unless it's being used for classroom purpose).
  - B. Those who attempt to sleep during class will be told to stand to or leave and be marked absent.
  - C. Those seen talking with others during lecture will be asked to be quiet or leave and marked absent.
  - D. **No backpacks, bags or purses will be allowed on the desk during class.** Both hands should be visible to the instructors during class.
  - E. Using headphones is not allowed during class. Violators will face the same set of rules and consequences as those using cell phones, etc.
  - F. One can **NOT** wear sunglasses in class without a doctor's written prescription.
  - G. Students intoxicated or under the influence of drugs will be reported to the campus sheriff.
  - H. **Respect for the instructor and for each other, including differing opinions, is expected.**
  - I. Consult the **Guidelines of Student Conduct** in the AVC catalogue for more information.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Last Day to Add (In Person/On web)	September 4th/7th
Last Day to Drop with a full refund (In Person/On Web)	September 4th/7th
Last day to elect pass/no pass option (In Person/On Web)	September 4th
Last day to submit Credit by Exam petition	September 18th
Last day to drop without a "W" – (In person/On Web)	November 13th

**Important Assignment Policies to Follow:**

- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED IN AN ELECTRONICALLY PRINTED FORMAT. NO ASSIGNMENTS TURNED-IN HANDWRITTEN WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **Multiple page assignments must be stapled or points may be deducted.**
- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME, YOUR CLASS (INCLUDING DAY & TIME), THE ASSIGNMENT, AND THE DATE.**
- **The instructor has the right to refuse any assignment that comes in an unacceptable form. In case of an emergency, please note my e-mail address and phone extension.**
- **Assignments are to be 1 ½ space, size 11 font (Times New Roman), with standard margins.**

**Grading:** You will need to complete a number of assignments to be successful. There will be a (1) course description quiz, six (6) online quizzes, five (5) article discussions, two (2) informal discussions, three (3) map quizzes, a (1) preliminary thesis statement/outline/bibliography for your (1) research paper, a (1) comprehensive final exam and a (1) student learning outcome quiz. Extra Credit is also available. **The grading breaks down as follows:**

**Required Assignments & Projects:**

Course Description Quiz (1)	-15 points
Online Quizzes (6)	-60 points (10 points each)
Article Discussions (5)	-125 points (25 points each)
Informal Discussions (2)	-30 points (15 points each)
Map Quizzes (3)	-30 points (10 points each)
Preliminary Outline, etc.	-30 Points
Six Page Research Paper	-75 Points
Comprehensive Final Exam (1)	-75 Points
Student Learning Outcome Quiz (1)	-10 Points
“Intangibles”	???

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**Total possible**

**450 Points\***

**Course Grading Scale:**

A=450-405

B=404.5-360

C=359.5-315

D=314.5-270

F=269.5 or less

\*Excluding Any Extra Credit.

**“All I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by...”-Poet John Masefield,  
Captain James T. Kirk and Captain Jean Luc Picard,  
Starship Enterprise.**

**Honors Option:** This class DOES have an Honors Option and appropriate projects for the Honors Program. If you want to do this in my class, you need to speak with me about it as quickly as possible. For information, go to <http://www.avc.edu/honors/> for details.

**Course Description Quiz:** Near the beginning of the semester, we will take time for a short quiz on THIS course description, which will be worth 15 points, to make sure you know about this course!! **Regardless, you are responsible to know all class rules, obligations and expectations.**

**Online Quizzes:** During the semester, there will be six (6) online quizzes, each with 10 questions for 10 points. The questions for the quizzes will be based on your readings from you're a America: A *Concise History, Volume II* textbook, and through the *Launch Pad* site. Though reminders are usually sent to your email, **it is ultimately your responsibility to take the quizzes by the due date.** Here are some other important points/rules about the quizzes:

1. **You will have two chances and 35 minutes on each quiz.** Note that although you will have two chances, the quizzes are NOT exactly alike. Your highest grade will be the one that counts.
2. Though reminders will be sent & are listed on the course syllabus, **it is ultimately your responsibility** to take the quizzes by the due date.
3. **If a technical problem occurs, inform the instructor as soon as possible.**
4. **Make-up quizzes will only be allowed IF the quiz has BEEN taken.** In other words, **if you miss the deadline, you lose your chance to take the quiz** (unless approved by the instructor).
5. The six quizzes will be worth a total of 60 points towards your final score.

**Article Discussions:**

1. On Five (5) different occasions, you will have an assignment to prepare based on articles on *Blackboard*.
2. Each student will have a prepared an electronically printed “bullet list” of short paragraphs answers to the questions from their article on the day the assignment is due. **(NO HANDWRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED).**
3. In addition, each student will also complete a list of three questions about another article.
4. Some assignments will require a second “bullet list,” responding to the articles and questions from your side reader, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in U.S. History, Vol II*.
5. Once in class, students will divide into small groups, based on your articles. There, each group will make a composite summary “bullet list” of their own article and a list of agreed questions (three should be the goal) for the other group’s article, which will be used in class discussion.
6. In sum, **each individual bullet list(s) is worth 15 points, while the group summary & questions will be worth 10 points, making each discussion assignment worth 25 points.** **The five discussion assignments together are worth 125 points in the course.**
7. **Students not prepared for discussion (written assignment not completed) will not be allowed to stay in the class.**
8. Make sure and keep all your discussions for use in a final document at the end of the semester.

- I will accept a late assignment **ONLY** if you have an **EXCUSED** absence (see what qualifies as an **EXCUSED** absence in the rules listed under **ATTENDANCE**). Make-up work will be done as a full essay on Part One and then the rest of the assignment as normal.



**Informal Discussions:** Using the same group format, on two (2) different occasions, each student from a group will have read the assigned short articles. Though **NO** individual written work is required, students are still expected to participate and present a group summary to the class of their reading. Each informal discussion is worth 15 points or 30 points for both.

**Map Quizzes:** Three (3) online map quizzes through **Launch Pad** are included in this class to emphasize basic geographical knowledge as an important part of history. They are always due before class on Tuesday. Each quiz is worth 10 points or 30 points for all three.

**Preliminary Thesis Statement, Outline & Bibliography:** In preparation for your Research Paper, a preliminary thesis statement and outline of your research paper will be required part-way into the semester, as well as a bibliography of the sources you have acquired or plan to get. **This assignment is worth 30 Points.**

**Research Paper:** Near the end of the semester, **each student will be required to complete a minimum six-page MLA style research paper.** In addition, using MLA-style in-text citations and providing a bibliography (which is NOT part of the six pages) **are a required** part of the assignment, as is **submitting all your answers to the questions and your endnotes/bibliography together to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)**, which will check for problems of plagiarism and grammar. **If you do NOT know how to write MLA-style, it is *YOUR RESPONSIBILITY* to learn it.** I will spend some time in class on it and there will be a link on the **Blackboard** page on MLA style. You can also seek help/advice during my office hours or at the **Student Learning Center**. You will have the opportunity to look at the report supplied by *Turnitin* to see if you need to make any corrections, **if you submit it early. The Due Date is Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:55pm. This assignment is worth 75 points.** More information is available on this assignment on the **Blackboard** site.





“You said you wanted an early American house AND it does have a few modern conveniences including central air and heating.”

**Comprehensive Final Exam:** The In-Class Final Exam will be comprehensive, closed book and notes exam, with short essay questions based largely on the lectures and Power Point presentations. About a week before the exam, a study guide with the questions will be made available on **Blackboard**. **The exam itself is worth 75 Points.**

**The Student Learning Outcome Quiz** will be just prior to the In-Class Final. It will be a multiple choice quiz on the **The Student Learning Outcomes** listed above, **worth 10 points**. A study guide will be provided a week before to prepare.

**“Intangibles”**: Are not “formal” points per say, but these are things I keep in mind when it comes to dispensing final grades. For example, they include the following:

- Having a good attitude and keeping interest.
- Participating in general discussion
- Asking questions about materials in the text, about the assignments and history in general.
- Demonstrating knowledge and comprehension of the topic & the reading materials.
- Being prepared, “looking prepared,” acting and dressing as an adult.

**Motto at Morehouse College** (where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. went to school):  
*“Excuses are tools of the incompetent, used to build bridges to nowhere and monuments of nothingness.”*

**Extra Credit:** If you can complete half (three pages) of a rough draft of your term paper and go over it with me during office hours or go to the Student Learning Center for tutoring (include proof) by the deadline on the syllabus, you can gain **25 Points of Extra Credit!!** *No late submissions allowed.*



### My Grading “Matrix”:

How do I grade your work? The ability to integrate #2-5 of our **Course Objectives** (on page one) is a great start. But for more detail, although all of these may not apply, this chart below gives you more ideas of what I look for (If you have more questions, please ask or see me during office hours):

- A=** Excellent critical analysis, ability to compare and connect with other historical topics, effective use of key terminology, recognition of historical significance, as well as written with detail and organization.
- B=** Good critical analysis, but could have been more detailed/length, missing commentary on historical significance, or minor problems with grammar and/or organization.
- C=** Average critical analysis, lacking detail, no connections seen with other historical topics, only satisfactory length, and/or more serious issues with grammar and/or organization.
- D=** Inadequate critical analysis, or poor explanation/understanding of the issues, severely lacking depth or serious issues with grammar and/or organization, and/or insufficient quality for college level work

**Reasonable Accommodations:** If you have a legally protected disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or California discrimination law, and you believe you need reasonable accommodation to participate fully in this class, please make an appointment to see me during my private office hours to discuss your need.

### Important Recommendations for the class:

- **Always keep an electronic copy of your work on your hard drive/flash drive, etc.!**
- **When e-mailing me, PLEASE tell me which class you’re in!!** It saves me a lot of time.
- **Check out your e-mail on a frequent basis to receive notices, etc. Remember that YOU are ultimately responsible to complete your assignments on time.**
- **NO E-MAILED WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED, unless I give you permission.**
- **Keep all work given back to you** (to verify your grade, if necessary).

**Plagiarism/Academic honesty:** The faculty at Antelope Valley College takes academic dishonesty **very seriously**. Note that dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class.

Plagiarism is the most common form of academic dishonesty, and is particularly a problem in short essays and term papers. Any students, who appear to have copied each other’s work, copied a paper off the internet or have used any other source directly without paraphrasing or citing that source in the student’s footnotes/bibliographies will receive an “F” for that assignment. Any makeup work following such an infraction will be able to only receive a “C” grade. Lastly, the name(s) of those guilty will be sent on to the Dean of Students. If you have any additional questions about plagiarism, *please ask me!*