

## **HIST 105: American Ways Course Syllabus<sup>1</sup>, Fall 2013**

“The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.” –L. P. Hartley, *The Go-Between*  
 “The foolish and the dead alone never change their opinions.” –James Russell Lowell

**Instructor:** Ms. Michelle Tiedje

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**Office:** Room 1028 Oldfather Hall

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:45-10:45 a.m., Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m., and by appointment

**Lecture Times:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Room 205 Burnett Hall

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course will examine the development and history of American society and culture. We will survey and discuss the major social, cultural, political, economic, and technological developments in American history that led us to where we are today. Moving backward from the present, we will spend two to three weeks examining each of the following themes: American history today, war and the American State, technology, political development and change, immigration and identity, and reform movements and utopianism. Emphasis will be placed upon issues of race, class, and gender throughout the semester.

As this is a seminar, most class meetings will include both lecture and discussion. Students must come to class having completed all the assigned readings by their due date in order to be successful in this course. Readings will usually consist of primary source materials such as speeches, newspaper or magazine articles, letters, diaries, images, and films. A total of three books are required for this course (out of a selection of six). Evaluation will be based upon participation, a midterm exam, a final exam, and a final paper.

This course addresses the following A.C.E. outcomes:

- **Ace Outcome 5:** Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and issues.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- to give students the opportunity to do history by locating and evaluating evidence, crafting forceful arguments, and engaging with historical scholarship.
- to improve fluency and proficiency in writing and historical thinking.
- to improve students' abilities to express complex ideas orally.
- to develop substantial content knowledge of American history--the people, structures, events, and ideas that continue to shape contemporary America.

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<sup>1</sup> The instructor reserves the right to make changes to any aspect of this syllabus. Students will be notified of such changes via one Blackboard announcement, one e-mail (to the e-mail address the student has listed on Blackboard), and at least one in-class announcement.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Students are required to read a total of **three** books for the course: ***one of the following to co-lead a discussion section on:***

- ⌚ Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).
- ⌚ Ella Cara Deloria, *Waterlily* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009).
- ⌚ Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2004).

AND ***two of the following to use as evidence in an exam essay:***

- ⌚ Kay Graber, Ed., *Sister to the Sioux: The Memoirs of Elaine Goodale Eastman, 1885-1891* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004).
- ⌚ Upton Sinclair, *The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 2006).
- ⌚ Monica Stone, *Nisei Daughter* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979).
- ⌚ Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard/MyUNL (in Course Documents under the heading “Additional Readings”). Since a large portion of the seminar will focus on discussion it is essential that students access and read all materials by their due date (listed on the Course Schedule below).
- ⌚ Problems accessing Blackboard/MyUNL should be addressed via the UNL Help Desk at 402-472-3970 or [mysupport@unl.edu](mailto:mysupport@unl.edu). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are properly and officially registered for this course.

Students are also encouraged to approach the instructor for reading recommendations in areas of interest to them.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Participation - **25%**

- includes attendance (5%), discussion posts (10%), discussion participation (10%)

Annotated bibliography and thesis draft for final paper - **10%**

- due in class Thursday, October 3rd

Final paper - **25%**

- draft due in class Thursday, November 7th
- final draft due in class Thursday, December 5th

Midterm exam - **20%**

- in class Thursday, October 17th

Final exam - **20%**

- scheduled *by the university* for Monday, December 16th, 3:30-5:30 p.m. in our regular lecture room (205 Burnett Hall).

**Note:** Students with disabilities are strongly urged to meet with and/or contact the instructor for a *confidential* discussion of their person requirements for academic accommodation. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has an established procedure for accommodating students with documented disabilities. After confidentially notifying the

instructor of an existing disability, the student must contact and register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration Building, (402) 472-3787 (voice) or (402) 472-0053 (TTY). Accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis. For more information on SSD, visit <http://www.unl.edu/ssd/>

**Note:** All UNL students have access to and are encouraged to visit [the UNL Writing Center](#). The Center's provides free help to students in outlining, organizing, drafting, and revising papers of all kinds. Visit the Center's website for specific information on location, hours, and appointments.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A + = 100%	B + = 87 – 89%	C + = 77 – 79%	D + = 67 – 69%	F = 59% or
A = 93 – 99%	B = 83 – 86%	C = 73 – 76%	D = 63 – 66%	below
A - = 90 – 92%	B - = 80 – 82%	C - = 70 – 72%	D - = 60 – 62%	

\*You are encouraged to approach the instructor as early as possible if you realize or believe you are having trouble in the course.

### **POLICY REGARDING USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Use of computers (laptops, netbooks, tablets) is permitted in this class. However, all other electronic devices are to be turned off and put away from the time that class starts until it ends. If you are expecting an important call please let me know before class begins, set your phone to “vibrate,” and quietly leave the room when/if you need to take the call.

- Do your very best to only use your computer for academic work while in class.
- Sleeping, talking, reading the paper, doing homework for other classes, and so forth are likewise inappropriate and will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to deal with violations of course policy as I see fit.

### **OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES:**

- ⌚ **Attendance:** Regular attendance is critical to your success in this course, will be taken daily, and will be factored into your grade. Students are also expected to ensure their e-mail associated with Blackboard/MyUNL is correct and check Blackboard/MyUNL on a regular basis for important class-related announcements.
- ⌚ **Late assignments/make-ups:** Late assignments and/or make-ups are generally not acceptable. The only exceptions are for excused cases, of which the instructor is notified in advance. These cases include (but are not limited to): illness, military service, personal hardship, death in the immediate family, and university required events for student athletes. Assignments and papers must be submitted in hard copy form in class; e-mails of assignments and papers are unacceptable. Late assignments may be penalized up to one full letter grade for each day they are late.

- ⌚ **Bluebooks:** Each student must provide two of their own bluebooks (or greenbooks) to use for the exams (midterm & final). Bluebooks can be purchased from the University Bookstore and a number of other local retailers.
- ⌚ **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be discussed in greater detail later in the semester; however, students should be aware that any and all forms of plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. If any student is discovered cheating and/or plagiarizing in this course, the instructor reserves the right to deal with the violation of the university Code of Conduct as she sees fit. *Students caught cheating and/or plagiarizing may receive an F for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or be reported to the Dean of the college in which they are enrolled.* For further information on Academic Dishonesty, consult the UNL Code of Conduct (particularly section 4.2): <http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three.shtml>
- ⌚ **Pass/No Pass Option:** Any student who fails to complete at least 25% of the course requirement will automatically be given an F for the course. *This includes students taking this course as Pass/No Pass.*
- ⌚ **Grade of Incomplete:** The instructor will only consider awarding a grade of incomplete for students who have completed at least 75% of the course requirements AND can demonstrate that they have a legitimate reason (“illness, military service, hardship, or death in the immediate family”) for being unable to complete the course requirements by the end of the semester. The awarding of grades of incomplete is determined on a case-by-case basis and should generally be a last resort. For more information on university guidelines regarding incompletes, see the Academic Services Handbook on the UNL website.
- ⌚ Students must wait a full 24 hours after receiving a graded assignment, paper, or exam before approaching the instructor with questions. This gives students the time necessary to read the instructor's comments, reread the assignment/paper/exam, think it all over, and formulate serious questions for the instructor.

### **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES:**

Consult UNL’s Academic Calendar to confirm these and other deadlines:

September 3, 2013	Last day for late registration & late adds AND last day to drop a course and receive a 100% refund
September 6, 2013	Last day to drop a course and receive a 75% refund AND last day to file a drop to remove course from student's record
September 13, 2013	Last day to withdraw from a course and receive a 50% refund
September 20, 2013	Last day to withdraw from a course and receive a 25% refund
October 18, 2013	Last day to change a course registration to OR from “Pass/No Pass”
November 15, 2013	Last day to withdraw from one or more courses for the term