

## Syllabus HISTORY 1302, United States History from 1877

Fall 2021: Hist1302.004: T-R 11:00AM – 12:15PM, LIB 337

Instructor: Scott Buchanan, Ph.D.

Email: [sbuchanan@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:sbuchanan@southplainscollege.edu)  
[docsb07@gmail.com](mailto:docsb07@gmail.com)

**WARNING:** there are two of us on campus, **make sure** you are contacting **the History Professor!**

Office: LIB 330 Levelland Campus

Office Hours:

**M:** 12:15 – 1:00PM, 2:15 - 3:30PM

**\*T:** 2:15PM – 2:30PM, 3:45PM – 4:15PM in RC319

**W:** 12:15 – 1:00PM, 2:15 - 3:30PM

**\*TH:** 2:15 – 2:30PM in RC319

**F:** 10:30 – 12:30PM, and by appointment

**\*Tuesday - Thursday office hours are at Reese Center Bldg. 3, Room RC319**

Office Phone: (806) 716-2465

Textbook: Pauline Maier, *et al*, *Inventing America: A History of the United States*, Vol. 2.

Reading: George Orwell, *1984*

Other readings provided by professor

There are three primary objectives for the student of American history at the college level. First is the acquisition of facts about American history that will give the student a degree of cultural literacy that is required for an individual to be considered college educated. Second is to imbue and develop in the student a faculty for critical thinking when addressing political, economic, cultural or social issues and institutions. The third objective is the combination of one and two. To create opinions and discussions rooted in fact and refined by the student's own logic.

This course will commence with the political and social settlements of the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction eras. We will proceed through the Gilded Age, the World Wars, the birth of the modern era, and the Cold War and post-Cold War eras. The instructor will focus on the political, technological, military and economic facets of the material. Religious, social and cultural history will not be ignored, but will be secondary themes.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in the class should notify this instructor and the Special Services Office at the beginning of the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611 ext. 2529, 2530.

**Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days:** A student who is absent from classes for the observation of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.

**\*GRADE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE SENT VIA EMAIL\***

**\*STUDENTS SHOULD CHECK THEIR GRADES WITH THE INSTRUCTOR\***

**\*LAPTOPS OR CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED\***

**\*STUDENTS USING ELECTRONICS DURING CLASS WILL BE DROPPED\***

**\*DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING DROPPED\***

**Extra-Credit:** Often during the semester students will find themselves in need of an extra-credit assignment to offset poor exam performance or an attendance issue. Students opting to undertake this assignment will produce a book review four pages in length over a historical monograph they have selected with the instructor's approval (see book review instructions below). The student will turn in a typed, double-spaced, twelve-point font, four page review of the work and meet with him during his regularly posted office hours to discuss the concepts of the work. This meeting will not normally exceed twenty minutes. The application of the extra-credit points will be agreed on before the project commences. Extra-credit assignments will improve the final grade **up to** five percent if completed satisfactorily. An additional two percent may be earned by reading the completed assignment to the class.

### Book Review Instructions

Begin with complete bibliographical information: author's name, full title, series name (if the book is part of a series), place of publication, publisher and date. Most reviewers even add the number of pages. This material is presented single-spaced, and serves as the title of the review.

The first part of the review tends to be descriptive, because a reader needs to know immediately what is being discussed. Sometimes a reviewer starts with the thesis of the book: What is the author trying to prove? What arguments support the thesis? What are the sources of evidence and how is this evidence used? Sometimes a reviewer begins with the author: is he or she an "authority"? What is the author's background? What major works has the author produced? A reviewer may want to signal stylistic qualities and special format features (maps, illustration, footnotes, bibliography, etc.). In some journals reviews are nothing more than description.

A good scholarly review, however, is also analytical. The reviewer wants to tell readers whether a particular book should be treasured or trashed. To do so he or she praises and criticizes. Sometimes these judgments can be anticipated in the initial description: sometimes a book is described first and then the reviewer adds a subsequent paragraph or two showing how the project succeeds or fails. The closing sentences often summarize the analysis.

When you review a book for History 1302, you may not be an expert on the subject matter, but you can still do more than simply describe an author's project. Are the thesis and its supporting arguments clearly presented? Is the author's methodology logical and consistent? Is all the relevant evidence fairly used? Are you convinced? To get expert help, do not hesitate to see what other reviewers have done: use book review guides in the library to find two or more scholarly review, and quote them in your own review if they make useful observations.

The first page of your book review should be organized as follows:

Sample Page One:

Rebecca Zadig

October 25, 2021

History 1301: Survey of U.S. History to 1876

Dr. Scott Buchanan

Carlo Ginzburg, *Ecstasies, Deciphering the Witches' Sabbath*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004 (1991). Translated by Raymond Rosenthal. (First published in Italian as *Storia notturna: Una decifrazione del Sabba*, 1989). Illustrations, footnotes, bibliography. ISBN-13: 978-0226296937

In *Ecstasies, Deciphering the Witches' Sabbath* Carlo Ginzburg advances the argument that early modern witchcraft . . .