INTRODUCTION

This 100% on-line course surveys the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the end of the 20th century.

Together, we will explore a number of themes as we examine our nation’s past. We will examine the changing and contested meaning of what it means to be an American. Who or what defines “Americanness” and how has that changed over time? How has the United States reconciled the seemingly contradictory ideals of freedom and equality? In what ways has our nation always been diverse, multi-cultural, and global? How do we envision our nation as it interacts with other nations and peoples around the world? How do Americans define progress and does progress always benefit everyone equitably? How do we reconcile competing interests? In what ways can we bring nature into our story as a historical actor and as a subject of study?

I look forward to sharing some of my favorite aspects of studying history with all of you. I hope that by the end of the semester, you will have developed an interest in a historical topic that is new to you!

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS

This course will require you to devote approximately seven hours each week to the course readings, lectures, and documentaries, as well as various assignments and assessments. You must have regular and reliable access to the Internet, a good web browser (Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox recommended), and a word-processing program such as Microsoft Word.

Although this course uses technology to deliver and assess mastery of content, the primary intent and focus of this course is to strengthen your understanding of United States History as well as your ability to analyze primary and secondary sources in the same way that professional historians do.

Students who successfully complete 100% on-line courses have excellent time-management skills, effectively use technology to communicate, can persevere and solve problems, and show initiative in asking for clarification or support.

Here is a good tool for you to use to determine your readiness for an on-line class: Mira Costa College Distance Education Quiz
RESOURCES

Students will read primary source documents or short articles and chapters, or view clips from online documentaries and lectures in order to prepare for quizzes, on-line discussions, and writing assignments. All of these sources can be accessed via Canvas. There is no required textbook for you to buy for this class. All assignments will include links. Remember, for off-campus access to the College of the Canyons Library databases - user name: milk - password: honey.

The course can be accessed via Canvas on the first day of the course. Follow the login instructions at the bottom of the screen to log in. You can also access Canvas user guides with helpful tips for navigating and using Canvas. For any Canvas related issues please call the Canvas Student Support line at (661)362-3344 during college business hours, or (877)889-9052 for 24/7 support.

Check out the Distance Learning website for more information on a variety of topics that can help you be a successful online student such as: exam proctoring, learning styles, computer skills, and tips for student success.

WHAT YOU WILL DO IN THIS COURSE

Students will advance through the course via a series of weekly modules. Each will contain a collection of primary and secondary sources in a variety of formats including print, visuals, and media.

Students will analyze each source in relation to the central question of the week, as well as in relation to each other. Students will participate in discussions, write reflections, take short quizzes on each source, and write analytically about historical questions.

Students will also complete one independent research paper of 1000 words using sources exclusively from the digital archives at The American Presidency Project. Directions and topic choices will be included in the modules.

Grades will be based on completion, mastery of the content, depth of analysis, quality of contributions, and accuracy and clarity of communication. All assignments will be directly related to the sources contained in each module.

FIRST DAY OF CLASS

To indicate your commitment to remaining in History 112, please log in to our class in Canvas on the first or second day of the session and respond to the following in the discussion for Module 1:

- Introduce yourself – name, major or area of focus, where are you in your course of study at COC?
- Have you taken an online course before? If so, what advice do you have for your fellow students? If not, what is your major concern?
- Describe your experience with history classes? When was the last time you took a history class? What did you study? What did you enjoy about the class?
- What are you looking forward to learning about modern United States history during this course?
College of the Canyons DSPS provides educational services and access for eligible students with documented disabilities who intend to pursue coursework at COC. A variety of programs and services are available which afford eligible students with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the college programs and activities through appropriate and reasonable accommodations. For more information on their services visit the Disabled Students Program & Services website.