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### **The Development of American Culture (79-240)**

This is an introductory survey of American history from the colonial era to recent times. It focuses on cultural issues instead of presidents, wars, and chronological facts. The major theme of the course is how the meanings of “freedom” have changed over 300 years. The learning objectives for this course are for students to be able to:

- Understand major debates about political, economic, and personal freedom over 300 years of American life;
- Interpret primary sources (both documents and books) orally and in writing, using the background information provided in lectures;
- Write formal essays that analyze assigned books, by placing them in the context of what freedom meant at particular times in history; and
- Demonstrate mastery, on midterm exams, of major ideas and relevant facts from Eric Foner’s *The Story of American Freedom*.

Grades are based upon an interpretation exercise (week two, 5 points), a quiz on the Bill of Rights (week five, 5 points), two midterms (20 points each), one short essay (15 points), a final paper (25 points), and attendance/participation (10 points) including pop quizzes in recitations, *should they be necessary*.

Attendance is taken at all lectures and recitations sections.

#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

Foner, *The Story of American Freedom* (Norton)  
Kennedy/Eisenhower, *The United States Constitution: What it Says, What it Means* (Oxford)  
Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (Beacon)  
Blight, *A Slave No More* (Harcourt)  
Standiford, *Meet You in Hell* (Three Rivers)  
Beals, *Warriors Don’t Cry* (Simon Pulse)  
O’Brien, *If I Die in a Combat Zone* (Broadway)

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/>

**Your One and Only Warning:  
Zero Tolerance of Cheating & Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means using words, ideas, or arguments from another person or source without acknowledgment. Cite all sources consulted to any extent (including material from the internet), whether or not assigned and whether or not quoted directly. For quotations, four or more words used in sequence must be set off in quotation marks *and* the source must be identified by both a citation within the paper and on a separate page identifying all "Sources Consulted" -- *not* "Works Cited" (notice the distinction?).

Any form of cheating on assignments will immediately earn you an 'R' grade for *the entire course*. **By choosing to remain enrolled in my course, you consent to this policy.**

In addition, I will seek the harshest official penalties under CMU's cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance policies at:

<http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity/>

*and*

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Academic%20Integrity.htm>

You are also urged to review the relevant section of your Carnegie Mellon student handbook ("The Word"):

[http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/acad\\_standards/integrity.html](http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/acad_standards/integrity.html)

Many students are surprised that CMU's definition of cheating encompasses a wide range of actions that you might not expect to be prohibited. *One example is unauthorized collaboration with other people.*

If you have never taken time to read these guidelines in the student handbook, it is in your best interest to do so today. Save us both some time and grief, OK?

**WEEK ONE: AMERICAN CULTURES**

Mon, 31 Aug: Lecture, "How Two Plagues Killed 25 Million"

Wed, 2 Sept: Lecture, "How Joe Camel Conquered Virginia"

Read before class: Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*, Introduction

(To give you time to buy the required books, a PDF of Foner's Intro & Ch. 1 is available at <http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/>)

Fri, 4 Sept: Discussion

Read before class: Foner, ch. 1

**WEEK TWO: CITY UPON A HILL**

Mon, 7 Sept: NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

Reading assignment: "What Really Happened at the Boston Massacre?"  
<http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/>

Wed, 9 Sept: Lecture, "How to Stuff a Wild Turkey"

Read *again* before class: "What Really Happened at the Boston Massacre?"  
<http://www.cmu.edu/blackboard/>

Fri, 11 Sept: Discussion

Read before class: Young, *The Shoemaker...*, pp. vii-57

>> Interpretation Exercise due in sections (5 points): Write a 2-page (typed) story of what you think happened at the Boston Massacre. On a 3rd page, a) list eyewitnesses you did/did not believe; and b) write a paragraph about how you made your judgments. <<

**WEEK THREE: HISTORY VERSUS MEMORY**

Mon, 14 Sept: Lecture, "How jcrew.com sells the 'American Paradox' "

Read before class: Young, pp. 58-91

Wed, 16 Sept: Lecture, "How to Tame a Wild Revolution"

Read before class: Young, pp. 92-131

Fri, 18 Sept: Discussion

Read before class: Foner, ch. 2

**WEEK FOUR: GOT RIGHTS?**

Mon, 21 Sept: Lecture, "Why 'Amazing Grace' Sounds So Sweet"

No reading assignment

>> Short essay (15 points) due: upload to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. <<

Wed, 23 Sept: Lecture, "Why the Constitutional Convention Wasn't BYOB"

Read before class: *United States Constitution: What it Says, What it Means* (pp. iii-25)

Fri, 25 Sept: Discussion

Read Before Class: *Constitution* (pp. 25-50)

**WEEK FIVE: SPECULATORS AND SPINSTERS**

Mon, 28 Sept: Lecture, "Why 'Hard Times Come Again . . .'"

Read Before Class: Foner, ch. 3

Wed, 30 Sept: Film: "Sins of Our Mothers"

Read before class: Foner, ch. 4

Fri, 2 Oct: Discussion

Read before class: Foner, ch. 5

>> Bill of Rights Quiz (5 points) <<

**WEEK SIX: TRUTH (AND TEARS) GO MARCHING ON**

Mon, 5 Oct: Lecture, "Why Cherokees Wore Stovepipe Hats"

Read before class: *Slave No More*, prologue and ch. 1 (pp. 1-54)

Wed, 7 Oct: Lecture, "How They Knew John Brown was Crazy"

Read before class: *Slave No More*, Ch. 2 (pp. 55-89)

Fri, 9 Oct: Discussion

Read before class: *Slave No More*, chs. 3-4 and "Author's note" (pp. 90-163)

**WEEK SEVEN: "THENCEFORWARD, AND FOREVER FREE" ... AGENTS**

Mon, 12 Oct: Lecture, "Why Abe Lincoln Returned that Stupid Book"

Read before class: *Slave No More*, Journal of Wallace Turnage (pp. 213-258) and skim footnotes (265-299)

Wed, 14 Oct: Lecture, "What Lady Liberty Holds Up"

Read before class: Foner, ch. 6

Fri, 16 Oct: Discussion

Read before class: *The Constitution*, Amendments 13-15

**WEEK EIGHT: "TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION . . ."**

Mon, 19 Oct: Exam Review Session

No reading assignment

Wed, 21 Oct: First midterm examination (essay format, 20 points)

Fri, 23 Oct: MID-SEMESTER BREAK – NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK

Reading for today: Standiford, *Meet You in Hell*, prelude and chs. 1-2 (pp. 3-28)

**WEEK NINE: OUR ILLUSTRIOUS FOUNDER**

Mon, 26 Oct: Lecture, "How J.D.R. Became S.O.C."

Read before class: Standiford, chs. 3-9 (pp. 29-105)

Wed, 28 Oct: Film: "Andrew Carnegie"

Read before class: Standiford, chs. 10-16 (pp. 109-179)

Fri, 30 Oct: Discussion

Read before class: Standiford, chs. 17-24 (pp. 180-258)

**WEEK TEN: MODERNISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS**

Mon, 2 Nov: Lecture, "How Gertrude Stein Proved Einstein's Theory of Picasso. Period!"

Read before class: Standiford, chs. 25-29 (pp. 259-310)

Wed, 4 Nov: Lecture, "How Toothbrushes Caused the Depression"

Read before class: Foner, pp. 146-151 and ch. 9

Fri, 6 Nov: Discussion

Read before class: Foner, ch. 10; and *The Constitution*, Amendments 16-22

**WEEK ELEVEN: OF THEE THEY SANG**

Mon, 9 Nov: Lecture, "Why it's Hard to Sing the National Anthem"

Read before class: Foner, ch. 11

Wed, 11 Nov: Lecture, "What They Did to Mrs. Till's Boy"

Read before class: Foner, ch. 12

Fri, 13 Nov: Discussion

Read before class: Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry*, chs. 1-4

**WEEK TWELVE: UNTAMED REVOLUTIONS**

Mon, 16 Nov: Lecture, "When the Ballot Box Became the Boob Tube"

Read before class: Beals, chs. 5-8

Wed, 18 Nov: Midterm Review Session

Read before class: Beals, chs. 9-14

Fri, 20 Nov: Discussion

Read before class: Beals, chs. 15-18 & Epilogue

**WEEK THIRTEEN: PROFESSOR SANDAGE IS A JERK**

Mon, 23 Nov: Second midterm examination (essay format, 20 points)

Wed, 25 Nov: NO LECTURE – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Read over break: O'Brien, chs. 1-4

Fri, 27 Nov: NO SECTIONS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Read over break: O'Brien, chs. 1-4

**WEEK FOURTEEN: WELCOME TO NIXONLAND**

Mon, 30 Nov: Lecture, "Why LBJ Thought We Were in Vietnam"

Read before Class: O'Brien, chs. 5-10

Wed, 2 Dec: Lecture, "What's So Tricky about Dick"

Read before Class: O'Brien, chs. 11-16

Fri, 4 Dec: Discussion

Read before Class: *Constitution*, Amendments 23-27

**WEEK FIFTEEN: ANOTHER TEA PARTY**

Mon, 7 Dec: Lecture, "What Happened Just Before You Did"

Read before class: O'Brien, chs. 17-23 (end)

Wed, 9 Dec: Final Lecture

Read before class: Foner, ch. 13

Fri, 11 Dec: Final Discussion

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Disabilities or special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Class year: \_\_\_\_\_ Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Your hero(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite book(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else I need to know about you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT GRADE RECORDS**

Interpretation exercise \_\_\_\_\_ out of 5 points

Bill of Rights quiz \_\_\_\_\_ out of 5 points

First midterm: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 20 points

Short essay: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 15 points

**MID-SEM LETTER GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Second midterm: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 20 points

Final paper: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 25 points

Attendance/participation: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 10 points

Pop Quiz Scores: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments on Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates absent: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_ (OUT OF 100)**

**FINAL SEMESTER LETTER GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_**