

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 576.01 (CID#4567)
CONTEMPORARY AMERICA, 1933 TO THE PRESENT
3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
FALL 2007

Location: AB4 452
Class Meeting: F, 12:30-3:30 pm
Instructor: James S. Olson his_jso@shsu.edu
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Instructor Office Hours: MW, 1-4; T, 8-9:30 and
3-4:30. <mailto:stdclg12@shsu.edu> <mailto:stdclg12@shsu.edu>

E-Mail Instructions

Dr. Olson will respond only to e-mails received through a current SHSU student account.

Course Objectives

1. Students will become familiar with the historiographical trends concerning slavery, ethnicity, and immigration during the twentieth century.
2. Students will become familiar with the history of U.S. Indian policy since 1789.
3. Students will become familiar with the history of U.S. immigration policy since 1789.
4. Students will improve their writing.

Required Texts

Oscar Handlin, *The Uprooted*.
John Higham, *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1880-1925*.
James S. Olson. *Equality Deferred: Race and Ethnicity in America Since 1945*.

Students Should Learn the Thesis of Theses of the Following Books

Acuna, Rodolfo. *Occupied America: The Chicano's Struggle Toward Liberation*. 1972.
Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts*. 1943.
Berlin, Ira. *Generations Gone: A History of African-American Slaves*. 2003.
Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*.
1998.
Bulosan. *America in the Heart: A Personal History*. 1946.
Brooks, James F. *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community*. 2002.
Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. 1919.
Crimm, Caroline Castillo. *De Leon: A Tejano Family History*. 2003.
Crosby, Alfred W. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*.
1972.
Crosby, Alfred W. *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900*.
2004.
De Leon, Arnaldo. *The Tejano Community, 1836-1900*. 1982.
Elkins, Stanley. *Slavery: A Problem in American Institutional Life*. 1959.

Fogel, Robert W. And Stanley L. Engerman. *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery*. 1974.

Genovese, Eugene. *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*. 1974.

Guttmann, Herbert. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom*. 1976.

Handlin, Oscar. *The Uprooted: The Epic Story of the Great Migrations that Made the American People*. 1951.

Higham, John. *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1880-1925*. 1955.

Krech, Shepherd. *The Ecological Indian: Myths and History*. 1999.

McWilliams, Carey. *North From Mexico*. 1949.

Morgan, Edmund S. *American Slavery, American Freedom*. 1975.

Moynihan, Daniel Patrick. *The Moynihan Report*. 1966.

Olson, James S. *Equality Deferred: Race and Ethnicity in America Since 1945*. 2002.

Phillips, Ulrich B.

Puzo, Mario. *The Fortunate Pilgrim*. 1964.

Rawick, George. *From Sunup to Sundown: The Making of the Black Community*. 1972.

Richter, Daniel K. *Facing East from Indian Country*. 2001.

Rolvaag, Ole E. *Giants in the Earth*. 1927.

Rodriguez, Richard. *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez*. 1982.

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*. 1906.

Stampp, Kenneth. *The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Antebellum South*. 1956.

Writing Assignments

Each student will have to write six 300-word book reviews from the above books; one 200-word essay on an obscure immigrant group; four 200-words essays on prominent immigrant leaders or immigration scholars; and one 2,000 word essay on the ethnic history of a state.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required. Students who attend class regularly are far more likely to succeed than students with frequent absences. Students will punish themselves by missing class frequently because their ability to do well on exams will be compromised. Student attendance will be recorded daily. Students should also realize, however, that final grades will be based exclusively on examination performance, not on attendance. At the end of the semester, if a student falls one to five points (total points, not percentage points!) below the next highest grade, and if the student's total absences for the semester are less than four, Dr. Olson will give the student the higher grade. Students should be aware that under new regulations, excessive absences could threaten federal financial aid eligibility. Students with questions about these regulations should consult the SHSU Financial Aid office.

Dropping the Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop a course. Students who decide to drop the course should do so by following the regulations of the Registrar's Office.

Course Schedule

The schedule of reading assignments and examinations is fluid depending upon the evolution of the course during the semester. Reading assignments and examination dates will be announced in class.

Grading Plan

Final grades will be derived from an average letter grade on all written assignments.

Extra Credit

There are no options for extra credit.

Learning Disabilities

Federal law requires that disabled students receive reasonable accommodations to assist them in completing course requirements. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically-related problems from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 926-294-1720. As a man with a physical disability and a modest learning disorder, Dr. Olson is happy to provide any reasonable assistance. Learning-disabled students must have the disability certified by the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Students should also realize that laziness is not a learning disability.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience, both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary action against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty consists primarily of copying another student's work and claiming it as your own or employing any type of written, audio, or video material during an exam to assist in answering questions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will immediately receive a grade of F for the entire course.

Cell Phone Use

Before class begins, students should turn off their cell phones so as to avoid disturbing Dr. Olson and other students. **USE OF A CELL PHONE IN CLASS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.** Students caught talking on a cell phone during class will lose 50 points for each occasion.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 8611001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and the instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the

missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off and stowed away before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using cellular phones, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in some other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Students engaging in disruptive behavior will have points subtracted from their final grade total. The assistant instructor will monitor individual behavior on a daily basis; when a disruption occurs, it will be noted. The student will then receive a warning. With the second breach of the code of conduct, and for each subsequent breach, twenty points will be deducted from a student's cumulative point total. It should be re-emphasized that each time a student is caught speaking into a cell-phone during class time will carry as penalty of 40 points. It should be obvious, therefore, that a continuing pattern of irresponsible behavior will have a severe impact on a student's final grade.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. Their attendance must not disrupt the class. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor may attend.