

HISTORY 151 U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1876 HIST 151.002
Colorado State University, Spring 2013
TR 9:30-10:45 A 206 Clark Hall

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-2:00 and by appointment

Course Description

History 151 is an introduction to American history from the end of the Reconstruction period to the recent past. The course focuses on such central themes and issues in the American experience as economic growth, institutional change, cultural development, and political democracy. Compared to other sections of this survey, the course is rigorous, requires a large volume of reading, and therefore isn't for everyone. **You should consider your needs and expectations carefully before choosing whether to remain enrolled.**

Course Goals

This class is designed not only to familiarize students with basic factual information about the history of the United States, but also to help them develop essential skills. These skills include the ability to read texts critically, to synthesize information logically, to write clearly, and to form opinions based on evidence. I set what I regard as high standards for the survey course and then help students in every way I can to *work* to meet those standards (note the emphasis). Students interested in learning more about my approach to teaching may refer to this book: Ken Bain, *What the Best College Teachers Do* (Cambridge, MA, 2004).

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, contribute actively to discussions, and complete all of the assigned readings by the date indicated. *I assume that students have read the assignments and will not summarize information from the textbook in lectures.* Everyone will take three essay exams and submit a review essay.

Course Grades

You must take all three exams and submit the review essay to pass the course. Final grades will be computed in the following manner: the exams and the review essay are each worth 25% of your final grade. Grades are awarded on a plus/minus basis: 90-92% is an A-; 88-89% is a B+, etc. Note that University policy does not allow instructors to assign C-, D+, or D- as final grades.

Books

The following four required books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation* Vol. 2, *from 1865*.

David von Drehle, *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America*.

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*.

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*.

Students are responsible for additional readings circulated in class.

Exam Bluebooks

In addition, each student must obtain three (3) *small* exam bluebooks, which are available in the Lory Student Center bookstore. Please bring one blank book to each of the three exams. It is your admission ticket. DON'T WRITE ANYTHING ON THEM, NOT EVEN YOUR NAME. You won't write your exam in the same bluebook you bring to the test.

Exams

Each exam will consist of identifications, one shorter essay, and one longer essay. Terms for the identification section will be available on RamCT. Shorter essays will address the books by Von Drehle, Boyle, and McGirr. Topics for the longer essay will be taken from the discussion questions presented in class. Students will receive a study guide prior to the first exam to help them prepare.

RamCT

This course includes a RamCT component that is intended as a supplement to class sessions, and not as a substitute for them. I deliberately reserve important elements of the course for class meetings to encourage students' attendance. The RamCT aspect of the course is always under development, and students' suggestions about how to use RamCT more effectively are most welcome.

Academic Integrity

This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the [General Catalog](#) and the [Student Conduct Code](#). Academic integrity is expected of all students. Submitting written work that is not your own will result in a zero for that portion of the course grade, and the instructor will refer the details of the case to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. In such a case, I reserve the right to recommend that the University take additional disciplinary action. More information about practicing academic integrity is provided by [The Institute for Learning and Teaching](#). Students will be given an opportunity to sign the honor pledge on their written work.

Make-ups

All students are expected to take exams according to the schedule in the syllabus. Make-up exams will be given only with written proof of personal illness, university-sanctioned absence, or family emergency.

Review Essays

Every student must write a review essay. During the second week of class, each student will sign up to write on one of the assigned books. The due dates for the essays are:

Von Drehle, <i>Triangle</i>	Mar 7
Boyle, <i>Arc of Justice</i>	Apr 25
McGirr, <i>Suburban Warriors</i>	May 2

Students must do more than just summarize the book under review. They must make a serious and thoughtful attempt to connect it to major course themes. *The quality of the writing will be a major factor in the grade assigned for each review.* A guide to writing review essays will be provided on RamCT. The instructor is available to discuss the review essay prior to the submission date.

**Papers are due by the beginning of class on the day specified.
No late papers will be accepted.**

Hints and Ground Rules

To increase your chances of success in this course:

1. Come to every class and keep up with the assigned readings.
2. Set aside adequate preparation time for exams. Learn the identification terms and write out practice IDs and essays. Take advantage of opportunities to practice your essay-writing before the exams. Study with other students as a part of your preparation, but don't rely on others to prepare for you. You must take the exam itself without anyone else's help (to do otherwise is cheating).
3. If you have a question or are having trouble, talk to the instructor or teaching assistant as soon as possible. You are encouraged to ask questions during or after class. The instructor is available in office hours every week to give students an opportunity to ask questions and get help.

The large number of students in the survey course means that we have to work together to ensure that the class runs smoothly. Please do the following:

1. Arrive on time and don't pack up to leave prior to being dismissed. Doing that is, *like*, so high school. I'll start and conclude on time.
2. Show respect to the instructor and other students by not talking during lecture or when someone is asking a question.
3. Turn off your cell phone while in class. ;-)

Course Schedule

- Week 1 Jan 22 & 24 Brinkley, Ch. 15; *Triangle*, pp. 1-34
- Week 2 Jan 29 & 31 Brinkley, Ch. 16-17; *Triangle*, pp. 35-138
- Week 3 Feb 5 & 7 Brinkley, Ch. 18-19; *Triangle*, pp. 139-218
- Week 4 Feb 12 & 14 Brinkley, Ch. 20; *Triangle*, pp. 219-268
- Week 5 Feb 19 & 21
 First Exam Thurs, Feb 21
- Week 6 Feb 26 & 28 Brinkley, Ch. 21; *Arc of Justice*, pp. 1-69
- Week 7 Mar 5 & 7 Brinkley, Ch. 22-23; *Arc of Justice*, pp. 70-169
 Essay Due Thurs, Mar 7: Von Drehle, *Triangle*
- Week 8 Mar 12 & 14 Brinkley, Ch. 24-25; *Arc of Justice*, pp. 170-259
- ** Mar 18-22 Spring Break ****
- Week 9 Mar 26 & 28 Brinkley, Ch. 26; *Arc of Justice*, pp. 260-346
- Week 10 Apr 2 & 4
 Second Exam Thurs, Apr 4
- Week 11 Apr 9 & 11 Brinkley, Ch. 27; *Suburban Warriors*, pp. 3-53
- Week 12 Apr 16 & 18 Brinkley, Ch. 28; *Suburban Warriors*, pp. 54-146
- Week 13 Apr 23 & 25 Brinkley, Ch. 29-30; *Suburban Warriors*, pp. 147-186
 Essay Due Thurs, Apr 25: Boyle, *Arc of Justice*
- Week 14 Apr 30 & May 2 Brinkley, Ch. 31; *Suburban Warriors*, pp. 187-273
 Essay Due Thurs, May 2: McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*
- Week 15 May 7 & 9 Brinkley, Ch. 32

Exam Three: Tues., May 14, 6:20-8:20pm A 206 Clark