

Aims Community College  
HIS 201, Section G16, U.S. History I  
Spring Semester 2009

Mr. Elijah Dicks

Office: 691B Westview Classroom Building

Office Hours: 3:00-5:00 p.m. M/W, or by appointment

Email: [edicks@aims.edu](mailto:edicks@aims.edu)

**Location:** Westview Classroom Building 682

**Class Time:** M,W, 5:45-7:00 p.m.

**No Prerequisites**

**3 Credit Hours**

**Specific Course Description:** U.S. History I explores the events, trends, peoples, groups, cultures, ideas, and institutions in North America and United States history, including the multiple perspectives of gender, class, and ethnicity, between the period when Native American Indians were the sole inhabitants of North America, and the American Civil War. This class focuses on developing, practicing, and strengthening the skills historians use while constructing knowledge in the discipline.

The State of Colorado has determined that this course has a learning objective of developing critical thinking and writing skills. Therefore, the course content and assignments are designed to work towards helping students become better critical thinkers and writers.

Students must pay at least 25% of their tuition by the first day of class, or they will be dropped and must re-register for class.

**Course Texts (Available at the Aims CC Bookstore)**

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, Second Edition, Volume I  
WW Norton, 2008

Frederick and Jeffrey, *American History Firsthand: Working with Primary Sources*,  
Second Edition, Volume I, Pearson Longman Press, 2008

**Course Grading Policy**

Aims Grading Scale: A, 90-100, B, 80-89, C, 70-79, D, 69-60, F, 59 and Below

Class Participation/Attendance	10% of Final Grade	
First Paper	15% of Final Grade	Due Feb. 18
Second Paper	20% of Final Grade	Due Apr. 8
Terms and Map Quizzes	20% (10% each)	Feb. 4, Mar. 25
Midterm	15% of Final Grade	Mar. 4
Final Exam	20% of Final Grade	TBA

The two quizzes will cover maps from the *Give Me Liberty!* text, as well as terms given in lecture by the instructor. The midterm will cover weeks one through eight, the final exam will cover weeks nine through fifteen.

Specific guidelines for the papers will be handed out and discussed in advance. The first paper is worth 15% of your grade, and should be 3 pages long (12 point font, double-spaced). The second paper is worth 20% of your grade, and should be 4 pages (12 point font, double-spaced). Both papers will be over specific topics from the *Discovering the American Past* text.

Extra-credit opportunities are available in the form of two optional papers (maximum of 5 points each, minimum of one page each, 12 point font, double-spaced), analyzing historical accuracies/inaccuracies of movie dealing with some aspect of American history.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Your success in History 201 depends on your active and thoughtful participation in our discussions. This demands that you read course assignments carefully before class and that you come prepared to ask pertinent questions, to voice your views and insights, to defend them when appropriate, and to listen carefully to what your classmates say about the issues at hand. Be sure to bring the relevant course texts to class each week, since we will consistently refer to them. Your class participation grade will be based on the quality (which is not identical to quantity) of your contributions.

If you have a scheduling conflict with an assignment, quiz, or exam, please contact me in advance and we will work something out. Otherwise, late work will not be accepted, and make-up quizzes or exams will not be allowed.

You are expected to attend all class meetings. If you become ill or face a family emergency, please notify me before class. Since your attendance is crucial, I enforce a strict attendance policy in the course. Two or more unexcused absences will cause your grade for the course to be lowered.

A general rule for the amount of study time required for any college course is two to three times the amount of class time. That means students should be prepared to spend 6-9 hours a week outside of class reading and studying for this course.

You are responsible for initiating your own adds, drops, and withdrawals from the course. A “drop” (deadline is Jan. 28) carries a refund and does not appear on the transcript. A “withdrawal” (deadline is Apr. 10) does not carry a refund, does appear on your transcripts and can negatively affect financial aid awards. You can add, drop, or withdraw online or at the General Services Building.

### **Standards of Student Conduct & Academic Standards Policy**

Aims Community College students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a lawful manner and in compliance with the college's standards of student conduct. Additionally, students are expected to practice academic honesty and to refrain from any form of cheating or plagiarism.

- Cheating is defined as intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- Plagiarism is defined as intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Breaches will result on disciplinary action up to and including being withdrawn from the course.

### **ADA Statement**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations are encouraged to contact the Academic Resource Center as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Students are also invited to inform me of any medical condition that that may affect them in class.

### **Learning Resources**

The Academic Resource Center in Horizon Hall has computers, tutoring, study courses, work space, and disability services. Greeley Phone (970) 339-6541, Loveland Phone (970) 667-4611 x3304, Ft. Lupton Phone (303) 857-4022 x4326.

### **Schedule and Assignments**

Week One (January 12, 14,): Introduction, A New World  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-46

Week Two (January 21): Beginnings of English America  
Monday, January 19: No Class (MLK Day)  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 2, pp. 50-87

Week Three (January 26, 28): Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750  
Wednesday, January 28: Last Day to Drop  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 3, pp. 90-127

Week Four (February 2, 4): Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire to 1763  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 4, pp. 130-169  
**Wednesday, February 4: First Quiz**

Week Five (February 9, 11): The American Revolution, 1763-1783  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 5, pp. 176-205

Week Six (February 16, 18): The Revolution Within  
**Wednesday, February 18: First Paper Due**  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 6, pp. 210-240

Week Seven (February 23, 25): Founding a Nation  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 7, pp. 244-273

Week Eight (March 2, 4): Securing the Republic  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 8, pp. 276-307  
**Wednesday, March 4: Midterm**

Week Nine (March 9, 11): The Market Revolution  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 9, pp. 310-346

Week Ten (March 16, 18): Democracy in America, 1815-1840  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 10, pp. 350-383

Week Eleven (March 23, 25): The Peculiar Institution  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 11, pp. 390-421  
**Wednesday, March 25: Second Quiz**

Week Twelve (March 30, April 1): An Age of Reform  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 12, pp. 426-457  
Wednesday, April 1: Last Day to Withdraw

Week Thirteen (April 6, 8): A House Divided  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 13, pp. 460-498

Week Fourteen (April, 13, 15): The Civil War 1861-1865  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 14, pp. 502-542  
**Wednesday, April 15: Second Paper Due**

Week Fifteen (April 22): Continue Civil War, Reconstruction, 1865-1877  
Readings: *Give Me Liberty!*, Chapter 15, pp. 546-581  
Monday, April 20: No Class (Spring Break)

Week Sixteen (April 27, 29): Continue Reconstruction, Wrap up

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 6, 5:45-7:35 p.m.**