Instructor: Ashley Riley Sousa
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Office: SS 2G, Hours posted on door
Phone: 408-741-2481

Course Description
History 017B is a survey of the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from Reconstruction to the present. Topics covered include Reconstruction, Native American culture and western settlement, Industrialization, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Twenties, the New Deal, and World War II. Also covered are domestic, social, and foreign policy issues of the post-World War II period from the 1950s through the 1990s, including reform movements, Vietnam, the Civil Rights and other ethnic movements, the Feminist Movement, popular culture, and post-Cold War foreign policy. 3 Units.

Required Text
A People’s History of the United States, by Howard Zinn
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America, by Barbara Ehrenreich

The books are available at the West Valley College bookstore. A few short supplementary readings will be available on the instructional website at http://cvc.webct.com

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. It counts for 10% of your class grade. The percentage breaks down as follows: 1-2 classes (or less) missed=A; 3-4 classes missed=B; 5 classes missed=C; 6 classes missed=D; 7 or more classes missed=F. If you have an illness or family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

Discussions
This course is built around critical thinking and historical problem solving, not rote memorization. My teaching philosophy draws on both Howard Zinn’s concept of “Radical History” and Paulo Freire’s Pedagogy of the Oppressed—my purpose in teaching history is not to convey abstract facts and dates, but to help students understand historical developments for themselves, through critical thinking and analysis. The point is to equip you with the analytical tools you will need as an informed and engaged participant in American economic, cultural, and political life. Therefore, each week the class will engage in a discussion of the week’s reading for the purpose of understanding the “how?” and “why?” of history. You must come prepared to discuss all that week’s reading. Discussion participation counts for 25 percent of your course grade.

Assignments
There will be a short writing assignment each week—2 to 3 pages responding to that week’s reading. I will provide a list of reading response questions for you to respond to,
so you’ll have an idea of the main points you should be reading for. I know we’re all busy, so this assignment is intended to help you keep up with the reading and help you read more effectively (get the most out of the readings with the least amount of time spent). The reading response questions will also help you prepare to discuss the readings in class every week. **These papers must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, 1” margins, spell-checked, proofread, stapled, on normal white printer paper with your name, the date, and the class typed in the upper right hand corner.** DO NOT try to hand in something with the corners folded over, printed on your mom’s leftover Christmas stationery, with 3” margins and a 20 point font to disguise the fact that you only wrote one paragraph. If you try to hand in a paper that does not meet my requirements, I will hand it back to you to revise it until it passes muster. The papers will count for 25 percent of your grade.

**Exams**
We will have both a midterm and final exam. Both will be take home exams involving both identification terms and essay questions. Each exam counts for 20 percent of your grade.

**Accessibility**
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability (visible or not) should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You should also contact DESP (408-741-2010 or 408-741-2658 TTY) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for your verified disability.

**Email**
I do not accept email from unidentified accounts. Please DO NOT send email from chunkycow, pornstar, or other unidentifiable names (these are actual email addresses I’ve received student email from). Email accounts are free, so keep chunkycow for fun and establish a separate account for all your campus communication. Anyone who has used the Internet knows that spam and unsolicited porn are big problems, so if your account is not clearly identifiable, many people (including me) will automatically delete your emails. College is, contrary to some people’s impressions, a professional environment, so treat it that way by getting yourself a campus-appropriate email address.

**Cheating/Disciplinary Policy**
Although I prefer to be nice, I can and will drop the hammer on you if I find you doing something that violates the student conduct code or my class rules. This includes talking out of turn, disruptive behavior, and persistent tardiness. If I believe you are cheating or plagiarizing, I will not hesitate to turn you over to the appropriate campus authorities. If you have questions about the student code of conduct, please refer to the WVC Catalog.

**Cell Phones**
**CELL PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS.** Period. If you bring a cell phone to class, it should remain turned off, wrapped in bubble wrap and five layers of duct tape at the bottom of your bag. If your cell phone becomes a problem, you will be asked to leave class.
**Grades**
Grade breakdown and due dates are as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Discussions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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**Semester Schedule**

**Week 1**
Welcome: introductions, warnings, and thinly-veiled threats

**Week 2**
Readings: Zinn, “The Empire and the People,” “Social Darwinism,” and “What is White Supremacy?”
First reading response paper due Wednesday

**Week 3**
Readings: Zinn, “The Socialist Challenge,” and “She Couldn’t Have Done It, Even If She Did”
Second reading response paper due Wednesday

**Week 4**
Readings: Zinn, “War is the Health of the State?”
Third reading response paper due Wednesday

**Week 5**
Fourth reading response paper due Wednesday

**Week 6**
Readings: Zinn, “A People’s War?”
Fifth Reading Response paper due Wednesday

**Week 7**
Readings: Zinn, “Or Does it Explode?”
Sixth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 8**
Midterm Prep and Exam

**Week 9**
Readings: Zinn, “The Impossible Victory: Vietnam”
Seventh Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 10**
Readings: Zinn, “Surprises,” “The Alcatraz Proclamation to the Great White Father and His People, 1969,” and excerpt from The Feminine Mystique
Eighth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 11**
Ninth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 12**
Readings: Zinn, “The Unreported Resistance” and Zinn “The Coming Revolt of the Guards”
Tenth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 13**
Readings: Zinn, “The Clinton Presidency” and Ehrenreich, 1st half
Eleventh Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 14**
Readings: Ehrenreich, 2nd half
Twelfth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 15**
Readings: Zinn, “The 2000 Election and the War on Terrorism”
Thirteenth Reading Response due Wednesday

**Week 16**
Final prep and exam