

Dear Student,

Welcome to History 11/ Political and Social History of the United States I.

You have registered for the online section (7020 or 7077) and I am writing to provide you with important information before we begin the class. Although I will be available online feel free to visit my campus office hours (see syllabus). The class begins February 6 so be sure to have the textbook and log in by February 6.

Course Overview

This course covers the main events, actors, and themes of United States History up to 1865. While doing this we hope to develop and improve critical thinking, analysis, and writing skills through the study of United States social, economic and political development.

Getting Started

You will need to log on to our course website no later than February 6. If you do not log in and participate by 11:59 pm PST, February 6, you may be dropped from the course as a no-show. I will make the class available online about a week before the semester begins. Be sure to read the syllabus and posts on Etudes in Discussion and Private Messages under the Cyber Café.

For those new to online classes and Etudes or for technical questions, tutorials, or other questions related to online education see Valley Virtual:

<http://lavc.edu/virtualvalley/>

To access our class website:

<https://myetudes.org>

User ID: The first two initials of your first and last name lower case (John Smith = josm) and the last five numbers of your Student Identification Number (not Social Security Number).

Password is the month and day of your birthday (April 1 = 0401).

Success

In order to succeed, you must have regular access to the Internet. You must log on to our class site to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in class discussions several times per week. If you will not be able to participate in this manner, this is not the course for you.

Please note that we will all progress through the course together, at the same pace. This is not a class in which you can complete all the work for the semester in the first week or make it all up in the last week.

The success of this class depends on the willingness of everyone to participate in discussions regularly, and to share ideas in writing. All of our discussions will be *asynchronous* (not at the same time), not *synchronous* (e.g., live chat, instant messaging). This will allow you to participate at times suitable for your schedule (with deadlines). Exams will be conducted online and are discussed in syllabus.

Technical requirements

See Valley Virtual above.

Required Texts

The following required book is available in the college bookstore:

America Past and Present, 9th edition, vol. I, by Robert Divine. Older editions are ok but don't get a brief edition. The text is on reserve in the library.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave by Frederick Douglass

If you have any questions always feel free to send me an email at the address below. I look forward to working with you over the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Rick Murray

Email: murrayrf@lavc.edu

Responses to emails will be returned within 24 hours. Be sure to enter a subject (History 11 OL) in subject line.