Dear Student,

Welcome to History 11/Political and Social History of the United States I. You have registered for the online section 7022 and I am writing to provide you with important information before we begin the class. The class is entirely online. The class begins January 4 so be sure to have the textbook and log in by January 4.

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.

IMPORTANT: The good and bad news is this is a five week course. Although we will complete the course in only five weeks, you should be aware that although this is a five week class we will be covering the same material of a regular semester class. I have condensed some assignments but you will be responsible for 2-3 chapters per week. There will be a significant time commitment required and if you are not able or prepared to do this you should reconsider taking the class. Be sure you have the textbook by January 4 as we will have assignments the first week.

Getting Started

You will need to log on to our course website no later than January 4. If you do not log on and participate by 11:59 pm, PST, January 4, you may be dropped from the course as a no-show. I will make the class available online a few days before if the college has entered students into the class shell on Etudes by then. I will send an email to your laccd.edu email address when the class is available. 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:

http://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 at least twice a 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 the syllabus.

**Technical requirements**

See Valley Virtual above.

**Required Texts**

The following required book is available in the college bookstore:

**AMERICAN STORIES: A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES** by H. W. Brands, volume 1, 3rd edition (book is on reserve in the library)

I have been using the textbook "America Past and Present" by Divine, et. al. New it was about $162. The publisher is having a promotion for the book "American Stories" by Brand, et. al. for $63.75 in the bookstore which includes the hard copy and ebook.

Although the titles are different the content is almost the same so if you want to find a used Divine book it will work. Any edition will work just be sure not to get a brief edition and get volume 1.

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 winter semester.

Email: murrayrf@lavr.edu

Responses to emails will be returned within 24 hours. Be sure to enter a subject (Hist 11 7022) in the subject line.
Sincerely,

Rick Murray