Dear Student,

**Welcome to History 11/ Political and Social History of the United States I.**
You have registered for the hybrid section (6529) and I am writing to provide you with important information before we begin the class. We will be meeting on campus on Saturdays from 8 am – Noon (Except February 13 and April 3). In addition, there will be biweekly assignments online. The online portion through Etudes should be available about a week before the class begins. Although our first meeting will be February 20, the class does begin February 8 online, so be sure to log in by February 8.

**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 8. If you do not log on and participate by 11:59 pm, PST, February 8, you may be dropped from the course as a no-show.

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/whatyouneed.htm](http://lavc.edu/virtualvalley/whatyouneed.htm)

To access our class website:

[http://myetudes.org](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:**

Understand that this class will cover the same material a traditional class would. This is an eight week course so you will need to commit considerable time to be successful.
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 approximately every other day. 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).

**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. If you use an older edition than the 7th, let me know as a couple of chapters are numbered differently.

- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, Frederick Douglass

If you have any questions always feel free to send me an email at the address below. If you would like a copy of the syllabus before the class starts go to Instructors Web Page (it should be posted early February). I look forward to working with you over the spring semester.

Sincerely,

Rick Murray

Email: murrayrf@lavr.edu

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