

American Studies 201  
Introduction to American Studies  
Fall 2002 – Axelrad

Office: EC 642  
(714) 278-3625  
Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:00

## **PREQUIRED TEXTS**

Edmund Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom: the Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*.  
James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pioneers* (Penguin Classics – Introduction by Donald A. Ringe).  
Elizabeth Ewen, *Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925*.  
Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, Introduction by Anna Quindlen (W. W. Norton, 2001)

(Texts may be purchased at **Little Professor Text Books** – 725 North Placentia Avenue, Fullerton)

## **OPTIONAL**

Plot summary of *The Pioneers* (on reserve in the library).

## **GRADES**

The course is divided into four units. There will be an exam after Unit One and Unit Two. Each will count 25% of your final grade. The last exam will cover Unit Three and Unit Four and will count 50% of the final grade.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Keep up with the reading assignments. Bring the book that we are reading to class. The dates for reading assignments and visual presentations (slides & videos) are listed on your syllabus. Visual presentations cannot be made up if you are absent.

Please do not disrupt class by leaving early. If you have an appointment and must leave early, please inform the instructor beforehand.

## **LEARNING GOALS**

In fulfilling California State University, Fullerton's goals for General Education, this course will: explore the historical development of American institutions and values and their impact on the individual and collective lives of Americans; assess the social processes that helped to shape American ideas about government, democracy, and contemporary American society; examine important cultural, intellectual, moral, and political struggles that have shaped American society in the past and present; and recognize the significance of the contributions of various ethnic and gender groups to American history, political institutions, and values within the contexts of cultural accommodation and resistance.

## **COURSE CHRONOLOGY**

Aug. 26 – Introduction.

### **UNIT ONE: RACE, FREEDOM & SLAVERY IN EARLY VIRGINIA**

Aug. 28 – Indians: first impressions (slides).  
Morgan, Ch. 1. Dreams of Liberation.

Aug. 30 -- Morgan, Ch. 3. Idle Indian and Lazy Englishman.  
Ch. 4. The Jamestown Fiasco.

Sept. 4 – Pocahontas and the founding of Virginia (slides).

Sept. 6 – Disney's *Pocahontas* (video).

Sept. 9 – *Pocahontas* (video).

Sept. 11 – Morgan, Ch. 5. The Persistent Vision.  
Ch. 6. Boom.  
Ch. 7. Settling Down.

Sept. 13 – Morgan, Ch. 8. Living with Death.  
Ch. 9. The Trouble with Tobacco.  
Ch. 11. The Losers.

Sept. 16 – Morgan, Ch. 12. Discontent.  
Ch. 13. Rebellion.

Sept. 18 – Morgan, Ch. 15. Toward Slavery.  
Ch. 16. Toward Racism.

Sept. 20 – Morgan, Ch. 17. Toward Populism.  
Ch. 18. Toward the Republic.

Sept. 23 – Thomas Jefferson, race, and republicanism.

Sept. 25 – Exam on Unit One (bring a blue book).

## **UNIT TWO: A NEW NATION & THE ROMANTIC SPIRIT**

Sept. 27 – James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales* (slides).

Sept. 30 – *Leatherstocking Tales* (slides).

Oct. 2 – Cooper, *Pioneers*, introd. by Ringe, 1832 introd. by Cooper & Ch. 1.

Oct. 4 – Cooper, *Pioneers*, village & villagers; Natty Bumppo & Indian John.

Oct. 7 – Christmas in Templeton.

Oct. 9 – Christmas in Cooperstown.

Oct. 11 – Natty Bumppo, "All Creation!": nature, tourism & sacred places (slides).

Oct. 14 – Cooper, *Pioneers*, and the environment.

Oct. 16 – Cooper, *Pioneers*, and the environment.

Oct. 18 – The conclusion of *Pioneers*.

Oct. 21 – Exam on Unit Two (bring a blue book).

## **UNIT THREE: THE CITY & THE IMMIGRANT**

Oct. 23 – Picturing the People & the Place (slides).

- Oct. 25 – Ewen, Preface.  
Ch. 1. A Tale of Two Cities.
- Oct. 28 – Ewen, Ch. 2. In the Old World.  
Ch. 3, Steerage to Gotham.  
Ch. 4. First Encounters.
- Oct. 30 – *Hester Street* (film).
- Nov. 1 – *Hester Street* (film).
- Nov. 4 – Ewen, Ch. 5. Agents of Assimilation.  
Ch. 6. Our Daily Bread.  
Ch. 7. How Many Tears This America Costs.
- Nov. 6 – Ewen, Ch. 8. In Sickness and in Health.  
Ch. 9. House and Home..
- Nov. 8 – Ewen. Ch. 11. New images, Old Bond.  
Ch. 12. City Lights.
- Nov. 11 – Ewen, Ch. 13. The Ties That Bind.  
Conclusion.

#### **UNIT FOUR: POST-WORLD WAR II, SEGREGATED SUBURBS & HAPPY HOUSEWIVES**

- Nov. 13 – Post-World War II America.
- Nov. 15 – *Seeds of the Sixties* (film).
- Nov. 18 – Friedan, Introd. to the Tenth Anniversary Edition.  
Preface.  
Ch. 1. The Problem That Has No Name.
- Nov. 20 – Friedan, Ch. 2. The Happy Housewife Heroine.
- Nov. 22 – Friedan, Ch. 3. The Crisis in woman's Identity.  
Ch. 13. The Forfeited Self.
- Dec. 2 – Friedan, Ch. 5. The Sexual Solipsism of sigmund Freud.  
Ch. 7. The Sex-Directed Educators.
- Dec. 4 – Friedan, Ch. 9. The Sexual Sell.
- Dec. 6 – Friedan, Ch. 10. Housewifery Expands to Fill the Time Available.
- Dec. 9 – Friedan, Epilogue. Metamorphosis: Two Generations Later
- Dec. 11 – Things Fall Apart: Race & Gender in the 1960s.
- Dec. 13 – Conclusion.
- Dec. 18 – Last Exam: 12:00-1:50.