

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
City University of New York
Department of History
Fall 2008

HISTORY 125
IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC GROUPS
IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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Office hours: MW 4:30 - 6:30; W 10:00 - 12:00.

TIME AND PLACE:

MTh, 10:45 - 12:00am, M133

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This is a survey of immigration and ethnicity American history. The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

- Identify and understand the contribution of key events, persons, and trends in the history immigration and ethnicity in the United States. It will encompass topics such as the reasons for immigration, immigration patterns, ethnic and immigrant groups, the persistence of ethnic cultures, government policies toward immigration, and relations between immigrants and native-born Americans.
- Be familiar with the principal historiographical explanations of the history and development of immigration and ethnicity to the life of the American nation.
- Be able to relate the persons, places, and events in the history of immigration and ethnicity in America to their ramifications in the present day world and, more generally, to appreciate the ways in which past impacts upon the present.
- Develop critical thinking skills necessary in any profession and helpful in everyday life.

COURSE FORMAT:

Class periods will generally consist of lectures on specific topics. However, time will also devoted to a variety of other activities, including discussion exercises, audio-visual presentations, and review sessions for exams. I will endeavor to follow the schedule as faithfully as possible, but *please be aware that it is subject to change*.

REQUIRED READING:

Class lectures, located on the website <http://www.vanells.com/125lectures.html>
Jon Gjerde, *Major Problems in American Immigration and Ethnic History* (1998)

If you do not have Internet access, please see the instructor to obtain copies of the readings

GRADING:

Each student's grade will be determined as follows:

FIRST EXAM 20 POINTS

See attached class [schedule](#) for date. It will be in written essay form, with a few short answers.

SECOND EXAM 20 POINTS

See attached class [schedule](#) for date. It will be in written essay form, with a few short answers.

FINAL EXAM 20 POINTS

The final exam will be comprehensive, meaning that it will cover all materials discussed since the beginning of the course. It will be in written essay form.

QUIZZES 30 POINTS

There will be eight multiple choice quizzes over the course of the semester, each worth five points. See [schedule](#) for dates. Quizzes will be based on readings and lectures. Some quizzes may involve maps. You will keep your six highest quiz grades only for a possible total of 30 points. NOTE: There will be no makeup quizzes.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT 10 POINTS.

See below for directions.

The total number of possible points is 100. A student's final grade will be determined by the number of points earned over the semester, based on the standard QCC grading scale:

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

Please note: In the interests of impartiality and fairness to all students, letter grades in relation to semester point totals will be strictly enforced.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken during each class. Students will be asked to sign an attendance roster each class period. *Those students with unexcused absences will have one point deducted from their point totals for each incident. Those students caught signing in another classmate will have five points deducted for each infraction. The person being signed in will also lose five points.*

For more information, please refer to the attached [Guidelines and Requirements](#) statement of the QCC History Department.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

Please refer to the attached [Guidelines and Requirements](#) statement of the QCC History Department.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY:

Extra credit is available ONLY to those students who fail one of the first two exams. Those students will be afforded the opportunity to complete an assignment to bring their overall exam grade up to the *minimum passing level*. The terms of the assignment are completely at the discretion of the instructor, and the student must complete the assignment in a satisfactory manner in order to receive extra credit points. Those students who desire extra credit must make arrangements with the instructor *within one week* of the return of the exams to the class. **Please note:** You may exercise this option only once during the semester.

COURSE WEBSITE:

The URL for the course website is: <http://www.vanells.com/125main.html>. It will provide you with links to copies of the course syllabus, schedule, primary documents, and weekly handouts, as well as selected links to history-related websites. **Please note:** Use of this website is NOT required.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR GRADES:

Students are urged to keep all graded quizzes and exams returned to them. Below is a chart to help you keep track of your grades and monitor your progress.

Keeping track of your quiz grades:

QUIZ 1	QUIZ 2	QUIZ 3	QUIZ 4	QUIZ 5	QUIZ 6	QUIZ 7	QUIZ 8

TOTAL OF SIX HIGHEST QUIZ GRADES: _____ ÷ 2 = _____

Keeping track of your final grade:

EXAM 1	EXAM 2	EXAM 3	QUIZZES	PAPER	=	TOTAL

Please note: Students are strongly advised to keep all exams and quizzes. Should a dispute arise about a grade, *the burden of proof is on the student*, not the instructor.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

In addition to exams and quizzes, each student will be required to write one 3-5 page paper that is either a book review or a museum review. The paper is worth ten points. See [schedule](#) for due date. Directions are below:

A. BOOK REVIEW

Select ONE additional book from the list provided and write a review of it. Please note that a book review is different than a book report you may have written in high school. A book *review* is a critique or an analysis of a book, not just a description of it. In your paper, be sure to address the following questions about your book:

- What was the topic of the book? You should provide a brief description of it.
- What is the author’s *thesis*, or point of view? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

- What evidence does the author use to make his or her point? Do you find it convincing?
- What are the book's overall strengths or weaknesses, in your opinion?

B. MUSEUM REVIEW

Select ONE New York-area museum from the list provided and write a review of what you saw there. Like a book review, your museum review should provide a critique and analysis of the museum, not just a description of it. You may review a museum as a whole, or a smaller special exhibit within a larger facility. You will be required to submit a ticket stub, receipt, brochure, or some other form of proof of visitation along with your final paper. Also be aware that if you select this option you are responsible for any admission fees the museum may charge, as well as transportation to and from the facility.

In your review, be sure to discuss the following questions about the museum you visit:

- What is the theme and purpose of the museum?
- What is on display in the museum? Do the displays seem appropriate? Educational? Why or why not?
- What were your overall impressions of the museum? What did you like? What didn't you like?

Living in the New York area, you have access to scores of museums dealing with an incredibly wide range of topics, including many that deal with the history of the United States since 1877. This assignment will afford you the opportunity to visit some of the finest museums in the world.

A FEW MORE THINGS:

1. ***All books and museums must be approved in advance by the instructor.*** Each student will be required to complete a brief report form stating the title of your book or the name of your museum. See [schedule](#) for date.
2. Papers turned in after the due date will receive half credit only. Those papers not turned in by the final exam will receive an automatic zero.
3. If you are taking two of my courses in the same semester, you must write a separate paper for each course. If you have written a review for me in a previous semester, you must write a new review paper for this semester.
4. I will be happy to read drafts of your papers, or discuss the assignment with you, at any time.
5. Obviously, plagiarism, or copying all or part of your paper from another source, is strictly forbidden. Anyone who submits a plagiarized paper will receive a ZERO for the assignment, will lose AN ADDITIONAL TEN POINTS from their semester point total, *and may face additional disciplinary actions*. See [Guidelines and Requirements](#) for more information