

**MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Semester/Year: Spring 2011

COURSE NUMBER:	HUM 121 (1)	INSTRUCTOR:	James H. Bussell, Jr.
COURSE TITLE:	The Nature of America	OFFICE NO:	Building 1, Room 22B
CREDIT HOURS:	3	OFFICE/VIRTUAL HOURS:	MTW 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Thursday 8 a.m.-noon; Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
CONTACT HRS/WK:	3	PHONE NO:	252-789-0268
PREREQUISITES:	None	FAX:	252-792-0826
COREQUISITES:	None	E-MAIL:	jbussell@martincc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an interdisciplinary survey of the American cultural, social, and political experience. Emphasis is placed on the multicultural character of American society, distinctive qualities of various regions, and the American political system. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze significant cultural, social, and political aspects of American life. This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to problem-solving.
2. Demonstrate appropriate use of discipline-related technology.
3. Exhibit effective oral and written communication skills.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify watershed events in the development of America.
2. Analyze significant cultural, social and political aspects of American life.
3. Identify past events and their influence on contemporary American society.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: Wheeler, William Bruce & Becker, Susan D. (2007) Discovering the American past, Vols. 1 & 2, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES: Students will be expected to use the resources of the College Library and NC Live in preparing course assignments. Orientation to Library resources will be provided by the Library staff.

LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS: Lectures, class discussions, supplemental information, written assignments, outside reading assignments, projects as assigned.

OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be assigned outside reading for this course, with reading/research forming the basis for a written report, an oral report and team assignments.

This course is a rigorous course and studies move rapidly as we investigate source documents from a number of periods in American history. It will demand considerable time and effort on your part both inside and outside of

class. To be successful in this course, for each hour the class meets students should anticipate devoting 2 to 3 hours of study outside of class.

ASSESSMENTS/METHODS OF EVALUATION:

1. Tests (2) 70%
2. Written/Oral Presentations 20% [outside reading assignments will be calculated as part of this percentage.]
3. Class Participation 10%

GRADING POLICY: This course will use a 10-point grading scale.

- A 90 or greater
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69
- F Below 69

COURSE OUTLINE:

- Week 1 Introduction and First Encounter: Cortes and Montezuma (I.1)
- Week 2 The Threat of Anne Hutchinson (I.2)
- Week 3 The Boston Massacre (I.4)
- Week 4 The First American Party System (I.5)
- Week 5 The Removal of the Cherokees (I.6)
- Week 6 The Working Girls of Lowell (I.7)
- Week 7 The Peculiar Institution (I.8)
- Week 8 Manifest Destiny: the Annexation of Texas (I.9)
- Week 9 The Port Royal Experiment (I.10) Test on Volume I
- Week 10 The Reconstruction Era (I.11 and II.2)
- Week 11 Road to Freedom: African Americans (II.3)
- Week 12 Progressive and the Family, Homogenizing a Pluralistic Nation and The New Woman (II.4, II.5 and II.6)
- Week 13 Documenting the Depression and Going to War with Japan (II.7 and II.8)
- Week 14 Separate But Equal? (II.9)
- Week 15 The Agony of Vietnam (II.10)
- Week 16 A Nation of Immigrants (II.11) Final Exam

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY: Martin Community College recognizes that academic success is tied to regular attendance and completion of assigned work and tasks in a timely manner. Students are expected to attend and be on time for all classes. Students who miss more than six contiguous contact hours or fail to attend 80% of the total class hours will be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor with a given grade of "WF." The "WF" will be equivalent to an "F" when calculated into the student's GPA. Students may remove a "WF" by submitting appropriate paperwork for an official withdrawal by the last of the official withdrawal period.

Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances*

*In compliance with G.S. 115D-5, MCC policy permits a student to be excused, with the opportunity to make-up any test or other missed work, a maximum of two excused absences per academic year for religious observances required by a student's faith. The policy limits the excused absences to a maximum of two days per academic year.

Students who wish to be excused for a Religious Observance required by their faith must complete and submit a request form to the instructor(s) prior to the census date of each class. The ***Request for Excused Absences for Religious Observances*** can be picked up from Student Services. This does not supersede the college-wide attendance policy as outlined in the college catalog or syllabus, with the exception of a reasonable accommodation for the make-up of missed course work.

COURSE POLICIES: All tests and exams are mandatory. An unexcused missed test will be given a grade of zero. Should you find that you will be unable to take a test or exam on the scheduled date, you must notify the instructor in advance.

Late Work: Students are encouraged to turn in all assignments on time. Five points are deducted per day for late work.

Plagiarism: The Honor System is in place in this class. Student submitting work that is not their own (an act of plagiarism) risk receiving a zero and a grade of "F" on the course.

Behavior: Positive behavior is expected at all time during the class.

Academic Integrity: In addition to good academic performance, students should exhibit honesty and integrity. If there is any question that academic honesty and integrity are not honored, students may be required to redo assignments in the presence of an instructor-selected monitor. Other actions, in accordance with college policy, may be taken. Proof of dishonesty, including plagiarism, will make students subject to disciplinary action.

If you cannot reach your instructor, you may contact Dr. Phyllis Broughton, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services, at (252) 789-0246 or (252) 789-0247 by phone, pbroughton@martincc.edu by e-mail, or in person at her office in Building 2, Room 33.

To access the Martin Community College Career Catalog for policies and curriculum requirements, please go online to www.martincc.edu.

If you have a need for a disability-related accommodation, please notify the Student Services counselor at (252) 789-0293.