



COURSE SYLLABUS
Dr. Sean Dinces
Long Beach City College

Welcome to U.S. history with Prof. Dinces! A few things you should know:

First, **your success is my primary concern.** Each of you has something valuable to contribute to this course, and each of you can succeed if you take the course seriously and put forth a genuine effort. I am not saying this just for the sake of saying it. I know this because I have worked in a lot of different fields—the military, labor unions, and higher education—with a lot of different people, in many different parts of the U.S. and the world. Using these experiences, I have developed this course to be accessible for students from a wide variety of backgrounds. My job is to help you succeed, so never hesitate to ask me for help.

Second, **I believe that to learn well, we must be willing to ask questions and make mistakes.** I do not expect you to be perfect. Never be afraid to talk to me because you are unsure about a course-related issue (but be sure to check for the answer in the syllabus and Canvas announcements first)! I sometimes make mistakes when I teach. If I mess up and you notice, let me know so I can fix it!

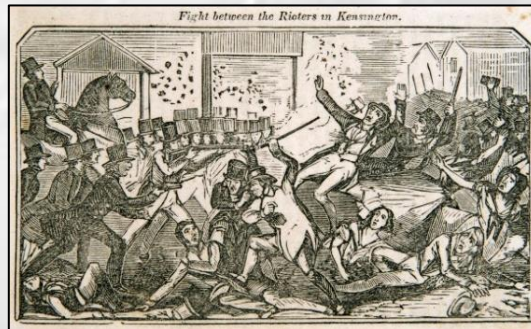
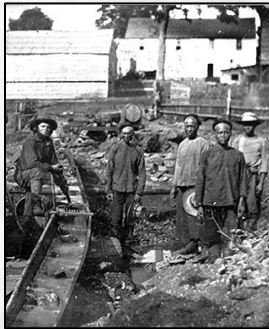
Next, **I respect you and I know your time is valuable.** I will never assign something that is not relevant to the course and your learning (e.g., "busy work").

Finally, **I understand that you have a life outside of class and that it can get in the way of your success.** Many things that you do not have total control over can interfere with your education: work schedules, breakups, health issues, family emergencies, transportation problems, just to name a few. If something outside of class is seriously affecting your ability to succeed at LBCC, talk to me (and your other instructors) about it **AS SOON AS IT BECOMES A PROBLEM.** You do not have to get into personal details, but you do need to give me a heads up so we can develop a plan to keep you—or get you back—on track before it is too late.

S. M. Dinces, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Long Beach City College

HIST10- AMERICAN HISTORY, PRE-COLUMBIAN ERA TO 1877

DR. SEAN DINCES (sdinces@lbcc.edu, Office T-2332 LAC)



HOW DOES THIS COURSE MEET?

- ✓ This course meets online from June 14, 2020 – July 15, 2021. All coursework is “asynchronous” (you complete it on your own schedule).
- ✓ The course is conducted entirely online using LBCC’s learning management system, Canvas, accessible here: <https://lbcc.instructure.com/>.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ever wonder about the first people to settle in what we now call the United States? How and why racial slavery came to replace other forms of labor in the American colonies? The causes of the Civil War? If not, get ready to find out! We will cover key people, events, and ideas in American history through the end of Reconstruction (1877). In this course, we will pay special attention to ordinary and often overlooked Americans, such as soldiers in the trenches, non-conformists, and the working-class. In so doing, we will not only gain a deeper knowledge of U.S. history, but also an appreciation of the power of regular people to change the course of historical events.

HOW CAN I COMMUNICATE WITH PROFESSOR DINCES?

- ✓ **E-Mail:** For questions of a personally specific nature—for example, an illness that is interfering with your coursework—you can e-mail me directly at sdinces@lbcc.edu. You can also do this by clicking on the “Inbox” icon in Canvas and then “Compose New Message”. **Please include your name and section number in your e-mail.** I will respond within 24 hours.
- ✓ **Course Questions Forum:** In online courses it is normal to have questions about course setup and organization (e.g., clarification queries about accessing assignments). Please post these general questions in the “History 10 General Questions” Discussion Forum by clicking on “Discussions” link in Canvas. I check the forum daily.
- ✓ **Zoom or Phone Appointment:** If you would like to meet in real time about any course-related issue, simply e-mail me and we will set up an appointment for a Zoom conference or phone call.

HOW CAN I GET TECH. HELP WITH CANVAS?

The staff at Student Technology Help Desk (STHD) supports accessing and successfully using Canvas. They are available via phone, email, and in-person:

Mode of Contact	Contact Details
Phone	(562) 938-4250
E-Mail	sthd@lbcc.edu

All assistance provided is FREE for Long Beach City College students. For more information visit: www.lbcc.edu/sthd.

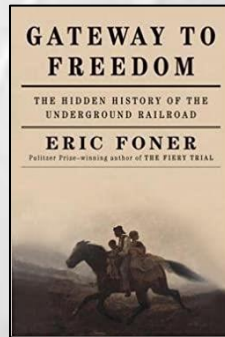
WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS CLASS? (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)

- ✓ How to think critically and distinguish between fact and opinion
- ✓ How to identify and distinguish between historical causes and effects
- ✓ How to distinguish between and analyze primary and secondary sources

- ✓ How to organize evidence in written/oral form to support historical arguments with coherence and clarity

WHAT BOOKS DO I NEED?

- ✓ Eric Foner, *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2015).



You can access a free e-copy through the course Canvas page. If you want to purchase a hard copy (**optional**) you can do so at www.amazon.com or www.biblio.com.

- ✓ Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2019), <http://www.americanyawp.com/>.



If you want to purchase a hard copy (**optional**) you can do so here: www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27850. Be sure to get Volume 1 if you buy a hard copy, as this corresponds to the material covered in History 10.

WHAT WORK IS REQUIRED?

Mandatory Assignments

- **Syllabus Quiz (10 possible points)**. Your first assignment will be a short, ten (10)-question online quiz (multiple choice and true/false) that covers the information on the course syllabus.
- **American Yawp Quizzes (280 possible points)**. You will take fourteen (14) open-book, online (Canvas) quizzes dealing with the main ideas, figures, and events covered in *American Yawp*. Each quiz will consist of ten (10) multiple-choice and True/False questions. Each question is worth two (2) points, for a total of twenty (20) points possible per quiz. The quizzes will be timed—twenty (20) minutes per quiz—and Canvas will randomly select questions from a question bank written by me. **You get two (2) attempts for each quiz and will retain your highest score.**
- **Video/Podcast Quizzes (140 possible points)**. You will take fourteen (14) online (Canvas) quizzes dealing with the main ideas, figures, and events covered in assigned videos and podcasts. Each quiz will consist of ten (10) multiple-choice and True/False questions. Each question is worth one (1) point, for a total of ten (10) points possible per quiz. These quizzes are *not* timed, and Canvas will randomly select questions from a question bank written by me. **You get one (1) attempt on each video/podcast quiz.**
- **Primary Source Image Discussion Posts (80 possible points)**. Along with each Module, I will post a selection of relevant primary source images. You must pick one image from four different modules—that is, four images total—about which to write a brief discussion post. Each post is worth a maximum of twenty (20) points I will provide additional instructions through Canvas.
- **Midterm Exam (100 possible points)**. The midterm exam will consist of fifty (50) fill-in-the-blank questions. Each question is worth two (2) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points possible. I will provide you with a study guide to help you prepare.

- **Gateway to Freedom Worksheet Preview (20 possible points)**. To make sure you are on the right track with your *Gateway to Freedom* worksheet (see below), you will initially submit responses for the questions dealing with the introduction and first chapter *only*. This will give me an opportunity to provide feedback that will ensure you do a good job on the rest of the assignment.
- **Gateway to Freedom Worksheet (200 possible points)**. As you read *Gateway to Freedom*, you will complete a 100-question worksheet. Each question is worth two (2) points, for a total of two hundred (200) points possible.
- **Book Review (140 possible points)**. You will write a three-to-four (3-4) page book review of *Gateway to Freedom*. I will provide detailed information on review writing through Canvas.
- **Participation (30 possible points)**. I evaluate participation in my online courses based on two things:
 1. On-time completion and submission of assignments.
 2. Carefully reading and following directions. Concretely, this means *not* constantly e-mailing me with questions about assignments before you carefully read the instructions and relevant announcements. Accidentally missing something in the instructions and e-mailing about it is *not* a problem if it happens once or twice. However, if it becomes habitual, your participation grade will suffer.

Optional (Extra-Credit) Assignments

- **Final Exam (100 points possible)**. The non-cumulative final exam will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions. Each question is worth two (2) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points possible. If you are already content with your grade before the final exam, you are *not* required to take it. The optional final *cannot* harm your grade.

GRADING SCALE

A	=	900 points or more
B	=	800 – 899 points
C	=	650 – 799 points
D	=	600 – 649 points
F	=	599 points or less

Your final grade in this course is determined by your point total at the end of the semester, in accordance with the above grading scale. **The percentage figures in the Canvas Gradebook are irrelevant.** Combining all the assignments listed above, there are more than 1000 possible points. Your goal is to accumulate enough points to achieve your desired grade.

Students who fail to submit Book Worksheet and/or Book Review ***cannot receive an A in the course, regardless of point total.*** In other words, if you accumulate 900 points but fail to submit the Worksheet and/or Review, you will receive a B in the course.

POLICIES

- **Academic Ethics.** Cheating on any test or assignment, whether it involves plagiarism, copying from a neighbor, etc., will result in failure of the assignment. It is important to educate yourself about what constitutes plagiarism. A good place to start is www.plagiarism.org. For LBCC's policies on academic honesty, refer to the following links:
 - Official LBCC Administrative Regulations on Academic Honesty: archive.lbcc.edu/Policies/documents/4018reg.pdf
 - "Avoiding Plagiarism" Guide by LBCC English Prof. Laura Wheeler <https://www.lbcc.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/avoidingplagiarism.pdf>

If in doubt about plagiarism or any other academic ethics issue, ask me!

- **Disabled Students Programs and Services.** If you have a documented disability and need of accommodations for this class, please contact the LBCC Disabled Students Program and Services Office [(562) 938-4558, dsps-staff@lbcc.edu]. Accommodations must be arranged through LBCC staff. Please e-mail me privately if you have any questions or concerns about this.
- **E-mail.** I make every effort to respond to student e-mails within 24-hours. If you do not receive a response from me, it is because:
 1. The answer to your question is in the syllabus or on the Canvas page.
 2. You did not sign your e-mail (did not put your name at the bottom).
- **Late/Missed Work Policy.** Every student gets two (2) “late quiz freebies”, which means that I will reopen up to two (2) missed quizzes for each student. After that, there are absolutely no make-up quizzes. Subsequent misses will simply count as one of your dropped scores (see above). For every 24 hours that a major assignment (worksheet or essay) is late, it will be docked one full letter grade (one “day” is anything within 24 hours of the submission time). There are no make-up exams, except in the case of a verifiable excuse (e.g., emergency such as an accident or illness).

GENERAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Carefully read e-mails, announcements, and instructions.
- ✓ Stick to a routine when it comes to completing weekly online assignments.
 - Set aside regular times to complete assignments.
 - Create calendar reminders for yourself on your connected device.
- ✓ Be enthusiastic! Even if you do not have a passion for history, this class will improve your engagement with society as well as important professional skills such as writing and note-taking.

- ✓ Ask me for help whenever you need it! I understand that you lead busy lives. Together, we can figure out a way for you to succeed in this course!

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<i>Gateway to Freedom</i> Worksheet Preview Due	22 JUNE 2021	(11:59 PM)
Midterm Exam Due	27 JUNE 2021	(11:59 PM)
<i>Gateway to Freedom</i> Worksheet Due	08 JULY 2021	(11:59 PM)
3-4 Book Review Due	13 JULY 2021	(11:59 PM)
Optional Final Exam Due	15 JULY 2021	(11:59 PM)