



IN-PERSON COURSE SYLLABUS

Prof. Sean Dinces

Long Beach City College

Spring 2023

Welcome to History 11 with Prof. Dinces! Here are a few things you should know:

First, **your success is my primary concern.** Each of you can succeed if you take the course seriously and put forth a genuine effort. I have designed this course so that it is accessible—and hopefully interesting—for students from different backgrounds, including those without any previous experience studying history.

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! 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 life outside of class can get in the way of your success.** Many things that you do not have control over can interfere with your education: work schedules, breakups, health issues, transportation problems, etc. If something outside of class is seriously affecting your ability to succeed at LBCC, talk to me about it **AS SOON AS IT BECOMES A PROBLEM.** This way, we can develop a plan to keep you—or get you back—on track before it is too late.

I look forward to a successful and stimulating semester working with you!

Sincerely,

Sean Dinces, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Long Beach City College

P.S. I was just reminded by our veteran teaching assistant, Maru the cat, that I neglected to introduce him. Maru is a world-renowned YouTube influencer, but his real passion is history. You'll be seeing a lot of him this semester.

Pleasure to meet you!



HISTORY 11 (31074)- U.S. HISTORY, RECONSTRUCTION - PRESENT
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, 12:45 PM – 2:10 PM, T-2312 (LAC)
PROF. SEAN DINCES [sdinces@lbcc.edu] • (562) 938 – 4448 • T-2332 (LAC)]



HOW DOES THIS COURSE MEET?

This course meets *in-person* each week on Mondays & Wednesdays (beginning Feb. 06, 2023), from 12:45 PM – 2:10 PM in T-2312 on the Liberal Arts Campus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ever wonder why economic inequality is such a pressing issue in the U.S. today? Or why Black people in the U.S. had to struggle for a century after the Civil War to secure basic civil rights and why those rights remain under threat? We will explore such questions by examining key people and events in U.S. history since the Civil War. Instead of focusing just on “great men” (e.g., presidents, business tycoons, etc.), we will also learn about workers, women, immigrants, and soldiers in the trenches. In exploring the key roles of these ordinary Americans, we will not only gain a broader and deeper knowledge of the American past, but also an appreciation of the power of regular people to change the course of history.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH PROFESSOR DINCES:

- ✓ **"History 11 General Questions" Discussion Forum**- If you have a general question about the course that is *not* of a personal nature (e.g., clarification question on assignment instructions, etc.), please post it to the "General Questions" discussion forum in Canvas. (You can access the forum by clicking "Discussions" in Canvas.) Chances are that someone else has the same question, so posting it to the forum helps everyone! I check the forum daily and will reply to any questions within twenty-four hours.
- ✓ **E-mail**- For any questions of a more personal nature (e.g., request to set up a one-on-one Zoom appointment to discuss a course-related issue, etc.), you can e-mail me directly. **Please be sure to include your name and section number in your e-mails.** I will respond to your e-mail within twenty-four hours. There are two ways to e-mail me:
 - You can send an email directly to sdinces@lbcc.edu through your personal e-mail client.
 - You can click on the "Inbox" icon in Canvas (the one with the paper sticking out of the tray), which will allow you to message me directly and privately through Canvas.
- ✓ **Student Hours**- Student hours are pre-scheduled times when you can speak with me individually about any course-related concerns you have. Student hours will take place according to the following schedule:

Day	Time	Location
Monday	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Zoom, Phone, T-2332
Tuesday	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Zoom, Phone, T-2332
Wednesday	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Zoom, Phone, T-2332

The Zoom link is available through Canvas. My office phone number is (562) 938 – 4448. If these times do not fit your schedule, you can always make a separate appointment with me! Just send me an e-mail with at least two times that work for you and I will reply within twenty-four hours with a scheduled time and meeting link.

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 is FREE for LBCC students. For more info. visit: www.lbcc.edu/sthd.

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

- ✓ Explain and analyze the process of historical change from Reconstruction (1877) to the present.
- ✓ Organize historical thinking and writing by using facts, ideas, and events to ask questions, assemble evidence, and support conclusions in U.S. history from Reconstruction (1877) to the present with clarity and coherence.

WHAT BOOKS DO I NEED?

You will need two books for this course:

- ✓ 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/>. This is the primary textbook for History 11.

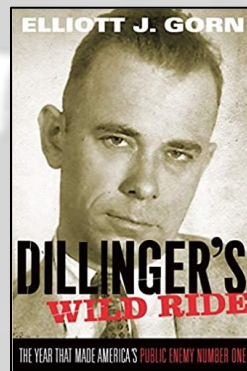


Did Prof. D mention that the online edition of *American Yawp* is FREE? See the next page if you prefer to buy a hard copy.

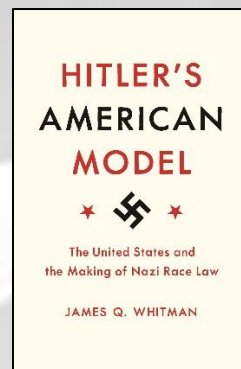
If you want to purchase a hard copy of *American Yawp* (optional) you can do so by visiting your preferred online book retailer or directly from the Stanford University Press website: www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27850. **Be sure to get Volume 2—the one with the blue cover—if you buy a hard copy, as this corresponds to the material covered in History 11.**

- ✓ There are **three options for the second book**, which you will use for your Book Worksheet assignment (see “What Work Is Required” section below for more information on the worksheet). You get to pick the book that most interests you! I will provide free PDF copies of all three books through Canvas, but if you prefer you can purchase a hard copy of the title you select at your preferred bookstore. All these titles are available at online retailers like amazon.com and biblio.com:

- Elliott Gorn, *Dillinger’s Wild Ride: The Year that Made America’s Public Enemy Number One* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

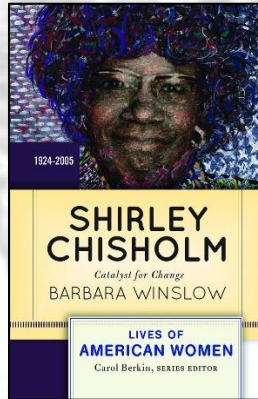


- James Whitman, *Hitler’s American Model: The United States and the Making of Race Law* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017).



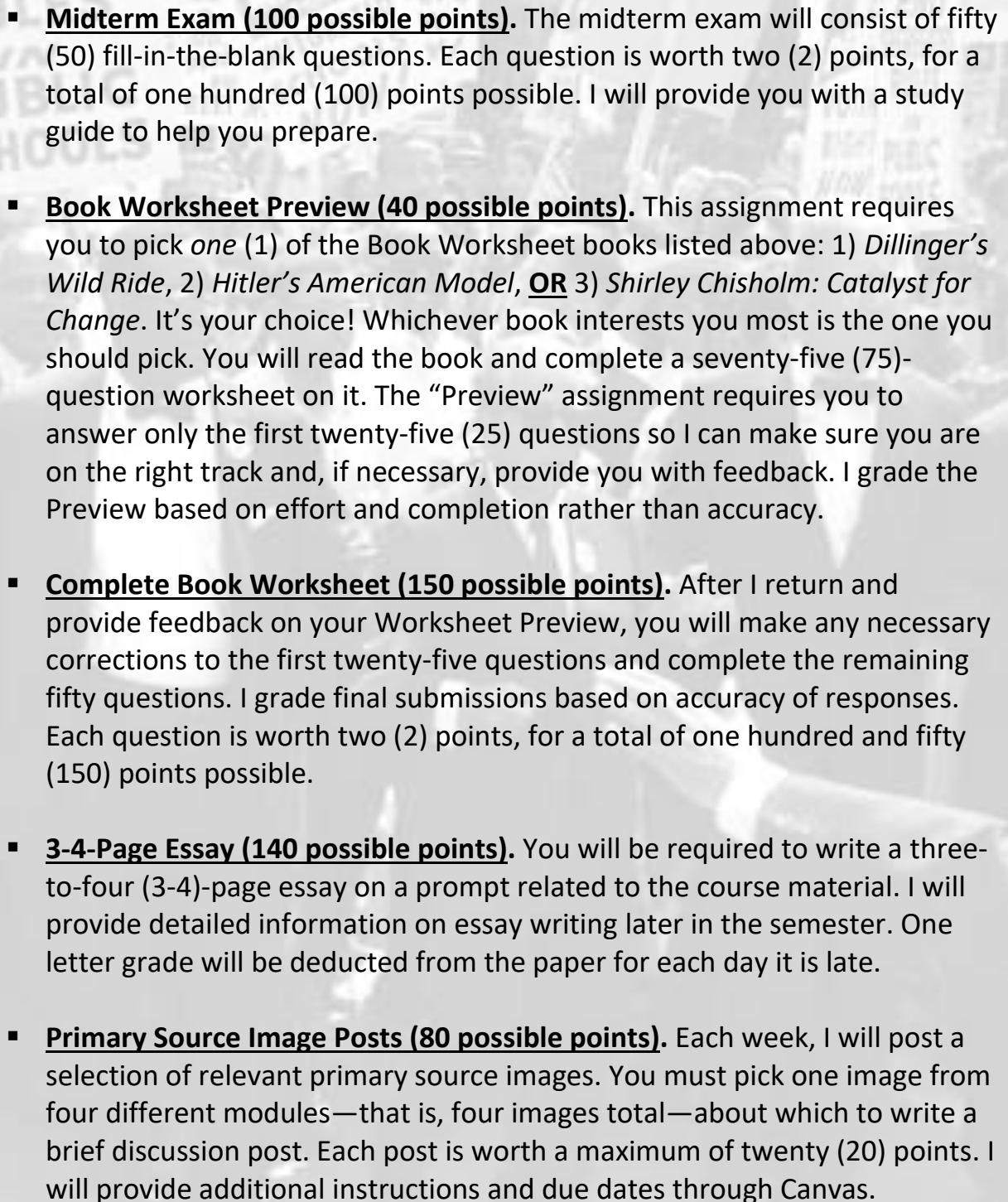
- Barbara Winslow, *Shirley Chisholm: Catalyst for Change* (New York: Routledge, 2014).

Don't forget: You only need to read one (1) of the Book Worksheet books. And *you* choose which one!



WHAT WORK IS REQUIRED?

- **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. The quiz has a twenty (20) minute time limit. **You get two (2) attempts and will retain your highest score.**
- **American Yawp Quizzes (320 possible points)**. You will take sixteen (16) 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 (250 possible points)**. You will take twenty-five (25) online 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.**

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- **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.
 - **Book Worksheet Preview (40 possible points)**. This assignment requires you to pick *one* (1) of the Book Worksheet books listed above: 1) *Dillinger's Wild Ride*, 2) *Hitler's American Model*, **OR** 3) *Shirley Chisholm: Catalyst for Change*. It's your choice! Whichever book interests you most is the one you should pick. You will read the book and complete a seventy-five (75)-question worksheet on it. The "Preview" assignment requires you to answer only the first twenty-five (25) questions so I can make sure you are on the right track and, if necessary, provide you with feedback. I grade the Preview based on effort and completion rather than accuracy.
 - **Complete Book Worksheet (150 possible points)**. After I return and provide feedback on your Worksheet Preview, you will make any necessary corrections to the first twenty-five questions and complete the remaining fifty questions. I grade final submissions based on accuracy of responses. Each question is worth two (2) points, for a total of one hundred and fifty (150) points possible.
 - **3-4-Page Essay (140 possible points)**. You will be required to write a three-to-four (3-4)-page essay on a prompt related to the course material. I will provide detailed information on essay writing later in the semester. One letter grade will be deducted from the paper for each day it is late.
 - **Primary Source Image Posts (80 possible points)**. Each week, 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 and due dates through Canvas.

- **Participation (50 possible points)**. I evaluate participation in my online courses based on two things:
 1. **Consistent, on-time in-person class attendance**. If you miss more than 4 course meetings, your participation grade will fall.
 2. **On-time completion and submission of assignments**.
 3. **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.
- **Extra-Credit 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.

GRADING SCALE

A	=	900 points or more (see below for important exceptions)
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 1250 possible points. Your goal is to accumulate enough points to achieve your desired grade.

Students who fail to submit the Book Worksheet and/or Essay **cannot receive an A in the course, regardless of point total**. If you accumulate 900 points but fail to submit the Worksheet and/or Essay, 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 a score of zero. 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).

Shooting for an A? It can't happen unless you complete *both* the Book Worksheet *and* Essay!



- **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. 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 if you need it! I understand that you lead busy lives. Together, we can figure out a way for you to succeed in this course!

LBCC BASIC NEEDS OFFICE

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing is urged to contact our Basic Needs office at basicneeds@lbcc.edu for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess. The Viking Vault (food pantry) is providing drive-thru, Grab-n-Go distributions during campus closure, along with CalFresh information for monthly food benefits. Please join our Canvas page at www.tinyurl.com/vikingvault to find out when is our next event.

JOIN LBCC STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES ON CANVAS!

- ✓ Visit the following link to see our upcoming events and workshops on Canvas. <https://lbcc.instructure.com/courses/50606>
- ✓ Visit the following link if you would like to enroll for automatic notifications of upcoming events. <https://lbcc.instructure.com/enroll/X87ENG>

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

Midterm Exam	Sunday, Mar. 19 th @ 11:59 PM
Book Worksheet Preview	Sunday, Apr. 09 th @ 11:59 PM
Completed Book Worksheet	Sunday, Apr. 30 th @ 11:59 PM
3-4 Page Essay	Sunday, May 28 th @ 11:59 PM
Extra-Credit Final Exam	Sunday, Jun. 11 th @ 11:59 PM