



IN-PERSON COURSE SYLLABUS
Prof. Sean Dinces
Long Beach City College
Spring 2023

Welcome to History 47 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 47 (33612)- FACTS, EVIDENCE & EXPLANATION
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, 2:20 PM – 3:45 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 2:20 PM – 3:45 PM in T-2312 on the Liberal Arts Campus. Students attending in-person classes must be vaccinated against COVID-19.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Most of what we “know” about our own history comes from Hollywood, the mainstream “news”, video games, or social media. All these sources oversimplify or distort the past by ignoring or glossing over relevant facts and/or focusing only on emotionally fulfilling information (“feel-good” stories, for example). If we want to get closer to the truth, what can we do? Where do we look for reliable information? What do we do when different sources provide contradictory information? In this class, we will explore and debate questions like these with respect to a topic that many Americans think they know something about: World War II. We are not going to focus on the military tactics or strategy the way the entertainment industry does. Instead, we will examine more controversial and less publicized aspects of the war: the sexuality of soldiers, class-divisions within the U.S. military, the deep historical connections between Nazi law and American law, among many others.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH PROFESSOR DINCES:

- ✓ **"History 47 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 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	09:00 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.

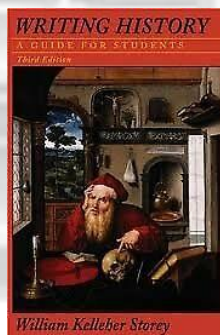
WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS CLASS? (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)

- ✓ Define, compare, and discuss the different methods, theories, and genres that historians use to analyze and draw conclusions from factual evidence.
- ✓ Evaluate primary and secondary historical source material critically, with attention to issues such as context, agency, conflict, perspective, and causation.
- ✓

WHAT BOOKS DO I NEED?

You will need two books for this course, both of which are available in hard-copy format at the LBCC Bookstore and as *free* PDF versions on the course Canvas page (you are *not* required to purchase a hard copy):

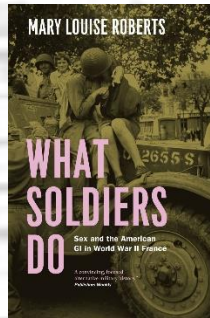
- ✓ William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 3rd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).



Did Prof. D mention that the course Canvas page has FREE PDF versions of both required books?



- ✓ Mary Louise Roberts, *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).



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.**
- **Reading Quizzes (160 possible points)**. You will eight (8) open-book, online (Canvas) quizzes dealing with the main ideas, figures, and events covered in assigned readings. 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.**
- **Primary Source Activities (100 possible points)**. Over the course of the semester, you will complete five (5) primary source activities which take a variety of formats ranging from short worksheets to brief in-class presentations. Each activity is worth twenty (20) points, and I will provide detailed instructions closer to the respective due dates.

- **Midterm Exam (100 possible points)**. The midterm exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. The exam is worth a total of one hundred (100) points possible. I will provide you with a study guide to help you prepare.
- **Book Worksheet Preview (30 possible points)**. As you read *What Soldiers Do*, you will 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.
- **Book Review (140 possible points)**. You will write a three-to-four (3-4) page book review on *What Soldiers Do*. I will provide detailed information on review writing through Canvas.
- **Annotated Bibliography (150 possible points)**. You will select a historical topic of interest to you and complete an annotated bibliography covering five (5) primary sources and five (5) secondary sources. I will provide detailed information on the bibliography later in the semester.
- **Participation (200 possible points)**. I evaluate participation based on:
 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. This includes occasional discussion post and reflection assignments that I assign and count toward your participation grade.

3. Taking in-class discussion seriously. Our success depends on us engaging seriously and respectfully with one another during in-class discussions. This means coming to class prepared to focus on the course material, ready to listen, and willing to contribute if the opportunity presents itself. We are all friends here and nobody is “keeping score”, so do not be afraid to get involved!
4. Asking and answering questions when appropriate.
5. Being a Team Player. This course involves a lot of in-class group work, and one of the most important components of your participation grade is engaging respectfully with your classmates during group activities. Concretely, this means dividing work fairly, taking your classmates’ ideas seriously even if you don’t agree with them, etc.
 - **Extra-Credit Final Exam (100 Points).** You will have the opportunity to complete an *optional* extra-credit final exam. I will provide more information on the exam later in the semester.



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.**

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).
- **Late/Missed Work Policy.** Every student gets one (1) "late quiz freebie", which means that I will reopen (1) missed quiz for each student over the course of the semester. After that, there are absolutely no make-up quizzes. For every 24 hours that a major assignment (e.g., bibliography) 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 (in-Class)	Wednesday, Mar. 3 rd
Book Worksheet Preview	Sunday, Mar. 26 th @ 11:59 PM
Completed Book Worksheet	Sunday, Apr. 23 rd @ 11:59 PM
Book Review	Sunday, May 07 th @ 11:59 PM
Annotated Bibliography	Sunday, May 28 th @ 11:59 PM
Extra-Credit Final Exam	Tuesday, Jun. 04 th @ 11:59 PM