Welcome to History 117: US History, 1550-1877!

Image from: edmethods.com

Course Description

My name is Professor Stonis, and I am excited to take a journey through United States history with you! I will play an active role in the course, and I am here to help. You can expect me to create a positive and interactive learning environment that includes helpful announcements, facilitating robust discussions of course concepts, timely feedback, and guidance on all coursework.

This course is a survey of the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the United States from European "discovery" through Reconstruction. The course content will focus on the colonial era, establishment of the new nation, sectional problems, national growth, disunion, and Reconstruction. More specifically, the English colonies; the Revolutionary War; the Constitution; the New Nation; Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy; slavery; the Civil War; and Reconstruction are all examined. Material may be covered chronologically or topically. The central tenet of this course will be shifting concept of freedom throughout United States history as we explore the power dynamics that continuously evolve around key themes such as race, class, and gender.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Name: Michelle Stonis

Contact Phone: N/A

GCC Email: mstonis@glendale.edu OR click on "Inbox" in Canvas

In-Person Office Hours: None This Semester (COVID-19)

Virtual Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30pm – 9:30pm on Pronto
Direct Message only ME, not entire class

- During this time, you can ask questions and I can go over course materials. It's a way to get extra support or individualized help for our course.

- Texting Only or Private Chat Video options – Always the student's choice

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Introduction

I am looking forward to working closely with you this semester and you can expect me to play an active role in the course. I will post announcements every week, join you in weekly class discussions to help you understand course concepts and facilitate class conversations, and provide detailed feedback on major assignments. Please reach out to me if you need help—that's why I'm here!

I am an Instructor of United States history and United States women's history at Glendale Community College. I previously taught at CSULB, a private university, and several other community colleges. I combine historical knowledge, critical thinking skills, and current pop culture media to facilitate learners' understanding of the past so we can work together through civic engagement to build a more equitable future. I completed my Bachelor's degree in history at UCLA where I was awarded the Mary Ritter Beard Scholarship for the best women's history research paper in the History Department. I completed my Master's degree in history with an emphasis on the United States, and I earned the Best Thesis in the College of Liberal Arts for my thesis entitled "'On Heathen Ground': The Double Bind of Women's Roles in the Sandwich Islands Mission, 1819-1863." I was recently featured on the 52 Feminists website about the intersection of history, feminism, and civic engagement.

As the rapper Drake once said, "Sometimes it's the journey that teaches you a lot about your destination." My educational journey led me to want to help students achieve their personal academic goals while realizing that history matters. I will encourage us to see history as more than only places, dates, and names, but rather as an interconnected web of stories that still have something important to impart to us today.

If you ever have any questions, please email me through Canvas by clicking on "Inbox" on the left side of your homepage. Click on "Compose a new message," select this course, and then select "Teachers" under the "To" field to find my name, **Michelle Stonis**. This is email inside Canvas. :-) I am not supposed to receive any personal email...Canvas email only, please! You may also use Pronto to send me a Direct Message if the question, and answer, are brief.

I will respond to your email within 48 hours, M-F. If you do not hear back from me within this time, please assume I did not receive your email and resend it.

Remember, confusion is normal! If you need anything, please reach out to me. I am here to guide you through this exciting course journey!

About Your Class

- **This course is Online. This means we only "see" each other online on Canvas. There are no in-person meetings required for this course.**

- **This course (Class # 2474 or 2575) officially begins on 8/21/20 and ends on 10/24/20.**

- **This is an 8-week asynchronous course with synchronous office hours.**

- Please refer to [Important Dates for Add/Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines](#) for your own reference. Refer to the [GCC Covid-19 webpage](#) for the latest information regarding enrollment issues and campus policies. You can also reach a helpful GCC enrollment counselor via [GCC Counseling](#).

- **Mandatory Check-In Assignment:** Submit the Historical Thinking Skills assignment within the "Module 1 - Getting Started" - Due Thursday, 9/3 at 11:59pm PST. **(Not submitting this assignment will result in a permanent drop from this course by the instructor – no exceptions.)** Any act of academic dishonesty on check-in assignments, including but not limited to plagiarism, will result in an automatic drop from the course with the inability to re-add. All check-in assignment work must be your own original work with no plagiarism (blue/bright green similarity scores only).

Log into Your Class

LMS – Canvas:

- You will be using the [Canvas](#)Learning Management System (LMS) for your Online Learning Environment.

Browser Compatibility:

- I highly recommend using the most recent version of [Mozilla](#) or [Google Chrome](#) as your browser to make sure everything works correctly in Canvas.

Grammarly Extension:

- Download a free Grammarly extension to your browser and check all written work, including Discussion Posts and emails. An extension for Chrome can be found here.

Turn-On Auto-Save Text:

- For Chrome: Typio automatically saves text as you type and lets you easily recover input data in case of loss. You are in full control of which sites auto-save is enabled on and how long the input is saved. Typio is lightweight and secure, your data never leaves your computer.
- For Firefox Mozilla: Form History Control manages form history entries (search, edit, cleanup, export/import) and easy text form-filler. Auto-save text entered in any form while typing allows fast recovery when disaster strikes.

Using the Canvas App on your Phone

- The Canvas Student App is free and can help you stay connected to the course when you're on the go.

How to Log into your Class:

- Your class will be accessible in Canvas starting on the first day of the term. You won't be able to access our course in Canvas before that.
- Go to Canvas to find our online classroom.
- Click on Canvas Login – Notice the help materials that are available.
- Use your GCC Student ID number as Username; use your initials in caps followed by @ followed by your six-digit date of birth (mmddyy) as the password - for example, password for John Smith born January 23, 1990 would be JS@012390. You will be asked to change your password the first time you login.
- Find your course on your Canvas Dashboard for access.

How to Sign up for Pronto:

Students should download the Pronto app to their cell phones (or iPads). It's also available within Canvas (see left-hand tool bar).

There are only 3 steps **students** have to do to get the free App to join us online:
1. Go to your App Store to download the app by searching for **Pronto Team Communication**
2. Enter GCC email to request the verification code via GCC email
3. Retrieve and input verification code
THAT'S IT. 😊 If you can text, you can Pronto.
(Pronto is also available to use in Canvas by clicking on the Pronto tab on the right-hand side.)

Student Technical Support

- If you have issues logging into Canvas or other tech issues, these are helpful resources available to you:

  - [Student Tech Support](#)
  - Call 1-844-600-4951 **for 24/7 Assistance** with Student Canvas Questions ONLY.
  - Student Canvas Support [Live Chat](#)
  - Student Support [On Campus](#)
  - [Student Canvas Guides](#)
  - [Student Distance Education Success](#)

For Distance Education Classes Only (Like Ours)

You must complete the remainder of the check-in assignment steps by Thursday at 11:59pm PST during the first week of class or YOU WILL be dropped from the course (no exceptions to this [GCC DE Policy](#)).

- After you click on your class and see your Homepage, click on Week 1 (middle-top of page) and click on Welcome to Week 1 Directions – Start Here!
- Read the Syllabus under Week 1 and Announcements (left side of your Homepage).
- After, begin the Check-In Assignment in Module #1. You must complete and pass the Check-In Assignment by Thursday at 11:59pm PST during the first week of class or [you will be dropped from the course](#).

Help with Online Learning:

- If you are new to Canvas or online learning or overwhelmed or confused, all the help you need is under the [Get Started](#) tab on the [Student GCC DE webpage.](#)

Series of short videos designed to help students learn how to use [Canvas](#):

- [Videos](#) can be viewed in any order.

Review these [OEI Readiness tools](#) if you are still not sure if online learning is right for you. The tools can help you address issues and needs, such as:

- Are Online Courses for You?
- Is Online Learning Right for Me?
- Introduction to Online Learning
- Organizing for Online Success
- Online Study Skills and Managing Time
- Communication Skills for Online Learning
- Online Reading Strategies

Textbook(s) & Required App – Available for FREE Online

U.S. History by Open Stax (Peer-Reviewed) - https://openstax.org/details/us-history

As noted above, you also MUST use Pronto. Make sure to log-in to use it and, preferably, download it to your phone.

Students should download the Pronto app to their cell phones (or iPads). It's also available within Canvas (left-hand side tool bar).
There are only 3 steps **students** have to do to get the free App to join us online:
1. Go to your App Store to download the app by searching for **Pronto Team Communication**
2. Enter GCC email to request the verification code via GCC email
3. Retrieve and input verification code
THAT'S IT. 😊 If you can text, you can Pronto.
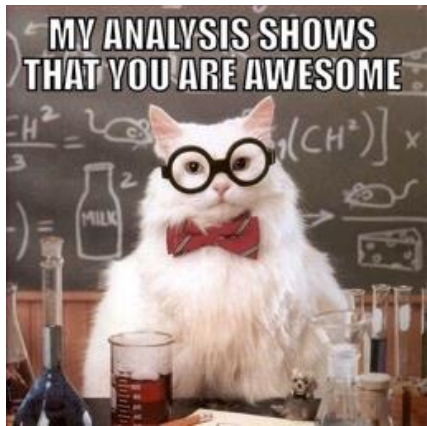(Pronto is also available to use in Canvas by clicking on the Pronto tab on the right-hand side.)

Important Notes

Academic Honesty:

- It is expected that all work submitted for grading is original, not copied from others and that the work being graded is indeed done by the student who is receiving the grade. Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations of the student conduct code. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in a zero on the assignment/test. The second incident will result in failing the course. All incidents may result in suspension, failure in the course, and/or other disciplinary action taken by the College. All incidents of cheating or plagiarizing are reported to the Dean of Students. Details regarding the GCC Academic Honesty policy can be found here.

Students with Disabilities and/or Accommodations:

- All students with disabilities seeking accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner through the Center for Students with Disabilities, which can be reached at 818-240-1000 x5905. Please let me know right away if you will need accommodations so we can pre-plan together.
- I am a trained Autism Ally, so please reach out to me if you need accommodations. I am here to help.
- I am a trained VET NET Ally, so please reach out to me if you need accommodations. I am here to help.
- Please let me know if you have adaptive software and hardware to assist you with taking this course or if you have any specific needs of which I should be aware.

This class will change you, if you let it. There is hope to be found in history. It's also important that we learn lessons from the horrible decisions in the past so we can change them now to have a better future.

Be prepared to WORK HARD, to have FUN, and to come with an open mind. Work towards having a growth mindset, meaning learning is about hard work and being open to new information, not inherent intelligence. Your ability to learn and develop your historical thinking skills in this class is based on your grit, hard work, and perseverance. I am looking forward to a high-energy class with you all as we learn more about US history through women's experiences and impact.

"SEE" YOU SOON! I hope you enjoy this online experience and journey. Please do reach out via the Inbox in Canvas (email) or Pronto (if the question/answer is brief) if you have any questions/concerns. I'm here to help!

Your GCC Instructor,
Professor Stonis 😊
Instructor of History
mstonis@glendale.edu **/** GCC Instructor Page / GCC DE Instructor Page