

Course Orientation in Pictures

If there are other things that you need pictures about, just email me.

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How to Login and Succeed at this Course

If you are going to do your work at a WCJC computer lab, you do not need the preparation instructions below. If you want to work from your own computer, you will. Based on student comments, you will not be safe if you try to do Blackboard from your phone.

1. Go to <https://wcjc.blackboard.com>

Caution: Do **not** go through the portal or even the link on WCJC's home page. WCJC's webpage and portal have been down, but Blackboard has stayed up.

2. You see a **Login Here** section on the left.

Before you login, notice the upper right section of the screen with the link **Help & Resources**. You will use that link to make sure your computer **and** browser work with this Blackboard.

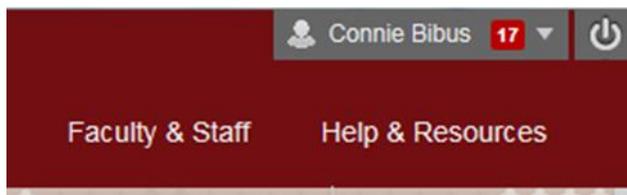
FYI: I care about you all, but I am **not** a techy. WCJC's IT can help (at Help & Resources). My 1 tech tip is—if your browser is not working or displaying what I say is there—try a different browser for a day.

3. Follow the directions in the **Login Here** section for what you type in those 2 fields.
4. Login on the Blackboard log in screen.
5. On the left side of the new screen see the words **My Courses**.
6. Look for our course (with the word HIST or History in it) and click on it.
7. When you click on the course, you see the Learning Modules page.
8. For your first days, you will work with Evidence Quizzes. Then you will shift to Unit 1 and its Learning Quizzes.

Caution: Please Do Not Come Into the Course This Way

The Director of Distance Education at WCJC encourages students **never** to use what is called Blackboard's Global Navigation.

The students that I have seen **fail horribly** used this tool in the upper right area next to the log out button.



For example, two thought they were failing because they clicked on something they thought was My Grades. Other students seem to think that they can click and go. They skip the instructions so they frequently fail and sometimes do work they did not need to do.

Caution: Also Blackboard does **not** record that you are in the class so—as far as your instructor knows—you are not in the course.

What's on the Course Menu for US History I and US History II

Syllabus Resources

The link from orientation, including the syllabus

Course Materials

Heading for the 2 links for Course Materials (work you do in the course):

Learning Modules

Provides **everything** you need: from study guides, instructions, lessons, to primaries—including **all** of the Blackboard tools you use including quizzes

Learning Quizzes Shortcuts

Shortcut to each of the folders for Learning Quizzes in each Unit

Blackboard Tools

Heading for Blackboard tools that we use in this course

Announcements

Blackboard's tool for **public** news

My Grades

Blackboard's tool for your **personal** view of your grades in the Gradebook. **Tip:**

Help and Resources

Make sure that the upper right at My Grades shows **Order by: Course order**

Heading for additional information

Help for Blackboard

Videos from Blackboard to help you with Blackboard's tools

College & History Links

College links, such as to Disability Services

History links, such as an introduction to the discipline of history, a searchable and sorted US Constitution, *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, and to a map website

What's on Learning Modules for US History I and US History II? (Everything you need in one spot.)

The Learning Modules page not only gives you access to whatever is listed in the List of Due Dates, but gives you *reminders* of what units and other work will be available here on the date in the List of Due Dates.

Learning Modules for US History I

Learning Modules	
 Always read the Announcements. If you are looking for Announcements now, click on Announcements on the left menu--called the Course Menu. If you cannot see the Course Menu but you can see this Announcement, click Ctrl- (Control key + hyphen key). When you click Ctrl-, you see a narrow blue band on the left. Click the blue band and you see the Course Menu.	< A reminder about Announcements
 The Getting Started module is visible on the date in the List of Due Dates	< Everything you need for Getting Started
 Unit 1: From New World to New Empires - the 16th Century to 1763 will open on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything for Unit 1
 Evidence Quizzes & 3-Part Writing will be visible on the date in List of Due Dates.	< Everything for Evidence and the 3-PartWriting
 Unit 2: From Making a Revolution to Making a Nation -1763 to 1830s will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything for Unit 2
 Unit 3: Transforming the Nation - 1830s to 1877 will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates	< Everything for Unit 3
 Final Exam: 16th Century to 1877 will be visible on the date in List of Due Dates	<Everything for the Final Exam

Learning Modules for US History II

Learning Modules	
 Always read the Announcements. If you are looking for Announcements now, click on Announcements on the left menu--called the Course Menu. If you cannot see the Course Menu but you can see this Announcement, click Ctrl- (Control key + hyphen key). When you click Ctrl-, you see a narrow blue band on the left. Click the blue band and you see the Course Menu.	< A reminder about Announcements
 The Getting Started module will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything you need for Getting Started
 Unit 1: Creating a New America from 1860 to 1913 will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything for Unit 1
 Evidence Quizzes & 3-Part Writing will be available by the date in the List of Due Dates	< Everything for Evidence and the 3-PartWriting
 Unit 2: Moving to the World Stage - America from 1900 to 1945 will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates	< Everything for Unit 2
 Unit 3: Transformations – America from 1945 to the Near Present will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything for Unit 3
 Final Exam: 1860s to the Near Present will be visible on the date in the List of Due Dates.	< Everything for the Final Exam

What's in a Unit? (All Units have the same things in the same order.)

All Units are organized in exactly the same way and US History I and II are organized in the same way.

Example of a Unit for US History I or US History II

Unit 1: Creating a New America from 1860 to 1900

	<u>Unit #1 Study Guide</u>
	<u>Learning Quizzes for Unit 1 – Pre-Earn Points and Pre-Learn 30% of the Unit Exam</u>
	<u>Lesson 1: Big Business and Semi-Organized Labor, 1860–1900</u>
	<u>Lesson 2: Transformations in the South and West—Farmers, African Americans, and Native Americans</u>
	<u>Lesson 3: Turmoil of Politics, Urban/Rural Split, and Reform</u>
	<u>Lesson 4: Turmoil and Expansion Through 1900</u>

< The Study Guide for the Unit (and guide to 17 of 25 exam questions)

< Learning Quizzes for the Unit (and source of 8 of 25 exam questions)

< Usually 3 to 4 Lessons in each Unit to help you see the patterns of history not just for a good grade but as a life-time understanding

How Self-Tests and Full-Tests Work Whether Evidence Quizzes or Learning Quizzes

What's the Only Password You Need?

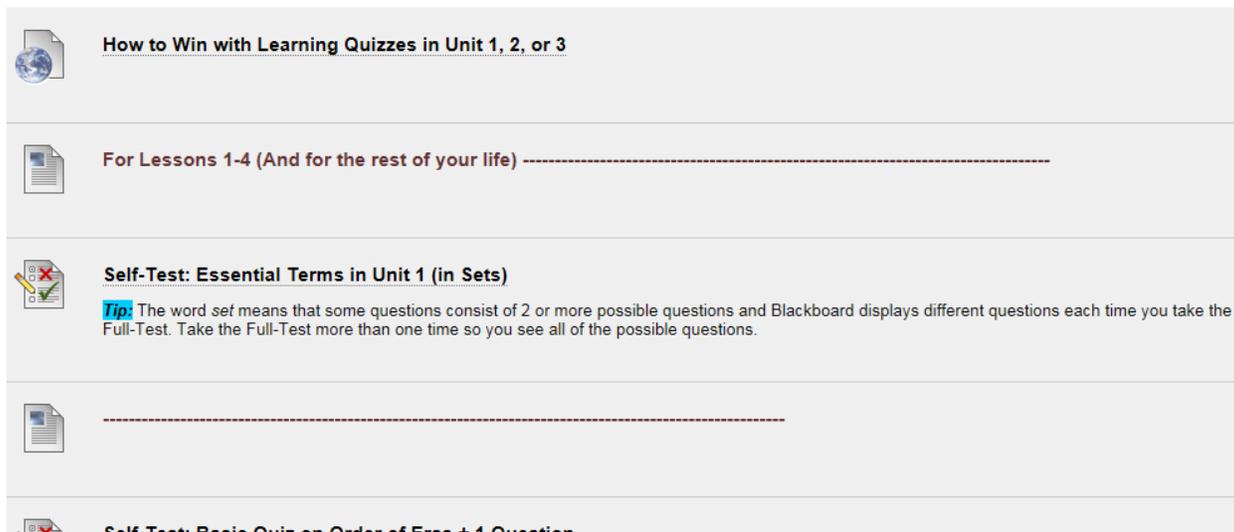
The password for the Self-Tests is:

selftest < no capitals, no spaces, no punctuation

Notice Blackboard **Before** You Take a Self-Test

Units begin with a quiz on common concepts in history that freshman students commonly do not know. This shows an example for US History I, but the quizzes work the same way in US History II.

Learning Quizzes for Unit 1 – Pre-Earn Points and Pre-Learn 30% of the Unit Exam

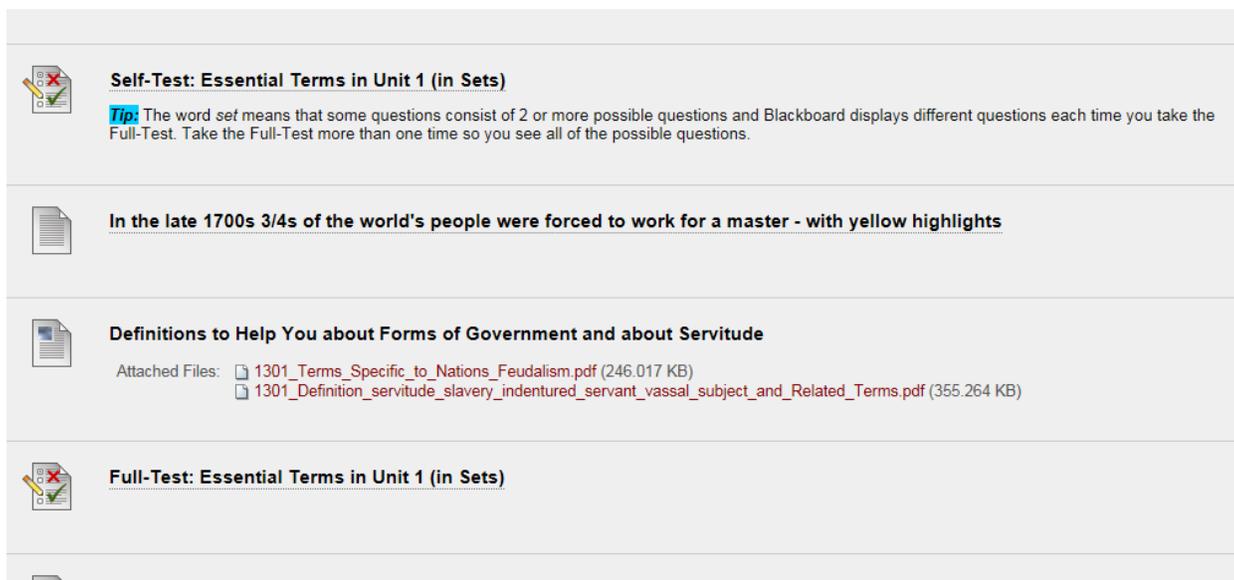


The screenshot shows a list of learning quizzes in Blackboard. The first item is "How to Win with Learning Quizzes in Unit 1, 2, or 3" with a globe icon. The second item is "For Lessons 1-4 (And for the rest of your life)" with a document icon and a dashed line below it. The third item is "Self-Test: Essential Terms in Unit 1 (in Sets)" with a document icon containing a pencil and a checkmark. Below this title is a tip: "Tip: The word set means that some questions consist of 2 or more possible questions and Blackboard displays different questions each time you take the Full-Test. Take the Full-Test more than one time so you see all of the possible questions." The fourth item is a document icon with a dashed line below it. The fifth item is "Self-Test: Basic Quiz on Order of Eras + 1 Question" with a document icon.

Notice Blackboard **After** You Take a Self-Test

Notice the Self-Test is still there—and you cannot retake it, but you can still look at and you should. **Why?** You need to know what you know and what you have to learn.

Notice there is additional material to help you teach yourself and below that the Full-Test you can retake as many times as you want—with the highest score counting.



The screenshot shows additional learning materials in Blackboard. The first item is "Self-Test: Essential Terms in Unit 1 (in Sets)" with a document icon containing a pencil and a checkmark. Below this title is a tip: "Tip: The word set means that some questions consist of 2 or more possible questions and Blackboard displays different questions each time you take the Full-Test. Take the Full-Test more than one time so you see all of the possible questions." The second item is "In the late 1700s 3/4s of the world's people were forced to work for a master - with yellow highlights" with a document icon. The third item is "Definitions to Help You about Forms of Government and about Servitude" with a document icon. Below this title are two attached files: "1301_Terms_Specific_to_Nations_Feudalism.pdf (246.017 KB)" and "1301_Definition_servitude_slavery_indentured_servant_vassal_subject_and_Related_Terms.pdf (355.264 KB)". The fourth item is "Full-Test: Essential Terms in Unit 1 (in Sets)" with a document icon containing a pencil and a checkmark. The fifth item is a document icon.

How Do Self-Tests and Full-Tests Work to Help You?

One of my favorite thinkers about learning says that what make the difference for learners is their **knowing what they know and do not know**. This course tries to make it possible for you to learn what you do not know without cost to you in your grade. Here's what the syllabus says about how they work to help you.

Method of Using Quizzes to Help Students with Varied Backgrounds:

Whether Learning Quizzes on concepts or map locations (200 points) or the Evidence Quizzes for history (40 points), quizzes always consist of:

- A self-test so you find out what you know and you do not know. The name is **self**-test because **you** are testing **yourself** so **you** know what **you** need to do.) The goal is positive so **no** points are lost. Self-Tests are extra credit and have questions that are only worth .01. (A .01 is so small that it is equivalent to a penny compared to a dollar.)
 - Tip:** On the other hand, it is in your interest to answer Self-Tests accurately so measure your own brain accurately for 2 reasons.
 1. You want to know what you know and do not know to save time and to correct or complete what you do not know. **Caution:** With Evidence Quizzes, this is particularly important because, if you miss many questions, you must follow instructions carefully because writing about history is different from your prior experiences.
 2. If you already know the content in the Self-Test and prove that by being correct on over 80 percent of the questions on that Self-Test, you earn the points for its Full-Test **without** taking it.
Your instructor enters those points at the end of each Unit **after** the Learning Quizzes close.
- Once you submit the self-test, Blackboard **automatically** displays additional content (if needed) and a Full-Test so that you can earn full points while teaching yourself the vocabulary and map locations that you do not know. You may repeat as many times as you wish, and your **highest** score counts.

A Visual to Help You: How a Self-Test and its Full-Test works

You take a Self-Test	
↙	↘
You are right 80% or more of the questions. Notice what you missed.	You are right 79% or fewer of the questions. Jot down what you missed—not the whole question but brief words. Tip: You can always go back to look at the Self-Test again.
↓	↓
Blackboard sometimes displays resources, such as dictionary definitions. If you made more than a 0, Blackboard always displays the Full-Test.	Blackboard sometimes displays resources, such as dictionary definitions. If it does, use Ctrl-F (Find) to search the resources for what you missed. (Ask if you need help.) If Blackboard does not display the Full-Test, you made a 0 on the Self-Test. (Tip: You can confirm that at My Grades.) Email bibusc@wcjc.edu with your name, class, and the exact name of the Self-Test. I will reply back that I deleted the 0 so you can take the Self-Test.
↓	↓
If you want to, you may take the Full-Test. When the Unit tests close, your instructor enters Full points for you.	You take its Full-Test until you understand. Your highest score counts.
↓	↓
You have the Full points because you already knew it.	You have the Full points because you taught yourself.