

Dr. Elena Thompson

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Hours: Online daily, Mon-Sat. Calls welcome from noon-10pm, Mon-Sat.

Please leave any messages via e-mail.

Dear NOVA student colleagues,

Welcome to our History 101 course for the upcoming semester! As you can see, this is a team effort on the part of your faculty. Dr. Evans, the course director, has posted a welcome announcement for you on Blackboard. I'm your section instructor, Dr. Elena Thompson. Either Elena or Dr. Thompson is OK, whichever is easier for you. I am in the midst of moving in to my new home in Gaithersburg; while I'm not new to ELI, I previously taught remotely from my former home in Savannah. It's great to be here in person now, though only halfway out of packing boxes. I'll put up a photo for you all when the camera emerges from the packing.

A bit about me: I did my undergraduate work in history and Latin American studies at Duke, with study abroad in El Salvador. I returned to El Salvador in 1994 as an international observer for the presidential elections there. I studied history and Latin American studies at the University of Florida, took an academic timeout for seminary and a divinity degree, then finished at the University of Texas with a Ph.D. in United States religious and intellectual history. Eighteen years start to finish: if I did it, so can you! and your faculty are here to encourage you in any way possible. Outside of class you'll find me playing my viola around town and cooking delicious vegetarian and Tex-Mex repasts for friends.

We only have eight weeks to work together, so here are some pointers. Look through the course now; just click on everything to see what's there. Please take note of three important steps: (1) the first assignment due date is firm, and you must submit that assignment on time to stay in the class; (2) anyone who does not take the midterm is administratively withdrawn from the class; and (3) with no exceptions, you must pass the final exam with a grade of C or better to pass the course. These course requirements are the same for all sections.