

# Hist. 151: American History to 1877

## I. Course Information

### Instructor Info:

Dr. T. Cole Jones

Email: [colejones@purdue.edu](mailto:colejones@purdue.edu)

Office: UNIV 222

### Class Time and Location:

MWF: 4:30-5:20 PM

UNIV 219

### Office Hours:

Dr. Jones: M/W 1:30-2:30

## II. Course Description

This course examines the social, cultural, economic, and political development of what became the United States from sixteenth-century European colonization through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Viewing American history in an Atlantic context, this course emphasizes the relationship between native peoples and European settlers, the origins, character, and evolution of African slavery, and the role of religion, technology, war, and capitalism in shaping American society.

The course readings can be found in the textbook *Give Me Liberty!* (Eric Foner), and an accompanying collection of primary sources in *Voices of Freedom* (Eric Foner).

## III. Learning Objectives

This Course asks you:

1. To increase your knowledge of the key events and themes in American history from 1607-1877.
2. To appreciate the ways in which the interaction of diverse peoples from three continents influenced the development of American culture, politics, and society.
3. To analyze and contextualize historical evidence.
4. To appreciate the ways in which the “narrative” of American history has changed over time.
5. To articulate claims about the past in the form of thesis statements.
6. To improve your oral and written communication skills.

#### IV. Course Requirements

This course will meet two times a week for lecture and once for discussion. I expect you to attend lectures and to participate in discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Part of your overall grade will be determined by your informed participation in Friday's discussion section. All assigned readings for the week must be completed before the discussion section meets. The discussions will focus on themes raised in each week's secondary (textbook) and primary (historical document) readings.

##### Required Books

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, Vol. 1: To 1877 Seagull Fifth Edition, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2017).  
Eric Foner., *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, Volume 1: Fifth Edition, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2017).

##### Major Term Assignments:

Over the course of the semester, you will complete two short papers, a midterm exam, and a final exam. For your papers, you will compose clearly organized and argued responses to the broad questions below.

FIRST SHORT PAPER (3-4 pages). **DUE: February 14** at the beginning of discussion.  
*How did the Indigenous Peoples of North America respond to European colonization?*

SECOND SHORT PAPER (3-4 pages). **DUE: April 24** at the beginning of discussion.  
*How did the institution of chattel slavery shape the development of the American Republic from 1783 to 1860?*

##### OVERALL GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Class Participation: 10%  
First paper: 20%  
Midterm: 25%  
Second Paper: 20%  
Final Exam: 25%

#### V. Classroom Policies

##### My policies are simple:

Show up to every class on time having done the reading.  
Do the assignments.  
Be respectful.  
Use common sense.  
Do your own work. Do not plagiarize or cheat.

If you have a question, ask me in person or via Email.

Late papers will be penalized **one-third grade per day** [example: an A paper that is one day late becomes an A- paper]

If you cheat or plagiarize, you will fail this course. Period.

For a more detailed explanation of the above, see the University Policies:

*"Purdue prohibits 'dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty.' [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, Student Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that 'the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.' [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]"*

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity/>

#### Students with Disabilities:

Students who need special accommodations to participate fully in class should contact me as soon as possible. While I will do everything in my power to accommodate your needs, Purdue University requires you to provide me with appropriate written documentation and to have that documentation on file with Student Services. Students should be aware that Services for Student Disabilities are available at 494-1247 if you need further assistance.

## **VI. Course Content**

### Week 1

Mon. Jan. 13: Introduction: What is American History?

Wed. Jan. 15: America before European Contact

Fri. Jan. 17: Discussion

#### Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 1-11

#### Primary sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 4-8

### Week 2

Mon. Jan. 20: Contact, Conflict, and Adaptation

Wed. Jan. 22: Chesapeake Settlements

Fri. Jan. 24: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 12-44

Primary sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 8-11, 15-19

Week 3

Mon. Jan. 27: MLK DAY: No Class

Wed. Jan. 29: Origins of Slavery

Fri. Jan. 31: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 46-65

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 23-30

Week 4

Mon. Feb. 3: Puritan New England

Wed. Feb. 5: War, Witches, and Salvation

Fri. Feb. 7: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 65-87

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 30-42

Week 5

Mon. Feb. 10: Middle Colonies

Wed. Feb. 12: Lowcountry and Caribbean

Fri. Feb. 14: Discussion **FIRST PAPER DUE**

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 89-129

Primary Sources

*Voices of Freedom:* 47-48, 54-59

Week 6

Mon. Feb. 17: Empire

Wed. Feb. 19: Awakenings

Fri. Feb. 21: No Class

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 131-177

Primary Source:

*Voices of Freedom:* 65-72, 79-82

Week 7

Mon. Feb. 24: World War

Wed. Feb. 26: Revolt to Revolution

Fri. Feb. 28: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 179-214

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 82-85, 86-90

Week 8

Mon. Mar. 2: Independence to Revolutionary War

Wed. Mar. 4: No Class

Fri. Mar. 6: **MIDTERM**

Week 9

Mon. Mar. 9: What Comes Next?

Wed. Mar. 11: Road to Ratification

Fri. Mar. 13: Faction and Discord

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 253-286

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 125-130

Week 10

Mon. Mar. 16-Fri. Mar. 20: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS.

Week 11

Mon. Mar. 23: 1800—A Revolution in Government

Wed. Mar. 25: Asserting Independence

Fri. Mar. 27: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 288-323

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 141-164

Week 12

Mon. Mar. 30: The Market Revolution

Wed. April 1: Manifest Destiny

Fri. April 3: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 325-362

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom:* 165-167, 171-174

Week 13

Mon. Apr. 6: King Cotton

Wed. Apr. 8: Plantation Empire

Fri. Apr. 10: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 404-439

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom: 207-212, 217-219*

Week 14

Mon. Apr. 13: Lincoln and Liberty too!

Wed. Apr. 15: Secession

Fri. Apr. 17: Discussion

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 441-474

Primary Sources:

*Voices of Freedom: 232-234, 244-248, 277-279*

Week 15

Mon. Apr. 20: Battle Cry of Freedom

Wed. Apr. 22: Total War

Fri. Apr. 24: Discussion. **SECOND PAPER DUE**

Readings:

*Give me Liberty!:* 519-562

Primary Documents:

*Voices of Freedom: 284-289*

Week 16

Mon. Apr. 27: Reunion and Reconstruction

Wed. Apr. 29: The Promise of Liberty?

Fri. May. 1: Exam Prep

Reading:

*Give me Liberty!:* 564-600

**The Final will take place during the scheduled Exam Week.**

Disclaimer:

*In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.*