

History of the United States to 1877

HIST 151-2
Spring 2009
Tues/Thurs 1:30-2:45
Office Univ. 224
Office Hours: Tues / Thurs. 3:00-4:00
(and by appointment)

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States from the initial contact of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans through the end of Reconstruction. The principal themes of the class will be the effect of contact among peoples of three different continents, the creation of an "American" people, and the evolving definitions of freedom and equality. We will explore America's history from a variety of different perspectives thus broadening (and challenging) our interpretation of who was an American.

We will approach the narrative in a chronological fashion, weaving together politics, culture, and economics. This structure will remind us that events often happened simultaneously and had unintended consequences. For example, we will examine the ways in which political issues influenced domestic concerns and vice versa. Moreover, Native Americans, Anglo-Americans, African Americans, men, women, and children all become part of the same complex story. This chronological approach will allow us to explore the notion of the "grand narrative"-- that is, was the story of America's past one of progress or not?

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grading:

In-class writing/ pop quizzes:	25%	
Exam 1:	25%	Feb. 12
Exam 2:	25%	March 31
Exam 3:	25%	To Be Announced

There will be three in-class examinations in the course. These tests will be comprised of a combination of identifications, short answers, and essays. All exams that have to be made up for any reason will be completed during the last week of the semester. **No exceptions will be granted to this rule.**

There will be **6 unannounced in-class writing exercises / quizzes** covering **reading material** from the previous week. In fairness, your lowest grade will be dropped, but the 5 remaining exercises / quizzes will count for 5% each. If you do not know the material covered in previous classes due to poor attendance, then chances are you will not do well on the quizzes. **There will be no make-ups for in-class writings / quizzes missed.**

There will be several opportunities throughout the semester for extra-credit. All Instances will be announced in class.

Cheating / Plagiarism:

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

Attendance:

I will not take attendance at the lectures. You are responsible for all of the material covered in lectures, and therefore you will find it extremely difficult to pass this course without regular attendance. Any changes to the syllabus will also be announced in class. Students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class; absence is not a valid excuse. There are no class notes available.

Please be courteous and respectful. If you *must* leave early, sit where you will not disturb the professor or other students. **Turn off all cell phones.** *If any cell phone rings during class, the entire class will be subject to a pop quiz.*

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.

REQUIRED READINGS

Laura A. Belmonte, ed., *Speaking of America: Volume I: To 1877*
 Breen & Innes, “*Myne Owne Ground*”: *Race and Freedom on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, 1640-1676*
 Elizabeth Fenn, *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*
 Jacqueline Glass Campbell, *When Sherman Marched North from the Sea*

I warn my students that my class does not rely on a textbook, but rather on course lectures and the assigned readings. I have, however, placed two textbooks, *American Passages 2nd* (Ayers, et al) and *Created Equal* (Jones, et al), on reserve at the library. Utilizing these textbooks is not required, but they are there in case students have either not had American history in the past or feel they need some deeper background.

All assigned books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Many are also available more cheaply or used on Amazon.com, half.com, and bookfinder.com (among others). Feel free to search for used books online, but be careful to purchase the correct edition.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND EXAMS

Week 1:		
Readings: <i>Speaking of America</i> (hereafter, SoA): 1.1 Christopher Columbus, Journal (1492)		
Jan 13	T	Introductory Session
Jan 15	TH	The Importance of Columbus Day
Week 2:		
Readings: SoA: 1.3 Captain John Smith Describes the Founding of Jamestown 1.4 John Winthrop, Reasons for Emigrating to New England 1.5 William Bradford on Sickness among the Natives 1.8 Jesuit Observations on the “Enslavement” of Native American Women		
Jan 20	T	Encounter: Death and Cannibalism
Jan 22	TH	The Puritan Vision: New England Colonies

Week 3:		
Readings: SoA: 2.4 Trial and Interrogation of Hutchinson 2.6 Mary Rowlandson, Captivity Narrative 2.7 The Examination and Confession of Ann Foster at Salem		
Jan 27	T	Challenges to the Puritan Experiment
Jan 29	TH	The Early South: Settlement and Slavery
Week 4: Readings: Breen & Innes, <i>Myne Own Ground</i>		
Feb 3	T	The Middle Colonies
Feb 5	TH	Surviving the Middle Passage - Discuss Breen & Innes, <i>Myne Own Ground</i> in class
Week 5:		
Readings: SoA: 2.9 Images of the Rise of a Consumer Society 2.12 Olaudah Equiano Recalls the Horrors of the Middle Passage		
Feb 10	T	Refinement, Enlightenment, Awakening
Feb 12	TH	EXAM 1
Week 6: Readings: begin reading Fenn, <i>Pox Americana</i>		
Feb 17	T	Facing East: The Indians' Perspective
Feb 19	TH	Empire
Week 7: Readings: finish reading Fenn, <i>Pox Americana</i>		
Feb 24	T	Imperial Crisis
Feb 26	TH	A Revolutionary Society - Discuss Fenn, <i>Pox Americana</i> in class

Week 8:		
Readings: SoA: 4.2 The Northwest Ordinance 4.4 James Madison, <i>Federalist</i> Number 10 4.5 Patrick Henry, Speech to the Virginia Ratifying Convention 4.6 The Bill of Rights		
Mar 3	T	Peace for a More Perfect Union?
Mar 5	TH	NO CLASS
Week 9:		
Readings: SoA: 4.9 Judith Sargent Murray, “On the Equality of the Sexes” 5.7 Images of American Indians 5.8 Tecumseh’s Plea to the Choctaws and the Chickasaws 5.10 Report and Resolutions of the Hartford Convention		
Mar 10	T	Constituting: The Process of Building the United States
Mar 12	TH	Jefferson and the Second War for Independence
		SPRING BREAK MARCH 16-20
Week 10:		
Readings: SoA: 6.4 The Cherokees Resist Removal 7.1 Joshua and Sally Wilson, Letters to George Wilson 7.2 Catherine Beecher on Domestic Economy 8.1 Anne Newport Royall Describes the Alabama Frontier		
Mar 24	T	Boom & Bust
Mar 26	TH	Rise of Jackson

Week 11:		
Readings: SoA: 6.9 Dorothea Dix Calls for Humane Treatment of the Mentally Ill 6.12 David Walker, Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World 6.14 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Declaration of Sentiments 7.5 Joseph Smith, The Wentworth Letter 7.10 John Humphrey Noyes on Free Love at Oneida		
Mar 31	T	EXAM 2
Apr 2	TH	Dissatisfaction: Religion and Reform
Week 12:		
Readings: SoA: 9.2 George Catlin on Pigeon’s Egg Head 9.4 General Manuel de Mier y Terán on Texas 9.6 Thomas Corwin Opposes the Mexican War 9.8 Henry David Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience” 9.10 Alonzo Delano, A Forty-Niner		
Apr 9	T	Americans on the Move: Migration and Immigration
Apr 11	TH	Life, Leisure, and Culture
Week 13:		
Readings: SoA: 8.2 Life in the Pine Woods 8.4 Fanny Kemble Describes Plantation Slavery 8.12 Benjamin Drew, Narratives of Escaped Slaves 10.3 Harriet Beecher Stowe, from <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> 10.9 John Brown and His Critics		
Apr 14	T	The “Old” South
Apr 16	TH	Prelude to War: From Compromise to Secession
Week 14:		
Reading: <i>Campbell, When Sherman Marched North from the Sea</i>		
Apr 21	T	Life in the Trenches
Apr 23	TH	Behind the Lines: War on the Home Front - Discuss <i>Campbell, When Sherman Marched</i> in class

Week 15:

Readings:

SoA:

12.1 African Americans and the Impact of Freedom

12.2 Elizabeth Hyde Botume, A Northern Teacher's View

12.3 The Louisiana Black Codes

12.7 A White Planter Responds to Emancipation

12.9 Equal Rights Association Proceedings

Apr 28	T	Life after the War
Apr 30	TH	The Problems of Reconstructing and Remembering
EXAM 3 TO BE ANNOUNCED		