Course Description

Nations have never existed within a vacuum. The United States is no exception. It has always been influenced by events outside of its ideological and geographical borders. This online course places the history of the United States in a trans-national context. Beginning with pre-Columbian Native American society and ending with the reconstruction of the Union, this course will explore and interrogate how the interactions of peoples and ideas across boundaries shaped the history of the American people(s). Rather than following a chronological timeline, this class is organized around weekly themes. The grade for this course will be based on how well students master the goals of this course.

Course Goals

This course has two main goals. The first goal has two interrelated parts. Students will understand significant themes, events, and peoples so as to have a basic knowledge of American history to 1877. Students will also recognize the importance of using and interpreting primary sources. The second goal is to assist the student in developing critical thinking and writing skills which will be invaluable in this class and in their own general academic and professional careers.

Required Text

The textbook can be purchased at the University Bookstore or via websites like amazon.com or half.com. The primary source documents will be on Blackboard saved as PDFs.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is the verbatim reproduction of another person’s work without the author’s consent. Plagiarism is considered cheating by the university and is a serious offense. You are expected to produce your own work and must attribute (cite) other people’s work in your discussion assignments. If I catch you in a first-time plagiarism offense, you will automatically receive a zero (0) for the discussion assignment. If I catch you in a second or subsequent plagiarism offense, you will automatically receive a zero (0) for the discussion assignment, and I will report you to the Dean of Student’s Office. For more information about plagiarism please see the following website: http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php

Weekly Discussion Assignments

There will be a discussion assignment each week that corresponds to the assigned readings. Students will write a 375-400 word answer to the weekly prompt by 4pm on Wednesday except for week three (see course schedule below). Students will be randomly divided into discussion groups. Once the discussion post is submitted, students will be able to see the submissions from their other group members. After submitting the discussion post, students will read the other submissions by their group members and choose one post they find the most interesting to submit a 75-100 word response. Citations are included in the word count for the post and response. The response is due by 4pm on Friday except for week three (see course schedule below). The discussion post and response must be submitted through the discussion link in the week’s folder on Blackboard.

The discussion prompts may have multiple questions. Submissions should answer all the questions in the prompt. It must also use and cite the two primary sources for the week and relevant passages from the textbook. The primary sources will be uploaded as PDFs in each week’s folder on Blackboard. Discussion posts should take a clear position (have a clear thesis statement) and use the primary sources and relevant textbook information to support that position. Responses should address some (but not necessarily all) of the following: strengths and weaknesses of your group member’s argument, whether the post effectively used and cited the primary sources, and your reaction to your group member’s discussion post. You should use the primary sources in your response. All discussion posts and responses will be graded based on a rubric available on Blackboard. The entire discussion assignment for each week is worth 100 points: 75 points for the discussion post and 25 points for the response.

Proper Citations: you should use internal citations to cite your sources. The citation should list the title of the source and page number in parenthesis at the end of the sentence but before the period. The title of the primary source is its file name. The file name of each primary source will include a “Doc” and a number. For example, the first two sources for week one (W1) are saved in W1’s folder as “Doc 2.1” and “Doc 2.3”. You would cite Doc 2.1 as (Doc 2.1, p14). You should cite the textbook using the first listed author’s last name and page number: (Schaller, page
number). It is your responsibility to cite appropriately, to seek help if needed, and to be aware of the university’s policies regarding plagiarism. You should schedule an appointment and visit the Writing Center Lab here on campus for writing assistance and questions about citations. It is located at 226 Heavilon Hall and the phone number is (765)-494-3723. You can also schedule an appointment with the Online Writing Lab (OWL) if you have brief questions. If the Writing Lab cannot answer your question then you may email me with your original question, the Writing Lab’s response, and where you need clarification. Please seek assistance if you have any doubts about whether a sentence needs to be cited. It is far better to ask the Writing Lab or me than to guess incorrectly and be found guilty of plagiarizing. The OWL’s website has excellent writing resources and information about scheduling appointments: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Weekly Reading Quizzes

There will be a weekly quiz over the assigned textbook reading for that week. The quizzes will have ten multiple choice questions. Students will have 60 minutes (1 hour) to complete the quiz. It is important that you answer all ten questions within the 60 minutes limit. The quiz will be automatically submitted 1 hour after you begin. Each quiz will be worth 50 points. Students must take the quiz by 4pm on Friday except for week three (see course schedule below).

Grading Policy

The eight discussion assignments will be worth 800 points (8 assignments @ 100 points each). The eight quizzes will be worth 400 points (8 quizzes @ 50 points each). Your final grade will be based on your percentage of earned points out of a possible 1,200 points according to the following scale:

- 100-93% = A
- 92-90% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 83-86% = B
- 82-80% = B-
- 76-73% = C
- 72-70% = C-
- 69-67% = D+
- 63-66% = D
- 59-0% = F

Time Management

There will be some weeks with a sizable amount of reading due to the short eight week calendar of the course. Even though this class does not meet in a classroom, I would strongly urge you to devote a few hours every day for this course. For every 1 hour you spend in the classroom, you should spend 2 hours outside of class working independently. So for a 3 credit hour class, you will want to spend an additional 6 hours working independently per week. In general, for condensed classes like ours you should expect to spend another hour or two per week on the class. The strength of online learning is that you get to choose when you are “in the classroom.” However, this can also be a weakness as the lack of university imposed classroom hours can lead students to put work off to the last minute. I am aware that this class is not the only thing in your schedules. You all have lives and, of course, it is summer. There are places to go and things to do. However, I know from experience that you can become overwhelmed very quickly if you do not organize and manage your time wisely, especially in a truncated and accelerated course such as
as ours. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to set aside adequate time each day to join our digital classroom.

**Learning and Course Accommodations**

If a student needs a course accommodation (like additional time for the weekly quiz) due to a learning impairment, then it is the student’s responsibility to contact The Office of the Dean of Students Disability Resource Center (DRC). The phone number is (765)-494-1247. The DRC’s website is [http://www.purdue.edu/drc](http://www.purdue.edu/drc)

For students in which English is a second language and requires help with course material and/or assignments please contact the Office of Oral English Proficiency. They are located at 810 Young Hall. The phone number is (765)-494-9380 and e-mail is oepp@purdue.edu

**Civility and Respect**

An online classroom like a regular classroom is meant to be a respectful, safe, and open place where the free exchange of ideas and learning can take place. I expect you all to be courteous to your fellow students and to me. I promise to be respectful to you all in return. Please use professional and polite language in your discussion assignments.

**Disclaimer**

In the event of a major campus emergency or need to alter the syllabus, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes as necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced via email and the class Blackboard page.

**Course Schedule**

**Week One June 16-20 – Colliding Worlds to 1600**

**READ:** *American Horizons* Chapter 1; Chapter 2; Chapter 3 pages 84-89, 95-111, 112-120, 121-127

*READ:* *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 2.1 and 2.3

**Assignments Due:**

W1 discussion post due Wednesday June 18 by 4pm

W1 discussion response and quiz due Friday June 20 by 4pm

**Week Two June 23-27 – Colonial Societies in Global Empires 1600-1763**

**READ:** *American Horizons* Chapter 4; Chapter 5

**READ:** *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 5.4 and 5.5
Assignments Due:

W2 discussion post due Wednesday June 25 by 4pm
W2 discussion response and quiz due Friday June 27 by 4pm

Week Three June 30-July 3 – Empire, Reform, and Liberty 1607-1783

*No assignments due July 4*

**REVIEW/READ:** *American Horizons* Chapter 2 pages 53-55, 58-61, 72-76; Chapter 3 pages 107-111; Chapter 4 pages 155-158; Chapter 5 pages 205-212

**READ:** *American Horizons* Chapter 3 pages 90-95, 111-112, 120-121; Chapter 6; Chapter 7 pages 253-274

**READ:** *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 6.2 and 6.4

Assignments Due:

W3 discussion post due Tuesday July 1 by 4pm
W3 discussion response and quiz due Thursday July 3 by 4pm

Week Four July 7-11 – Republican America(s) 1783-1825

**READ:** Chapter 7 pages 274-287; Chapter 8 pages 288-303; Chapter 9 pages 349-355

**READ:** *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 7.4 and 7.5

Assignments Due:

W4 discussion post due Wednesday July 9 by 4pm
W4 discussion response and quiz due Friday July 11 by 4pm

Week Five July 14-18 – Jacksonian America 1815-1840

**READ:** *American Horizons* Chapter 8 pages 303-308; Chapter 9 pages 331-349; Chapter 10: Chapter 11 page 427-430

**READ:** *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 10.5 and 11.4

Assignments Due:

W5 discussion post due Wednesday July 16 by 4pm
W5 discussion response and quiz due Friday July 18 by 4pm

READ: *American Horizons* Chapter 8 pages 314-316; Chapter 9 pages 336-346; Chapter 11; Chapter 12

READ: *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 12.3 and 12.4

Assignments Due:

W6 discussion post due Wednesday July 23 by 4pm

W6 discussion response and quiz due Friday July 25 by 4pm

Week Seven July 28-August 1 – The Dissolutionment of the Union and Civil War 1845-1865

REVIEW/READ: *American Horizons* Chapter 11 pages 403-407

READ: *American Horizons* Chapter 13; Chapter 14

READ: *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 13.9 and 14.4

Assignments Due:

W7 discussion post due Wednesday July 30 by 4pm

W7 discussion response and quiz due Friday August 1 by 4pm

Week Eight – August 4-8 – An Unfinished Revolution: Reconstruction 1865-1877

READ: *American Horizons* Chapter 15

READ: *Reading American Horizons* PDF documents 15.2 and 15.7

Assignments Due:

W8 discussion post due Wednesday August 6 by 4pm

W8 discussion response and quiz due Friday August 8 by 4pm

Finis