

History 2111-United States History to 1865
Sandra Pollard, Instructor
Section 04, 12:00-12:50, MWF, TLC 1203
University of West Georgia
Fall Semester 2009

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Course Description: This course will look at how the geographic area known as the United States emerged from an initial clash of cultures in the late-fifteenth century, developed over time through various colonial empires and became an independent nation with its own unique social and political institutions. By analyzing the ways in which American society and political culture developed, this course will attempt to understand how the United States responded to both internal and external challenges during the first decades of national existence. In order to encourage familiarity with a broad range of historical approaches, students will study aspects of social, political, religious, economic, diplomatic, and military history.

Purpose: In addition to acquiring the basic information described above, students will learn basic principles of historical interpretation, including how to analyze primary and secondary sources. More importantly, though, students will learn how to relate the past to their lives today. This course will encourage critical academic skills necessary in a university setting including reading, thinking and listening. Students will learn to develop ideas based on historical evidence, and will gain experience in communicating those ideas effectively.

Attendance: *Students who want to succeed will come to class.* It's that simple. Since this is mainly a lecture-based class, you will need to hear the lectures in order to do well on the exams.

Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your fellow students, please silence ALL electronic devices when entering class. If an electronic device goes off during an exam, you will turn in your exam immediately and leave. No exceptions! If you need to take notes on a lap top, it is permissible to bring those to class. The only exception, however, is exam day-No lap tops during exams!!

Academic Honesty: No form of cheating will be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an **F** for the assignment and possible failure for the course. Don't do it!!!

Grades and Examinations: There will be four exams in this course.

Exam I- 20%

Exam II -20%

Exam III- 20%

Exam IV (final)- 30%

Primary document reaction papers- 10% (You will occasionally be asked to write a short reaction paper, 1-2 paragraphs, about any of the primary sources assigned for the week. Further instructions and assignment dates will be found on my website.)

Exams and final course grades will be on a ten point scale: 100-90% A; 89-80% B; 79-70% C; 69-60 D; 59-0% F. All exams are objective and will require a form, available at the book store and various venues on campus. This class will be using the NCS exam form # 229633 (the larger form). Make sure you have the correct form! You'll need 4 forms for the semester. Note: I will be using CourseDen to display grades, and grades will be posted the day of the exam or at the latest, the following day.

Make-up exams: I will allow students with true emergencies and ensuing proper documentation (auto accidents, extreme illness requiring dr.'s visit or hospitalization, death in the family, etc) to make-up missed exams. Please see me if you find yourself in this category.

Required Reading: There are three books for this course.

- Eric Foner, Give Me Liberty! Vol. I : to 1877, Second Seagull Edition (ISBN: 978-0-393-93257-7)
- Eric Foner, Editor, Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History Second edition, Vol. 1 (ISBN: 978-0-393-93106-8)

- Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Yale University Press) (ISBN: 0-300-08701-2)

The textbook (**Give me Liberty!**) will be used as a general guide for learning. You will be responsible for the assigned information in the text, so keep up with the readings for each week. The document reader (**Voices of Freedom**) is a collection of primary source documents which support the textbook. You will be responsible for various readings each week from this source. The other book (Douglass) is a memoir/autobiography and will provide you with a more in-depth understanding of some of the issues we will cover. Also, you will need to familiarize yourself with the textbook website, as it will offer valuable study guidance.

Textbook Website: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/foyer2>

Weekly Assignments: Reading assignments will be posted on the instructor's webpage, beginning the first day of class and updated as necessary thereafter. **Note: This schedule is tentative!!**

Week 1- August 14 Introduction to the Course

Week 2- August 17-21 "A New World"

Week 3- August 24-28 "Beginnings of English America"

Week 4- August 31- September 4 "Creating Anglo-America"

Week 5- No Class on Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day Holiday) September 9-11 Slavery, Freedom and the Struggle for Empire"

Week 6- September 14-18 **Monday, Sept. 14: Exam #1** "The American Revolution"

Week 7- September 21-25 "The Revolution Within"

Week 8- September 28- October 2 "Founding a Nation"

Week 9- October 5-9 "Securing the Republic"

Week 10- October 12-14 **Monday, Oct. 12: Exam #2** "The Market Revolution" **No Class on Friday, October 16 (Fall Holiday)**

Week 11- October 19-23 "The Market Revolution"...continued

Week 12- October 26-30 "Democracy in America"

Week 13- November 2-6 "The Peculiar Institution" also, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

Week 14 -November 9-13 **Monday, Nov. 9: Exam #3** "An Age of Reform"

Week 15- November 16-20 "A House Divided"

Week 16- November 23 **No Class November 25-27 (Thanksgiving Holiday)** "A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War"

Week 17- November 30-December 4. "A New Birth of Freedom" ...continued. **Last day of class is Friday, Dec. 4**

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 2009. 11am -1pm. in TLC 1203. (Final Exam is NOT cumulative.)