

University of West Georgia
History 2111:
United States History to 1865
Spring 2011
MW, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
TLC 1203

Instructor: Jonathon Awtrey
Office Hours: TR, 2:30-5:30 p.m. & by appointment
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Required Texts:

- *The American Promise*, Value Edition, Volume 1, Fourth Edition, Roark, Johnson, Cohen, Stage, Lawson, & Hartmann.
- *Jefferson vs. Hamilton, Confrontations That Shaped a Nation*, Cunningham.
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*, With Related Documents, Blight.

Course Objectives:

Welcome to History 2111. This course explores the major themes and issues in American history from early settlement through the end of the American Civil War. Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically through understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of United States history; comprehension of causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; and awareness of the social significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events and study.

In addition to the above learning outcomes, students will learn basic principles of historical interpretation, including how to analyze primary and secondary sources. 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.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the evaluation of two examinations, response papers, quizzes, class participation and attendance.

Course Evaluations:

Examinations: 60%

You will have two exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of 30% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short identification questions. You will need a scantron and #2 pencil for

each exam. Scantrons are available at the bookstore and various venues on campus. You will need the NCS exam form # 229633 (the larger form). Make sure you have the correct form! Make-Up exams will be given only in severe cases and with proper documentation.

Response Papers: 20%

You will have to write two response papers on the primary documents during this semester. Response papers are to be typed and double-spaced in 12 point font with 1 inch margins. For each assignment, you will be given a set of questions to answer a few weeks before the assignment is due. Make certain that you fully answer the questions; papers should therefore be in the range of 4-6 pages. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. No late papers will be accepted, and each paper is due at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Do not do additional research online or copy material from online sources. If you do, you will not receive credit for the paper.

Quizzes: 10%

You will be required to read numerous short primary selections over the course of the semester. There will be a class discussion on the material, as well as a written quiz. You will receive more detailed information regarding this portion of your grade during the first week of class.

Class Participation & Attendance: 10%

I will take attendance in this class. You are allowed to miss **SIX** classes without penalty. After six absences, your final grade will be dropped one letter grade. Excessive lateness is disruptive to the class, affecting your fellow students as well as me. If for any reason, you need to leave class early, please leave quietly. Class participation and attendance accounts for 10% of your final grade, thus it is essential that you come to class and participate!

Final course grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% and below

Study Tips:

Take notes in class. You do not need to write down everything I say, but you should note key terms, events, and persons discussed. Ask questions if you do not understand the material. If you are too shy to ask during class, then, email me your questions, ask me after class, or come to my office hours for assistance.

Class Policies:

Cell Phones & Laptops:

TURN CELL PHONES OFF!!!! I don't want to hear it, see it, or even know that it exists. If you need them on for emergency purposes, please set them to vibrate. Feel free to use laptops to take notes.

Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class, and any student found guilty will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. Your response papers will be written in your own words, and will not consist of information found on the Internet or from any outside source.

Tentative Course Outline and Readings:

Please be advised that this schedule is tentative, and could change at any time.

Week 1

January 5: Course Introduction

Week 2

January 10: Read: Chapters 1 & 2
"America Before Columbus" & "The Arrival of Europeans"
January 12: "The Early Chesapeake"

Week 3

January 17: Read: Chapters 3, 4, & 5
MLK: No Class
January 19: "The Growth of New England"

Week 4

January 24: Read: Chapter 6
"Society and Culture in Provincial America"
January 26: "Resistance & Rebellion"

Week 5

January 31: Read: Chapter 7
"Resistance & Rebellion"...continued
February 2: "The American Revolution"

Week 6

February 7-9: Read: Chapter 7
"The American Revolution"...continued

Week 7

February 14-16: Read: Chapter 8
"State Governments & The Constitution"

Week 8

February 21: Read: Chapter 9
Mid-Term Examination (Chapters 1-8)
February 23: "The New Republic"

Week 9

February 28: Read: Chapter 9
"The New Republic"...continued
March 2: Jefferson vs. Hamilton Paper Due (In-Class Discussion)

Week 10

March 7-9: Spring Break: No Class

Week 11

March 14-16: Read: Chapters 9 & 10
“The Jeffersonian Era”

Week 12

March 21-23: Read: Chapters 10 & 11
“The War of 1812”

Week 13

March 28-30: Read: Chapter 11
“The Era of Good Feelings”

Week 14

April 4-6: Read: Chapters 10 & 11
“The Age of Jackson”

April 6:

***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
Paper Due (In-Class Discussion)***

Week 15

April 11-13: Read: Chapters 11 & 12
“Impending Crisis”

Week 16

April 18-20: Read: Chapters 12 & 13
“American Civil War”

Week 17

April 25-27: Read: Chapters 14 & 15
“American Civil War”...continued

Final Exam: Friday April 29, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.