

University of West Georgia
History 2111:
United States History to 1865
Fall 2010
TR, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.
TLC 1203

Instructor: Jonathon Awtrey
Office Hours: TR, 2:00-5:30 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:

This class will survey the history of the United States from colonization to 1865. We will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes. The lectures will incorporate a number of multimedia elements, including slides and film. Rather than focus on dates, facts, and figures, this class will focus on change over time, the cause and effects of those changes, and specifically why those changes took place.

Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes for this course are as follows:

- * To provide students with an overall knowledge of United States History to 1865, and how that history changed over time.
- * To teach students how to analyze and understand the events and peoples that have significantly impacted United States History.
- * To teach students how to make connections between course readings, materials, and lectures and how to communicate these findings in informal response papers, quizzes, exams, and in-class discussions.

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, class participation and attendance.

Course Evaluations:

Exams: 80%

You will have two exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of 40% 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: 10%

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 the pages to read and a set of questions to answer a few weeks before the assignment is due. There is no length requirement, but make sure 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.

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

August 12: Course Introduction

Week 2

August 17: Read: Chapters 1 & 2
August 19: "America Before Columbus" & "The Arrival of Europeans"
"The Early Chesapeake"

Week 3

August 24: Read: Chapters 3, 4, & 5
August 26: "The Growth of New England"
"Society and Culture in Provincial America"

Week 4

August 31- Read: Chapter 6
September 2: "Resistance & Rebellion"

Week 5

September 7 & 9: Read: Chapter 7
"The American Revolution"

Week 6

September 14 & 16: Read: Chapter 7
"The American Revolution"...continued

Week 7

September 21 & 23: Read: Chapter 8
"State Governments & The Constitution"

Week 8

September 28: Read: Chapter 9
Mid-Term Examination (Chapters 1-8)
September 30: "The New Republic"

Week 9 Read: Chapter 9
October 7: “The New Republic”...continued
October 9: Jefferson vs. Hamilton Paper Due (In-Class Discussion)

Week 10 Read: Chapters 9 & 10
October 12: “The Jeffersonian Era”

Week 11 Read: Chapters 10 & 11
October 19: “The Jeffersonian Era”...continued
October 21: “The War of 1812”

Week 12 Read: Chapter 11
October 26: “The War of 1812”...continued
October 28: “The Era of Good Feelings”

Week 13 Read: Chapters 10 & 11
November 2: “The Era of Good Feelings”...continued
November 4: “The Age of Jackson”

Week 14 Read: Chapters 11 & 12
November 7: “The Age of Jackson”...continued
November 9: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass Paper Due (In-Class Discussion)

Week 15 Read: Chapters 12 & 13
November 14: “Impending Crisis”
November 16: “American Civil War”

Week 16 Read: Chapters 14 & 15
November 23: “American Civil War”...continued

Week 17 Read: Chapter 15
November 30: “American Civil War”...continued

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.