

HISTORY 2111: American History to 1865

Fall 2009 T/TH 11a-12:15p

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
Office Hours: TR: 12:30p-1:30p; W: 12p-4p
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Course Description:

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. This class puts less emphasis on dates and figures and more focus on change over time, the cause and effects of those changes, and specifically why those changes took place. Topics include but are not restricted to cultures in contact, colonization, expansion, warfare, slavery and the slave trade, emancipation, immigration, industrialization, and the changing role of the United States in foreign affairs. In order to examine American History from a well-rounded point of view, much of this class will take an Atlantic perspective in order to fully understand the peoples, events, and cultures that influenced and impacted this part of America's past.

Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes for this course are as follows:

- * To provide students with an overall knowledge of American History before 1865, and how that history changed over time
- * To teach students how to analyze and understand the events and people that had significant impacts on American History
- * To teach students how to make connections between course readings, materials, and lectures and how to communicate these findings in class discussions.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the evaluation of three examinations overall class participation.

Textbook: (on reserve in the library and in the campus bookstore)

John M. Murrin, et. al. *Liberty, Equality and Power: A History of the American People* Vol 1: to 1865. Library Textbook Course Reserve Password is 173473

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Exams: 80%

You will have three exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of roughly 27% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of 35 multiple choice questions and 6 short answer identification. Study guides will be posted on line a few weeks before the date of the exam to help you in your exam preparation, and a study session will be held the last thirty minutes of the class before the date of the exam. Each exam will begin at the start of class. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam. ***It is your responsibility to come see me in the event that you miss an exam.*** If you miss an exam for any reason, the ***make-up exam will be essay only.*** For those of you who miss an exam for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. If you do not have proper documentation, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. Furthermore, you have one week to make up the exam. If you do not make up the exam in one week's time, you will be given an F for that exam. If you schedule a make up exam with me but fail to show up, you will not be given another chance to make up the exam and will receive an F for the exam.

Class Participation: 20%

Although there will be class lectures throughout the semester, you will also be expected to participate in class discussion, group activities, etc on a daily basis. All reading assignments must be completed before the start of class, so that you will be ready to engage in class discussion, debate, and analysis.

Class participation is not attendance, but actual participation in the class discussion of the day.

Therefore, even if you come to class everyday, but don't say a word, you will not receive the full 20% for your class participation grade. At most, you will be given an 80. While you are expected to speak up in class and ask questions, you are also expected to respect your fellow students' opinions. I will not tolerate disrespect of any kind, and you will be asked to leave. If disruptive behavior continues, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the course, and you will not be allowed to finish any assignments or take any exams that follow. In other words, you will fail the course.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be available from time to time during the course of the semester, but only in the form of assignments or tasks given by me. Extra credit opportunities offered by the University will not be accepted in this class, as they usually have little to do with the study of History. Extra Credit that has been submitted in other classes will not be accepted.

Class Policies

Cell Phones: TURN THEM OFF!!!! I'm serious. I don't want to hear it, see it, even know that it exists. If you need them on for emergency purposes, please set the ring to vibrate only. If I hear a phone ring, you will be asked to leave the class, and don't even let me catch you using it to text or check voicemail.

Attendance and Tardiness:

I will not be taking attendance in this class. You are all adults. Please keep in mind, however, that excessive absence will affect your class participation grade. If you aren't here, then you can't participate in the class discussion. 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 let me know ahead of time. In short, come on time and stay for the whole class. If you miss class, I suggest you borrow notes from a classmate. My notes are not available. Study groups are also encouraged, and will be of great benefit come exam time.

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. Any assignments given in class must be written in your own words, and will not consist of information found on the internet or from any outside source. If you plagiarize, you will receive no credit for that paper and you will be ejected from the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action as well.

Tentative Course Outline and Readings Assignments

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

Week 1: Introduction to course

Week 2: Colonial Conquest

Tuesday, Aug 18: Pre Columbian Civilization: Begin Chapter 1

Thursday, Aug 20: Contact to Elizabeth I: Finish Chapter 1, Begin Chapter 2

Week 3: Colonial Settlement

Tuesday, Aug 25: Colonial Settlement Finish Chapter 2

Thursday, Aug 27: The Slave Trade: *Lecture Only*

Week 4: Colonial Life

Tuesday, Sept 1: Colonial Rule to 1763: Chapter 3

Thursday, Sept 3: CLASS CANCELLED

Week 5: Road to Revolution

Tuesday, Sept 8: 1763-1773: Chapter 4

Thursday, Sept 10: 1773-Independence: Chapter 5

Week 6: The American Revolution and its Aftermath

Tuesday, Sept 15: The American Revolution: Chapter 6 to page 180

Thursday, Sept 17: Post War US and Government Finish Chapter 6

Week 7: Post War America

Tuesday, Sept 22: The Constitution Chapter 8 thru 221

*** Thursday, Sept 24: **EXAM 1 Don't forget to bring a bluebook!*****

Week 8: Federalism and the Early Republic

Tuesday, Sept 29: The Federalist Era: Chapter 8

Thursday, Oct 1: The Early Republic: Finish Chapter 8

Week 9: Nationalism and Sectionalism

Tuesday, Oct 6: Nationalism and Sectionalism: Begin Chapter 12

Thursday, Oct 8: Jacksonian Politics: Finish Chapter 12

Week 10: A Changing Landscape

Tuesday, Oct 13: King Cotton & Immigration: Lecture Only

Thursday, Oct 15: FALL BREAK. CLASS CANCELLED

Week 11: Expansion and Reform

Tuesday, Oct 20: Abolitionism and Reform: Chapter 11

Thursday, Oct 22: Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion: Chapter 13

Week 12: Sectionalism and War

Tuesday, Oct 27: The Mexican War: Chapter 13 to p. 344

Thursday, Oct 29: **EXAM 2 Don't forget to bring a bluebook!**

Week 13: Slavery in the South

Tuesday, Nov 3: Chapter 4 (98-100); Chapter 7 (201-204); Chapter 9 (258-262)

Thursday, Nov 5: In Class film, no lecture

Week 14: The 1850s

Tuesday, Nov 10: Chapter 14

Thursday, Nov 12: Chapter 15

Week 15: The Civil War and Emancipation

Tuesday, Nov 17: The Civil War Chapter 17

Thursday, Nov 19: Emancipation and Freedom. Begin Chapter 18

Week 16: November 24-26: Thanksgiving Holiday Week: Classes are Cancelled.

Week 17: Reconstruction

Tuesday, Dec 1: Reconstruction. Finish Chapter 18

FINAL EXAM DEETS

Tuesday, Dec 8: 11am in our classroom. COME ON TIME!!!

Please bring scantron Form NCS 229629 (small sheet with 100 bubbles). Please do not use scantron forms used by the Scantron Corp. They must be NCS Exam System II Forms.

Final grades are posted on Banweb. I cannot discuss grades via email or over the phone, so please do not ask. It must be in person.
