

History 2111 25 H
American History to 1877
Fall 2006

Instructor: Keith S. Bohannon

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Note: All email correspondence, including assignments submitted as email attachments, must take place through student's campus email address (My UWG account)

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10-11, 1:30-2:30; Tuesday, 9:30-10:30; Friday, 10-11 and by appointment

Course Meetings: This class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:15-12:10 in Pafford, Room 202

Learning Outcomes: History 2111- 25 H examines major developments and themes in American History from the pre-Columbian era through the end of the Civil War. The course is designed to increase the student's understanding of America's past and foster an appreciation of history as a branch of knowledge. A variety of assignments- including exams featuring both identification and essay questions, classroom discussions, and in-class analytical papers on assigned readings- are used to assist students in developing writing, analytical, and verbal skills. The research paper will acquaint students with the ways that historians utilize primary sources to understand and interpret the past.

Grading/Course Requirements

Midterm 15% of grade

Final Exam 20% of grade

Research Paper 20% of grade

Book reviews 20%

Response Papers (in class) . . . 25% of grade

There is no extra credit in this course.

Midterm and final exam- These will cover material from classroom lectures, assigned texts, and films. The format for the tests will be announced in class.

Research Paper- Each student will write an eight-to-ten page, typed, double-spaced research paper using primary source documents on the Civil War from the University of Virginia's Valley of the Shadow project: <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2> This extensive website examines the impact of the Civil War on two communities, Staunton, Virginia and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

When starting to work on this paper, students must formulate a question to research concerning the Civil War. Using the sources on the website, students will then write an original research paper answering your question. The paper must include footnotes or endnotes that cite sources used. (See statements below regarding plagiarism.) A style sheet will be handed out explaining the use of footnotes/endnotes.

Book reviews- Students will write two analytical papers (three-to-four pages long, typed, double-spaced) on Paine and Tocqueville. Papers that earn an “A” will not only summarize the contents of the books, but also offer analysis and a thoughtful critique. The instructor will provide questions for students to consider when reading these books. **If you quote or paraphrase from the assigned books or utilize any outside source in your paper, you must identify the source of the quotes by using either footnotes or endnotes. (See statement below regarding plagiarism.)**

Response papers- Unannounced response papers will be given in class throughout the semester on material from the week’s assigned texts.

Class participation and discussion- This course will feature weekly discussions on the assigned texts. **All students will be required to participate in these discussions.** Students are encouraged to ask and answer questions in class. Class participation can only help your final grade in the course and will be taken into consideration at the end of the semester in the case of students with borderline grades.

Makeup tests & quizzes- Makeups will be given only under emergency circumstances. Students who miss an in-class assignment must provide the instructor with a written excuse from a doctor, parent, coach, etc. explaining the absence. Students with valid excuses will have one week to make up assignments, after which time they will be given a zero on the test or quiz.

One letter grade will be deducted per day for all assignments turned in late without a valid excuse. **(Papers are considered late if they are turned in after class on the day that they are due.)**

Attendance- An attendance sheet will be passed around class for you to sign at the beginning of every class. Please turn off cell phones before entering the class. Students engaging in inappropriate behavior (talking during class, for example) will be asked to leave.

Students who come into class late will not be allowed to sign the roll at the end of class. Students who need to leave during class must provide an excuse to the instructor before the class begins. Anyone who leaves during class without providing an excuse will be marked absent and will receive a zero on any assignment given that day, even if the student has completed the assignment.

Attendance will be taken into consideration at the end of the semester in the case of students with borderline grades. An excessive number of absences almost always correlates with a poor or failing grade in the course. Students who are absent should get lecture notes from a classmate.

Cheating- Cheating in any form (including plagiarism- presenting someone else’s words as your own without citing them) will not be tolerated. Plagiarism consists of the failure to acknowledge properly anyone quoted, paraphrased, cited, or consulted in the preparation of a written work. It includes passing off another’s work as your own.

Students should be aware that computer software makes it easy for an instructor to track down online sources used by students.

Students caught cheating on a test or paper will receive an F on that assignment and possibly an F in the course.

Assigned Texts

Ayers, Gould, Oshinsky, et al., American Passages, A History of the United States, Volume One: To 1877

Annual Editions: American History Volume I Pre-Colonial through Reconstruction. 19th Edition.

Douglass, Frederick, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

McPherson, James M. What They Fought For, 1861-1865

Paine, Thomas, Common Sense

Tocqueville, Alexis, Democracy in America

Weekly Assignments **Note:** All references to chapters are to American Passages. All references to articles are to Annual Editions: American History Vol. I

Week One August 14-18 Chapter 1
Note: No class on Friday, August 18

Week Two August 21-25 Chapters 2-3; Articles 1, 2, 3

Week Three August 28-Sept. 1 Chapter 4; Articles 5, 6, 7, 8

Week Four September 4-8 Chapter 5; Paine, Common Sense review & discussion on Friday, September 8
Note: No class on Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day)

Week Five September 11-15 Chapter 6 Articles 10, 12, 13, 15, 16

Week Six September 18-22 Chapter 7 Articles 17, 18
Topic of research paper & annotated bibliography due Friday, September 22

Week Seven September 25-29 Chapter 8 Articles 19, 20; Handout excerpts from Journals of Lewis & Clark

Week Eight October 2-6 Chapter 9 Toqueville, Democracy in America review & discussion on Friday, October 6

Week Nine October 9-13 Chapter 10 Handout essays entitled “Indians Utilizing a Strategy of Armed Resistance” and “Indians Utilizing a Strategy of Accomodation” from Elizabeth Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, eds., Major Problems in American History
Note: No class on Monday, October 9 (Fall Break)

Week Ten October 16-20 Chapter 11; Article 23; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass discussion & response paper on Friday, October 20

Week Eleven October 23-27 Chapter 12 Handout essays entitled “The Great Famine,” “James K. Polk and the Expansionist Spirit,” and “Little Women? The Female Mind at Work in Antebellum America”

Week Twelve October 30-November 3 Chapter 13
Articles 26, 27; Handout essays entitled “The Sectional Divisions That Led to Civil War” and “The Political Divisions That Contributed to Civil War” from Major Problems in American History

Week Thirteen November 6-10 Chapter 14 Handout essays entitled “The Father of American Terrorism,” and “The Doom of Slavery: U.S. Grant, War Aims, and Emancipation, 1861-163”

Week Fourteen November 13-17 Chapter 15 Handout entitled “Grand Theory, Great Battles, and Historical Causes: Why Secession Failed” in Thinking Through the Past
Note: No class on Friday, Nov. 17

Week Fifteen November 20-24 34 McPherson, What They Fought For response paper & discussion on Wednesday, November 22
Note: No class on Friday, November 24 (Thanksgiving break)

Week Sixteen November 27-December 1

Last day of class is Wednesday, November 29 Chapter 16; Article 34, on November 29

Final exam is on Monday, Dec. 4, 11 am- 1pm in Pafford, 202