

HISTORY 2111: American History to 1865
Spring 2008 TR 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos

Office Hours: TR 12:30-2p, 3:30-5p; W 1-4p

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Course Description:

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. 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 the American 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 informal reaction papers and in class discussions.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the evaluation of three examinations, ten reaction papers, and overall class participation.

Texts: (available both in the bookstore and on reserve in library)

Murrin, *Liberty, Equality and Power: A History of the American People* Vol 1, 5th ed (paperback edition)

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Exams: 60%

You will have three exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of 20% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer identification. Study guides will be given out one week before the date of the exam to help you in your exam preparation. 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.

Reaction Papers: 20%

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be expected to write 10 reaction papers on the assigned readings. For each paper, you will insert yourself into the material discussed for the week and write a diary entry, letter, commentary, etc from the perspective of someone who is actually living during that time in history. Each paper must be written in the first person and in your own words, or no credit will be given. **Do not do additional research online or copy information from online sources for these papers.** *If you do, you will receive no credit for the paper and administrative action will be taken.* Each paper should be 1-2 pages in length. The ten papers combined will be worth 20% of your grade, or roughly the same value as one test grade. Reaction papers are to be typed in 12 point print with 1 inch margins. Handwritten papers are accepted, but they must be two pages in length (or one sheet of paper front and back), and single spaced. No late papers will be accepted, and each paper is due by 5p the date that it is due. Email submissions are accepted from UWG email accounts only, but please be advised that email submissions will not be returned. If you email your papers, don't expect to get them back. I will, however, confirm that the email was sent and that the paper is received. Reaction papers that have been submitted in other classes will not be accepted, and there are ***no make-up options.***

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 attend class regularly, but never say a word in class, you will not receive full credit for class participation grades. You will instead receive the minimum grade of 80 for this grade.*** 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 likely 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 talking

on it. If you are caught talking on the phone in class (even checking voice mail) you will not be allowed to return to class. If I hear a cell phone vibrate during an exam, you will be asked to leave and your test will be graded as is.

Attendance and Tardiness:

I will not be taking attendance in this class. You are all adults. Please keep in mind, however, that excessive absences will affect your class participation grade and your class performance. You have to be in class to 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. Mine are not available, so do not ask. Study groups are also encouraged, but not required.

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 reaction papers will be written in your own words, and will not consist of information found on the internet or from any outside source. If you plagiarize a reaction paper, you will receive no credit for that paper and you will be ejected from the course.

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

Thursday, January 10

Week 2 When Worlds Collide

Tuesday, January 15: Pre Columbian Civilization: Begin Chapter 1

Thursday, January 17: Contact to Elizabeth I: Finish Chapter 1

Week 3 Colonial Settlement & The Slave Trade

Tuesday, January 22: Colonial Settlement: Chapter 2 **REACTION PAPER 1 DUE**

Thursday, January 24: The Slave Trade: Chapter 1, pg 10-12.

Week 4 Colonial Life

Tuesday, January 29: Colonial Rule to 1763: Chapter 3 **REACTION PAPER 2 DUE**

Thursday, January 31: 1763-1773: Chapter 4

Week 5 The American Revolution

Tuesday, February 5: 1773-Independence: Chapter 5 **REACTION PAPER 3 DUE**

Thursday, February 7: The American Revolution: Chapter 6 to page 260

Week 6 Confederation and Union

Tuesday, February 12: The Constitution: Finish Chapter 6 **REACTION PAPER 4 DUE**

Thursday, February 14: **Class Cancelled**

Week 7 Post War America

Tuesday, February 19: **EXAM 1 Don't forget to bring a bluebook!**

Thursday, February 21: The Federalist Era: Begin Chapter 7

Week 8 Nationalism and Sectionalism

Tuesday, February 26: The Early Republic: Finish Chapter 7

Thursday, February 28: Nationalism and Sectionalism: Chapter 11 to p426 **REACTION PAPER 5 DUE**

Week 9 The Jacksonian Era

Tuesday, March 4: Jacksonian Politics: Finish Chapter 11

Thursday, March 6: Jackson Continued - King Cotton & Immigration: Lecture Only

REACTION PAPER 6 DUE

Week 10 March 11-13: View and Discuss the Film *Amistad*

Week 11 March 18-20: SPRING BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Week 12 Expansion and Reform

Tuesday, March 25: Religion, Education, and Reform: Chapter 12

Thursday, March 27: Abolitionism in the US: Lecture Only

Week 13 Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War

Tuesday, April 1: Chapter 13 to p. 501 **REACTION PAPER 7 DUE**

Thursday, April 3: **EXAM 2 Don't forget to bring a bluebook!**

Week 14 Slavery and the Old South

Tuesday, April 8: Chapter 9

Thursday, April 10: none, in-class film only

Week 16 The 1850s

Tuesday, April 15: Chapter 13 (p501-515) **REACTION PAPER 8 DUE**

Thursday, April 17: Chapter 14

Week 16 The Civil War

Tuesday, April 22: Chapter 15 **REACTION PAPER 9 DUE**

Thursday, April 24: Chapter 16

Week 17: Reconstruction

Tuesday, April 29: Chapter 17 **REACTION PAPER 10 DUE**

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 6, 11 am-1 pm

The Final Exam is not comprehensive, and only tests you on material from Weeks 14-17.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must take the exam in the time that you are originally scheduled to take it, unless otherwise approved by me.