HIST 2111
UNITED STATES HISTORY I (TO 1865)
SPRING SEMESTER 2013

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild
Office: TLC 3202 (Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-3:25, 4:55-5:25 or by appointment)
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Required books:

Course description and learning outcome:
This course will utilize lectures, reading assignments, and occasionally films to examine the social, political, and economic history of the United States prior to 1865. Topics will include colonial settlement, the American Revolution and the Constitution, antebellum expansion, slavery and the southern plantation economy, the forced resettlement of Native Americans, and sectional conflict and the Civil War. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of American history from this era.

Exams, assignments, and grading:
--There will be three multiple choice examinations in this course, including a non-comprehensive final exam. Each exam will consist of fifty questions, and each exam will constitute one fourth (25%) of the course grade. Students must purchase a long-form (100 question) green and white Scantron sheet at the UWG bookstore or at the concession stand on the first floor of the TLC building and bring that form to class on the date of each exam along with a # 2 pencil. Makeup exams will only be given to students who provide documentation verifying a valid excuse (illness, car accident, court summons, death in the family). Makeup exams will be written rather than multiple choice.

--There will also be an open-book, written exam on The Cherokee Removal which will be administered in class on Wednesday, April 10. This exam will count for one fourth (25%) of the course grade.

--During a class period shortly before each exam, a documentary video will be shown pertaining to some topic(s) in United States history relevant to the era being covered by that exam. Any student who writes an acceptable paper of about 600 words (typed and double-spaced) summarizing that documentary in his or her own words will receive up to five bonus points on that exam. The paper must be turned in (in typed and printed form, not electronically) no later than the beginning of the class period on the date of that exam. These three papers will be the
only opportunities for extra credit in this course. There are no “make-ups” for the extra credit opportunities.

--Each student’s course grade will be determined according to the following scale, with no exceptions:
A=89.50 or above
B=79.50-89.49
C=69.50-79.49
D=59.50-69.49
F=less than 59.50

Classroom etiquette:
All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class. Students will also of course be required to abide by the University of West Georgia Honor Code, which can be found in the 2011-2012 UWG Connection and Student Handbook.

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and exam dates:
The chapters and page numbers listed below refer to the textbook (America: A Narrative History).

Week 1 (Jan. 7 & 9) Monday--Course introduction; Wednesday--Whose “New World” and Why: Native Americans, Europeans, and Colonial Conquest
Reading assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (Jan. 14 & 16)
Topics: Growth and Conflict in the Colonies; British Mercantilism and the Seeds of Colonial Dissent
Reading assignment: Chapter 3 plus pp. 102-111

Week 3 (January 23)
Topic: From the French and Indian War to the American Revolution
Reading assignment: pp. 111-139

Week 4 (Jan. 28 & 30)
Topic: The American Revolution
Reading assignment: Chapter 5

Week 5 (Feb. 4 & 6)
Topic: The Creation of a Nation, 1781-1788
Reading assignment: Chapter 6

Week 6 (Feb. 11 & 13)
Exam # 1, Monday, February 11 (covers material from weeks 1 through 5)
Wednesday: The Bill of Rights and the Turbulent 1790s (Read chapter 7.)
Week 7 (Feb. 18 & 20)
Topic: From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812
Reading assignment: Chapter 8

Week 8 (Feb. 25 & 27)
Topic: The So-Called “Era of Good Feelings”
Reading assignment: Chapter 10

Week 9 (March 4 & 6)
Topic: The Age of Jackson
Reading assignment: Chapter 11

Week 10 (March 11 & 13)
Topic: Antebellum Agriculture, Industry, and Technology
Reading assignment: Chapter 9
Exam # 2, Wednesday, March 13 (covers material from weeks six through ten)

Week 11 (March 18-22) SPRING BREAK

Week 12 (March 25 & 27)
Topics: The Second Great Awakening, Antebellum Reform Movements, and Manifest Destiny
Reading assignment: Chapters 13 & 14

Week 13 (April 1 & 3)
Topics: The Mexican War, the Old South, and the “Slavery Question”
Reading assignment: Chapter 12 plus pp. 454-461

Week 14 (April 8 & 10)
Monday: From the Compromise of 1850 to the Election of 1860 (or, the Path to the Civil War)
Reading assignment: pp. 461-491
Wednesday: Exam on The Cherokee Removal

Week 15 (April 15 & 17)
Topic: The Civil War (or War Between the States, 1861-1865)
Reading assignment: Chapter 16

Final exam: Monday, April 22, 5 PM (covers material from weeks twelve through fifteen)