Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos  
Office Hours: T/TH 10:00-11:00; 12:30-2; F 11:00-4:00  
Office: TLC 3208 Phone: 678-839-6032  
Email: cvasconc@westga.edu (email preferred)

Course Objectives:  
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 colonization, expansion, warfare, slavery and the slave trade, emancipation, immigration, gender, 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. This course is a hybrid course, meaning 50% or less of the course will take place online.

Learning Outcomes:  
Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically through understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of United States history; comprehension of causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; or awareness of the social significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events and study. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, or political development of the people and institutions of the United States.

Logging in to CourseDen and Online Help  
- You can find the basics on how to log in and navigate CourseDen here: [http://disted1.westga.edu/users/disted/UWGOnline/COURSEDEN_Orientation/CourseDen_Basics.html](http://disted1.westga.edu/users/disted/UWGOnline/COURSEDEN_Orientation/CourseDen_Basics.html)  
- To access the system, you can utilize this URL: [http://westga.view.usg.edu](http://westga.view.usg.edu).  
- Once you log in to our classroom, you will find a few things in there. Click on Course Overview and How to Navigate this Course and you’ll find all that you need to know. Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me at cvasconc@westga.edu  
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Call the helpdesk: 678-839-6248.

Textbooks and Course Readings:  
2. Additional Readings from selected sources available on CourseDen

Course Requirements and Evaluation  
The course will be evaluated on a ten-point scale.  
A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59 and below
Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, extent of research, reading, writing, analytical skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. There will be no extra credit offered in this class, so don't ask. Grade calculations are as follows:

- Exams 70% each
- Colony to Statehood Online Project 10%
- Class Participation 10%
- Three Reaction Papers 10%

**Federal Privacy Laws and Grades**

I cannot discuss grades or course progress with any student via email, in CourseDen email or chat, or over the phone. It must be in person. Furthermore, I cannot discuss grades or your progress in the course with your parents at all. If you would like to discuss any of your exam grades, your overall grade, or your progress in the course, it must be in person and I am happy to do so at any time. Just make an appointment and we'll talk.

**Special Note**

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

**Exams:**

You will have two essay exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of 35% of your final grade or a total of 70% combined. Each exam will begin at the start of class and will take place face to face in our classroom on campus. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam unless you have let me know ahead of time that you will be late and why. It is your responsibility to come see me in the event that you miss an exam. If you miss an exam for any reason, you have one week to make up the exam. 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 indicating why you missed the exam, you will not be allowed 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 (unless you are still sick and then your week make-up window will begin as soon as you return to school). 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. If you come to me at the end of the semester and have not made up an exam and request a make-up for a previously missed exam, the answer will be NO.

**Reaction Papers and Online Discussions:**

Since this is a hybrid course, you will have online assignments to complete in the online classroom found in CourseDen in the form of reaction papers to various readings that will be assigned, as well as some online activities involving different types of historical sources. More information on these assignments will be provided in CourseDen in their appropriate sections. Please see the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for more information on what is required of these papers. Reaction papers will comprise 10% of your grade, while any online discussions relating to those papers will be counted towards your online class participation grade as is explained below.
Colony to Statehood Online Project 10%
This semester we will all participate in a semester long project that will take place online. We will discuss this more in class, but at the start of the semester you will create a colony that will eventually become a state. The object of the project is to lead your colony/state in the way that you find best as it relates to the material and events that we discuss throughout the semester in class and online. Periodically, over the course of the semester, I will issue certain prompts in relation to material we are discussing and reading in class, and you will be charged with discussing how your colony/state reacts. As governor of your colony/state, it is up to you to decide how your constituency will handle things as they arise. Your responses must demonstrate that you have read and understand the material for that week. Therefore, you must offer specifics that that week's material in your responses. Please see the project description in CourseDen for more details. All responses will be due by 11:59PM on the date that they are due.

Class Participation
Although there will be class lectures throughout the semester, a significant amount of the course will be a seminar where each student is expected to participate actively in and at times carry the course of the conversation. Furthermore, we are undertaking a hybrid format, where online participation is required in CourseDen. 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 percentage of your class participation grade.

Overall Face to Face In-Class participation will be graded as follows:
100: Substantial comments every class, outstanding participation
90: Participate regularly in the class discussion, but not every class meeting
80: Participate occasionally, with worthwhile insight and good questions
70: Commented once or twice over the course of the semester
60: no comments made

Each Online Class Discussion will be graded as follows.
5: Participated above and beyond required criteria
4: completed assignment as described with no additional comments
3: completed majority of the assignment but did not complete it 100%
2: attempted 50% of the assignment
1: posted initial comment but did not comment on classmates’ posts
0: did not attempt assignment

Grading Scale for Online Class Participation:
5=100 4=90 3=80 2=70 1=60 0=0

While you are expected to speak up in class and ask questions, as well as actively participate in online discussions, 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 ejected from the course. In other words, you will fail the course.
Class Policies

**Cell Phones:** TURN THEM OFF!!!! I’m serious. 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 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. Anyone texting in class will be asked to leave immediately. If you do it again, after already being caught once, you will be asked to leave the course and never come back.

**Tobacco, Food, and Drink:**
Tobacco Products of any kind, as well as Fake Cigarettes are not allowed in this class. Food and drink are fine. Just clean up your mess after you leave. If you have a dip cup or an electronic cigarette, you will be asked to leave.

**Attendance and Tardiness:**
I will not be taking attendance in this class. 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.

**A Note about Academic Honesty:**
I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class, and any student found guilty of it 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 be ejected from the course. Your name will be forwarded through the appropriate channels, and I will recommend that UWG administration take action. Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. In short, don’t do it. See CourseDen for details on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Tentative Course Outline and Readings Assignments**
In the event of school closings, snowpocalypses, or sudden sicknesses on my part, I will notify you no later than the morning of class in the event of a cancellation via email and CourseDen.

**Syllabus Abbreviations are as follows:**
F2F=Face 2 Face Class in our classroom on campus OL=Online Class in CourseDen
C2SP=Colony to State Project Prompt RP=Reaction Paper

Please note that some days we will meet on campus, and some days will be online. Those days are labeled accordingly: **GREEN FOR F2F** and **ORANGE FOR OL**

**Assignments and Exams are in Pink**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course**
**Tues, Aug 27—F2F:** Introduction to Course and CourseDen Tour
**Thurs, Aug 29—F2F:** Conquest and Colonization. Read Foner pp 1-13
Begin thinking about your colony, and how you would like it to look. You will need to complete its construction and early settlement by next week, so be sure and see CourseDen for prompt details.
Week 2: Crafting a Colonial Empire  
**Tues, Sept 3—F2F:** Contact to Elizabeth I. Read Foner pp 13-16 and 19-52  
**Thurs, Sept 5—OL:** Take today to finish getting your colony set up in whatever platform you choose (see options above). See CourseDen for assignment specifics. Read Foner pp 52-97 and 108-129  

Week 3: The Slave Trade and Early American Slavery  
**Tues, Sept 10—F2F:** The Slave Trade. Read Foner pp 18-19 and 130-137  
**Thurs, Sept 12—OL:** Online Activity and Discussion of Early American Slavery. See CourseDen for details.

Week 4: Colonial Life  
**Tues, Sept 17—F2F:** Colonial Rule to 1763. Read Foner pp 102-108, 145-158, and 161-175  
**Thurs, Sept 19—OL:** Reaction Paper 1 Due –“Was the Salem Witch Hysteria Caused by a Fear of Women?” This week we discuss the Salem Witch Trials and the hysteria that surrounded them. Read the selection that is available for you in CourseDen, write a 1-2 page paper discussing the piece and its arguments, and submit your paper in the assignment dropbox by 2PM. See the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for more information on how to write this paper. Once you have written the paper, stop by the Discussion Forum in CourseDen and tell us what you think. Be sure and comment on two classmates’ posts and reply to at least one comment left on your initial post. Early submissions and discussion posts are allowed, just be mindful of deadlines.

Week 5: The Road to Revolution  
**Tues, Sept 24—F2F:** 1763-1774. Read Foner pp 176-191.  
**Thurs, Sept 26—OL:** Online Activity and Discussion on Thomas Paine’s Common Sense. See CourseDen for details. Read Selection of Thomas Paine’s Common Sense, which can be found in CourseDen in the Additional Course Readings Module.

Week 6: The American Revolution  
**Tues, Oct 2—F2F:** The American Revolution. Read Foner pp 191-231  
**Thurs, Oct 3—F2F:** Midterm Exam. Bring a Large Blue Book.

Week 7: Federalism and the New Republic  
**Tues, Oct 8—F2F:** Post War US and Government. Read Foner Chapter 7  
**Thurs, Oct 10—F2F:** The Federalist Era. Read Foner Chapter 8 to pg 301

Week 8: The Politics of Balance  
**Tues, Oct 15—F2F:** The Early Republic. Finish reading Foner Chapter 8.  
**Thurs, Oct 17—F2F:** Nationalism and Sectionalism. Read Foner pp 361-375

Week 9: The Age of Jackson  
**Tues, Oct 22—F2F:** Read Foner pp 324-342, 352-353, 375-384, and 388-390  
**Thurs, Oct 24—OL:** Reaction Paper 2 Due –“Did the Industrial Revolution Provide More Economic Opportunities for Women in the 1830s?” This week we discuss the rise of industry in the United States and the effect it had on class and gender. Read the selection that is available for you in CourseDen, write a 1-2 page paper discussing the piece and its arguments, and submit your
paper in the assignment dropbox by 2PM. See the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for more information on how to write this paper. Once you have written the paper, stop by the Discussion Forum in CourseDen and tell us what you think. Be sure and comment on two classmates’ posts and reply to at least one comment left on your initial post. Early submissions and discussion posts are allowed, just be mindful of deadlines.

**Week 10: Texas and the Mexican War**
**Tues, Oct 29—OL:** Online Activity and Discussion of Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion. See CourseDen for details.
**Thurs, Oct 31—F2F:** Maintaining Balance and the Case of Texas. Read Foner pp 461-472

**Week 11: The 1850s**
**Tues, Nov 5—F2F:** Read Foner pp 472-483. **C2SP4 Due**
**Thurs, Nov 7—F2F:** Continue with Foner pp 472-483

**Week 12: The Peculiar Institution**
**Tues, Nov 12—F2F:** Antebellum Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement. Read Foner pp 97-104, 137-145, and Chapter 11
**Thurs, Nov 14—OL:** Online Activity and Discussion of Frederick Douglass. Read selection of Douglass’ *Narrative*, which can be found in CourseDen in the Additional Readings Module.

**Week 13: The Civil War**
**Tues, Nov 19—F2F:** Read Foner pp 485-502 and Chapter 14
**Thurs, Nov 21—OL: ** **Reaction Paper 3 Due** – “Was Slavery the Key Issue in the Sectional Conflict Leading to the Civil War?” This week we evaluate the events leading up to the Civil War and discuss slavery’s influence upon those events. Read the selection that is available for you in CourseDen, write a 1-2 page paper discussing the piece and its arguments, and submit your paper in the assignment dropbox by 2PM. See the Reaction Paper Guidelines in CourseDen for more information on how to write this paper. Once you have written the paper, stop by the Discussion Forum in CourseDen and tell us what you think. Be sure and comment on two classmates’ posts and reply to at least one comment left on your initial post. Early submissions and discussion posts are allowed, just be mindful of deadlines.

**Week 14: Classes Cancelled for Thanksgiving Break!**

**Week 15: Reconstructing the South**
**Tues, Dec 3—F2F:** Begin reading Foner Chapter 15
**Thurs, Dec 5—F2F:** Finish reading Foner Chapter 15.

**C2SP5 Due by Monday, Dec 9 at 11:59PM**

**FINAL EXAM** — Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2:00-4:20 pm in our classroom. Bring a Large Blue Book.