Course Objectives
This class will explore the major themes and issues in American history from early settlement through the end of the American Civil War. Class discussions and assignments will emphasize the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of United States history; causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; and the significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events.

Learning Outcomes
To identify and evaluate the political, social, economic, and cultural developments in U.S. history up to 1865; discuss the experiences of diverse groups and cultures that compose American society; analyze, synthesize, and interpret primary and secondary sources both orally and in writing; and develop skills in critical thinking, writing, and organization.

Required Text
Henretta, James A. et al, America’s History, Volume 1: To 1877, 8th edition

This edition is available at the Campus Bookstore. Please note, I will teach this course from the 8th edition. You may choose to purchase an earlier edition (published before 2014), but understand that new, updated, reinterpreted narratives, primary sources, maps, etc. may not be included in an earlier edition. If a student chooses to use a previous edition of the required text for this course, it is that student’s responsibility to learn “missing” sources not found in earlier editions. Students may also consider an e-book option - ISBN10: 1457628163 or ISBN13: 9781457628160.

Additionally, supplementary readings will be assigned throughout the semester. These readings will be provided for you on CourseDen (or email if necessary). It is the student’s responsibility to read these supplements as assigned. Please note: students are not required to make additional text purchases to read the supplements – all supplement readings will be provided by the instructor.

Assignments & Grading
There will be two exams – a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam is worth 20% of the final grade and the final exam is worth 25% of the final grade (totaling 45%). There will
be no make-up exams given. If you are more than 15 minutes late for class the day of an exam, you will not be given an exam and will receive a failing grade for that exam and will be counted absent as well. Exams will be hand-written on the test pages provided by the instructor. Please use either lead pencil or blue or black ink pens on exams (no funky colors and no red ink pens). If a student leaves during an exam the student will forfeit completion of their exam and may be counted absent.

There will be two written assignments throughout the semester. Each written assignment is worth 5% of the final grade (totaling 10%). Topics and instructions will be discussed in class and posted on CourseDen.

There will be a syllabus take-home quiz due at the beginning of class on Thursday, August 28th. The syllabus quiz is worth 5% of the final grade.

There will be two quizzes during the semester. Each quiz is worth 5% of the final grade (totaling 10%). If a student is late to or leaves early from class, that student may miss a quiz. If you are not present in class at the time a quiz is handed out, you will not be able to take the quiz.

Note: Cell phones, tablets, laptops, headphones, etc. may not be used during any in-class assignments or tests. If a student uses one of these devices during an in-class assignment or test, that student will receive a failing grade for that assignment and must leave the classroom immediately. Other actions may be taken by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Make up tests will only be given in extreme circumstances determined at the discretion of the instructor.

In-class and CourseDen participation are each worth 10% of the final grade (totaling 20%). If you attend every class, but do not participate during class discussions, you should not expect to receive the full 10% towards their final grade. If a student fails to actively and regularly participate in CourseDen discussions, the student should not expect to receive the full 10% towards their final grade.

CourseDen topics will be posted either by the instructor or a student-volunteer in consultation with the instructor. If no student volunteers to post a topic, the instructor may select a student to post that week. Topics should relate directly to that week’s assigned readings. Specific instructions of CourseDen postings will be provided. All CourseDen postings should be completed before every Sunday by 8:00pm.

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Attendance is worth 10% of the final grade. Students are responsible for attending all classes. If you are not present when role is taken, you will be counted absent for that day. If a student arrives within 10 minutes of class start time, they will receive a half-credit for attendance that day. Students may miss up to 2 unexcused absences without penalty. If a student exceeds more than 2 unexcused absences, I will deduct 1% point from the student’s final grade for each unexcused absence thereafter. It is strongly suggested that students contact me in advance if they are going to miss, arrive late to, or leave early from class. Habitual tardiness and leaving early is subject to final grade deductions as well.
Honor Expectations & Academic Honesty
Students are expected to turn in written work that is their original work – both in class and online. Plagiarism is not acceptable and will be punished. It is an ethical violation and a violation of trust between faculty and student. Plagiarism means using the ideas or writing of another as one’s own. You may not copy words directly from another writer, unless those words are included in quotations and your reference the writer and source in a footnote, endnote, or citation. If you require further explanation about plagiarism, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition, I will not tolerate any form of cheating or other academic dishonesty.

If it has been determined that a student has plagiarized, that work will not be graded and the student will receive an automatic failing grade for the course, be reported to the proper university authorities, and face possible ejection from the course. Cheating will result in a failing assignment grade and possible ejection from the course as well.


Class Conduct
Turn off your cell phones during class time. I understand that some students may need to stay connected for personal reasons; if you need to be available on your cell phone during class time, please contact me as soon as possible, but please keep your phone on vibrate.

Students may use laptops and tablets in class, but only to take notes. If it is determined that a student is using their device for something other than taking class notes, that student will not be allowed to bring an electronic device to class in the future.

Headphones, earbuds, etc. are not permitted during class. Please take them off your heads, necks, and shoulders. This rule does not apply to students with hearing loss or related disabilities.

Do not hold conversation (that includes whispering and note passing) with classmates during class time. This does not include in-class discussions or group activities.

Eating food during class is discouraged as it may be disruptive to the instructor and fellow students.

Arrive to class on time – every Tuesday and every Thursday. Tardiness is not only detrimental to a student’s grade, but also disruptive to the entire class. Additionally, leaving early is equally disruptive. If a student plans to be tardy or leave early from class, please inform me as soon as possible.

Please respect everyone’s time (and tuition) by not disrupting class.

Each student is expected to treat others with patience and respect both in class and online. This means no cursing, name calling, yelling (not even in ALL CAPS), etc.
Tentative Class Schedule
I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus during the semester, including, but not limited to, assignment/test dates and scheduled readings. If and when changes are made, students will be notified both electronically and in class, and a revised syllabus will be posted on CourseDen.

Supplementary readings will be added to dates later in the semester. All students will be notified both in class and online of any added readings with enough time to prepare for class.

August 26 – Class introduction & review of syllabus
August 28 – Syllabus quiz due & Interpreting the past

September 2 – America’s History, Part I Introduction-Chapter 2, pg. 2-75
September 4 – Roots (Native American section) by Upton (CourseDen); Doc Set 1A from America’s History Firsthand by Frederick and Jeffery (CourseDen); Ancient North America (excerpt) by Fagan (CourseDen)

September 9 – America’s History, Part 2 Introduction and Chapter 3, pg. 76-113
September 11 – Roots (African section) by Upton (CourseDen); Common Places (excerpt) by Upton and Vlach (CourseDen); Making of the Atlantic World (excerpt) by Thornton (CourseDen)

September 16 – America’s History, Chapter 4, pg. 114-149
September 18 – Quiz#1

September 23 – America’s History, Chapter 5, pg. 150-181
September 25 – America’s History, Chapter 6, pg. 186-213

September 30 & October 2 – America’s History, Chapter 7, pg. 214-247

October 7 – Writing Assignment #1 due; America’s History, Chapter 8, pg. 249-279; & midterm review
October 9 – Midterm exam

October 14 & 16 – America’s History, Part 4 Introduction and Chapter 9, pg. 280-313
October 21& 23 – America’s History, Chapter 10, pg. 314-343
October 28 & 30 – America’s History, Chapter 11, pg. 344-375

November 4 & 6 – America’s History, Chapter 12, pg. 376-405

November 11& 13 – America’s History, Part 5 Introduction and Chapter 13, pg. 406-443

November 18 & 20 – America’s History, Chapter 14, pg. 444-477
November 25 & 27: No classes

December 2 – *America’s History*, Chapters 15-16, pg. 478-539
December 4 – *Writing Assignment #2 due* & final exam review

December 11: *Final exam, 11:00-1:30*