HIST 2111 U.S. History to 1865

Spring 2018

Course Information:
Instructor: Jennifer Egas (jegas@westga.edu)
Course: HIST 2111-E02
Phone: 678-779-7901

**My preference is that you use your CourseDen email when contacting me about this course.

Online Office Hours:
Tuesday: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
*Online office hours will take place in the “Online Office Hours” link located in the content section of CourseDen. Just click on the link
https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/

Course Introduction and Description
Welcome to HIST 2111. This course explores the major themes and issues in American history from early settlement through the end of the American Civil War. Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically by identifying political, social, economic and cultural dimensions of United States history; examining change and continuity over time; and recognizing the social significance of ethnicity, gender, race and class in historical events and study.

Assigned Readings
**and assigned readings and documents in CourseDen. (You can purchase a copy of the textbook in the campus bookstore or you can purchase a digital version if you prefer the electronic version.)
   I will reference this textbook during the term. You should also use it if you have questions or need extra reinforcement.

Course Objectives

• Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of American history.
• Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically through their 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.
Special Note:  
Student Rights and Responsibilities:  
Students, please carefully review the following information at this link: 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) 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.

Computer Access  
It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access, preferably a home computer with broadband Internet access. This course can be completed using public computers at UWG or other public access areas. However, be aware that using public computers may create a hardship. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

Technical Skill Requirements  
You should be comfortable with the following:  
• using a word processor (changing font, spell check)  
• using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary  
• navigating the Internet  
• Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me at jegas@westga.edu.  
• Have questions about getting into CourseDen?  
Contact the helpdesk: UWG|Online HelpDesk (M-F 8-5pm) Phone: 678-839-6248  
Email: online@westga.edu 24/7 HelpDesk [https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/](https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/)

Course Assessment  
Students’ mastery of course learning outcomes will be assessed using the following methods:

Assessment Quizzes: (a/k/a “pre-test and post-test”) There are two assessments that must be taken at the beginning and end of the semester. These are designed to see what your knowledge of history is at the start of the class and how much you have learned throughout the semester. They are not graded, but they must be completed. Failure to complete both assessments will result in a loss of points (5% for each assessment quiz) from your overall quiz average. There is no need to study for these quizzes—simply take them and see how much you have learned! (satisfies course objective 1)

Review Quizzes: There will be a quiz on each textbook chapter that is assigned (see the course calendar at the end of the syllabus.) All quizzes will be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the day it is assigned. There will only be 10 objective questions (true/false, multiple choice) on each quiz. The quizzes are not designed to trick you; rather, they are designed to reinforce your learning for the key points/themes of each chapter that we will cover. (satisfies course objective 1)
Exams: There will be three (3) exams given throughout the semester and one (1) non-cumulative final exam. The exams will be objective and essay exams that you will complete in CourseDen. Guidelines for each exam will be posted at least a week prior to each exam. You will have more than enough time to prepare for each exam and there isn’t anything you need to memorize. (satisfies course objectives 1 & 3)

Discussions: Class participation is measured by your participation in online discussions. Each discussion forum includes the discussion prompt and all related readings. There is a discussion rubric that outlines my expectations for the quality and content of your posts as well as the minimum standards. You will be expected to write an original post in response to the prompt and readings and to post at least two (2) response posts to fellow students’ posts within the designated timeframe. (satisfies course objectives 1, 2, & 3)

Assignments: There will be a few brief assignments (including the book review) during the term and the assignment related to the monograph and other assignments. Those assignments will be worth 15% of your grade.

Assigned Book: There is one monograph assigned for this course, Peter H. Wood’s Strange New Land. We will spend several days discussing this book, so it is important that you read and participate in this discussion. Additionally, you will write 1-2 pages answering 2 of 4 questions about this monograph. This part will be submitted in the Dropbox folder labeled “Book Review.” (satisfies course objectives 2 & 3)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Missed Assignments
Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Failure to turn in assignments on time will result in a 10-point deduction per day (for 2 days) and then a “0” will be entered for each missed assignment.

If you wait til the end of the semester to attempt to submit assignments, I will not accept them. Technical issues are not an excuse. You should make sure to email yourself copies of your work and to find an Internet connection if you find yourself without Internet connectivity.

Grading
Discussions: 20%
Exams: 30%
Reading Quizzes: 20%
Assignments: 15%
Final Exam: 15%

There is no “extra” extra credit accepted for this course. (The graphic organizer assignments in the course are completion assignments and will offer you opportunities to bolster your grade while helping you prepare for the quizzes and exams, but they are optional.)
Grading Scale
90%-100% A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F

***Grades are based on student performance and capability. Simply turning in all the assignments does not guarantee that the student will receive a “good grade.” To receive a higher grade, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the material.

As a rule, meeting the minimum requirements for an assignment is the basis for a “C” grade. To receive an “A” or a “B” grade, you must plan to go beyond the minimum stated for each assignment. The standards for the respective grades are as follows:

A = Exceptional
-precise and comprehensive understanding of the material
-thoroughly identifies, defines, and describes all key themes/concepts/issues/idea of the course
-work contains no factual inaccuracies
-excellent writing, with little to no errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, etc.
-very focused and organized
-correctly identifies all key themes of the readings

B = Commendable
-clear understanding of the material
-identifies, defines, and describes most key themes/concepts/issues/idea of the course
-work contains few factual inaccuracies
-strong writing, with few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, etc.
-well focused and organized
-correctly identifies most key themes of the readings

C = Competent
-adequate understanding of the material
-identifies, defines, and describes some of the key themes/concepts/issues/idea of the course
-work contains factual inaccuracies
-average writing, with some errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, etc.
-somewhat focused and organized
-adequately identifies major key themes of the readings

D = Limited evidence of achievement
-poor understanding of the material
-identifies, defines, and describes few key themes/concepts/issues/idea of the course
-work contains many factual inaccuracies
-below average writing, with some errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, etc.
-poorly focused and organized
-barely identifies major key themes of the readings
F = Minimal evidence of achievement
Work that fails to meet any of the standards set forth above, or which is exceptionally inadequate

Grading Turnaround
All assignments and assessments will normally be graded within a week after the deadline. I will let you know if grading takes longer than a week.

Academic Honesty
***Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism) will result in a failing grade on the assignment as well as possible additional action. Definitions of academic dishonesty and plagiarism are defined in student handbook, so please be familiar with them. See #6 under “Guidelines for Writing Assignments.” Here is a link to the student handbook: UWG Student Handbook

Disabilities Act / Accessibility for the Course
If you are a student whom is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please notify me and provide me with a copy of your packet from Student Services. The university will provide you with resources for any audio/visual needs that you may have with the learning management system or course content. Please consult the following link for more details regarding accessibility for this course, including contact information for those with accessibility needs: UWG Accessibility Services (phone: 678-839-6428). It is important that you contact UWG Accessibility Service immediately to find out the exact accommodations that are necessary for you to succeed in this course. Here is a link to the Student Accessibility Office: Student Accessibility Information

Guidelines for Writing Assignments  All writing assignments (discussions & exams) should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Writing assignments should meet the minimum writing length as stated in each assignment. If the assignment is an essay, your answer should be double-spaced using a maximum of 12-point type. Please use a simple, clean font such as Times New Roman. Use normal margins on all sides. Writing submissions that are less than the minimum length will lose significant points.

2. Writing assignments (AND emails) are to be written following the rules of correct grammar and spelling, both of which will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of the assignment. Be sure to proofread your writing as grammar and spell checks typically do not catch words used in incorrect contexts.

3. Writing assignments must be original AND analytical and should include well-thought-out responses to the questions posed in the assignment. An assignment should not be a string of quotes with limited analysis; rather, most of the written assignment should be in your own words with a few quotes to illustrate your points.

4. You must provide specific examples from the secondary and/or primary sources to support your main points. If you do use direct quotations, you must use quotation marks to indicate the exact wording from the source you are quoting. (ex: Egas declared that “All students should become history majors to share their love of history with others.”)

5. When using quotes from the readings, you must cite your sources following the MLA style, the University of Chicago Press's Chicago Manual of Style, or Kate L. Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Refer to the online resources Guide to the MLA Style or Turabian and Chicago Styles Citations for assistance. You can choose your
preferred method for citations, but you need to make sure you provide some sort of citation for your quotations. A sample citation: (Pacholl, 10) = author / page number; if there is no page number, then provide the name of the author and the title of the work).

6. **Turnitin.com**: All assignments submitted to the Dropbox will be processed through Turnitin.com and will have an originality report associated with it. Your percentage should not exceed 10% (to allow for citations and quotes.) Students can access their reports along with feedback to view the color-coded portions of the submission. Plagiarism is a very serious offense and should be avoided at all costs. If plagiarism is detected, the assignment will earn a zero (0) and the student’s name will be reported to the university’s academic honesty board/officials for review.

UWG has an excellent Writing Center in TLC 1201. Here is the link to the site: [University Writing Center](https://writingcenter.westga.edu). The phone number is 678-839-6513. Call them or email (writing@westga.edu) to set up an appointment to get help with writing. (This resource is funded by your tuition, so it’s a great idea to use it. The people there will help you with any assignment in any course.)

**Important Note**
I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the course of the term, particularly regarding the course schedule. If such a modification is substantial, I will reissue a revised syllabus and discuss it with you.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 8-14  | **First Day of Class!**  
Introduction Discussion  
Historical Thinking Discussion  
Begin reading *Strange New Land.*  
*(Book review due February 11 @ 11:59 p.m.)* |
| January 15    | **MLK, Jr. Holiday**                                                   |
| January 16-21 | **Unit 1: The New World**  
Reading: Chapters 1 (no page #s because they differ from to version of the textbook)  
Discussion 1  
Reading Quiz 1 |
| January 22-28 | **Unit 2: Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660**  
Reading: Chapter 2  
Reading Quiz 2  
Discussion 2 |
| January 29-February 4 | **Unit 3: Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750**  
Reading: Chapter 3  
Reading Quiz 3  
Discussion 3  
Biographical Sketch of a Colonial Figure Assignment due 2/4 @ 11:59 p.m. |
February 5-11
Unit 4: Slavery, Freedom & the Struggle for Empire, to 1763
Reading: Chapter 4
Reading Quiz 4
Discussion 4
Exam 1 due 2/11 @ 11:59 p.m.

February 12-18
Unit 5: The American Revolution, 1763-1783
Reading: Chapter 5
Reading Quiz 5
Discussion 5
Book review due @ 11:59 p.m. 2/18.

February 19
Presidents’ Day Holiday

February 20-25
Unit 6: The Revolution Within
Reading: Chapter 6
Reading Quiz 6
Discussion 6

February 26-March 4
Unit 7: Founding a Nation, 1783-1791
Reading: Chapter 7
Reading Quiz 7
Discussion 7

March 5-11
Unit 8: Securing the Republic
Reading: Chapter 8
Reading Quiz 8
Discussion 8
Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8) Due 3/11 @ 11:59 p.m.

March 12-18
Unit 9: The Market Revolution, 1800-1840
Reading: Chapter 9
Reading Quiz 9
Discussion 9

March 19-24
Spring Break!

March 26-April 1
Unit 10: Democracy in America, 1815-1840
Reading: Chapter 10
Reading Quiz 10
Discussion 10

April 2-8
Unit 11/12: The Peculiar Institution/The Age of Reform
Reading: Chapters 11, 12
Reading Quiz 11/12 (all one quiz)
Discussion 11/12 (all one discussion)
Exam 3 (Chapters 9-12) Due 4/8 @ 11:59 p.m.

April 9-15

Unit 13: A House Divided, 1840-1861
Reading: Chapter 13
Reading Quiz 13
Discussion 13

April 16-22

Unit 14: A New Birth of Freedom, 1861-1865
Reading: Chapter 14
Reading Quiz 14
Discussion 14

April 23-29

Unit 15: What is Freedom?: Reconstruction, 1865-1877
Reading: Chapter 15
Reading Quiz 15
NO discussion this week. Begin reviewing for the final exam.

April 30

Last Day of Class
Final exam (Chapters 13-15) opens at 12 midnight 4/30 & closes May 3 @ 11:59 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTES:
*There will be other readings embedded in the course content in CourseDen. The chapters are just the basic readings.

*I suggest that you begin reading *Strange New Land* at the very beginning of the term. The book review is due in the Dropbox *February 11 @ 11:59 p.m.*. We will refer to this text in Unit 11/12 also.

*All reading quizzes & discussions: due on Sunday night @ 11:59 p.m. each week unless otherwise noted.*