Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild  
Office: TLC 3103 (Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-2:00, 4:50-5:20, or by appointment)  
Office telephone: (678) 839-6508 (messages only)  
E-mail address: mhill@westga.edu (Send e-mails directly to this address; do not use Course Den to send e-mails.)  

Required books:  
David Emory Shi, America: A Narrative History, Brief 11th ed., Vol. 1  
ISBN: 978-0-393-66896-4  
ISBN: 978-1319049027  

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 of these exams will consist of fifty questions, and each exam will constitute 25 percent 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 multiple-choice 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 (essay) exam on The Cherokee Removal which will be administered in class on Thursday, April 9. This exam will also count for 25 percent of the course grade. It will be graded on a pass/fail basis. A passing grade will count as a numerical grade of 100; a failing grade will count as a numerical grade of 50. If a student misses the exam without a valid excuse, that student will receive a grade of 0.  

--During a class period before each multiple-choice 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 no less than 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-up”s 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.

For information regarding accommodations for disabilities, UWG e-mail policy, credit hour policy, and the honor code, please see this link:

https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php

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) Tuesday--Course introduction; Thursday--Whose “New World” and Why: Native Americans, Europeans, and Colonial Conquest
Reading assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (Jan. 14 & 16)
Topic: Growth and Conflict in the Colonies
Reading assignment: Chapter 3

Week 3 (Jan. 21 & 23)
Topics: British Mercantilism and the Seeds of Colonial Dissent; From the French and Indian War to the American Revolution
Reading assignment: Chapter 4

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: pages 223-245 (stop when you get to the section titled “The Federalist Era”)

Week 6 (Feb. 11 & 13)
**EXAM # 1, TUESDAY, FEB. 11 (covers material from weeks one through five)**
Topic for Thursday: The Bill of Rights and the Turbulent 1790s
Reading assignment: Pages 245-271

Week 7 (Feb. 18 & 20)
Topic: From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812
Reading assignment: Chapter 7

Week 8 (Feb. 25 & 27)
Topic: The So-Called “Era of Good Feelings”
Reading assignment: Chapter 9

Week 9 (March 3 & 5)
Topic: The Age of Jackson
Reading assignment: Chapter 10

Week 10 (March 10 & 12)
Topic: Antebellum Agriculture, Industry, and Technology
Reading assignment: Chapter 8
**EXAM # 2, THURSDAY, MARCH 12 (covers material from weeks six through ten)**

Week 11 (March 16-20) Spring break

Week 12 (March 24 and 26)
Topics: The Second Great Awakening, Antebellum Reform Movements, and Manifest Destiny
Reading assignment: Chapter 12 plus pp. 503-529

Week 13 (March 31 and April 2)
Topic: The Mexican War, the Old South, and the “Slavery Question”
Reading assignment: Chapter 11 plus pp. 529-537

Week 14 (April 7 & 9)
**No class on April 7 due to Honors Day**
**EXAM ON THE CHEROKEE REMOVAL, THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

Week 15 (April 14 & 16)
Topic: From the Compromise of 1850 to the Election of 1860 (or, the Path to the Civil War)
Reading assignment: Chapter 14

Week 16 (April 21 & 23)
The Civil War (or the War Between the States, 1861-1865)
Reading assignment: Chapter 15 plus pages 639-646 (stop when you get to the section titled “Johnson’s Plan”)
FINAL EXAM, THURSDAY, APRIL 23 (covers all material after the second exam, except for *The Cherokee Removal*)