

HISTORY 220

UNITED STATES HISTORY THROUGH 1877

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Office: 2109 JFSB
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:00 pm
Thursday, 9:30-11:00 am

Fall 2017
Section 006 (2111 JKB)
MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the history of what is now the United States from the time of Columbus to the end of Reconstruction. Together, we will investigate the social, cultural, and political histories of the peoples living in North America.

COURSE FORMAT AND OBJECTIVES:

The primary aim of this class is to prepare students to critically and intelligently discuss the history of the United States through 1877. This will be accomplished through 1) the students familiarizing themselves with the central figures, events, and themes in early American history by completing all assigned readings, and 2) students actively participating in class discussion and completing writing assignments that allow students to interpret and engage primary and secondary source material.

REQUIRED READING:

Each of the following books is available at the BYU Bookstore. You can also find copies (perhaps for cheaper) at Amazon.com, Bookfinder.com, or other online retailers.

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History, Volume 1* (Seagull 5th Edition)
- Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*
- J. William Harris, *The Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah: A Free Black Man's Encounter with Liberty*
- Paul Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America*
- Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: The Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*

Additional readings, including scholarly essays and primary sources, will be available via Learning Suite.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

There are five graded components to this course:

1. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION—10%

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate in class discussion.

This necessitates reading the assigned material before class and coming prepared to critically and thoughtfully discuss it with both your classmates and myself. I will take roll regularly throughout the semester.

Students may miss up to four class periods without being penalized, though you are responsible for any material missed in case of absence. **Your final grade will be penalized one percentage point for each class period missed after that.** I reserve the right to adjust borderline grades up or down based on attendance and participation in class discussion.

2. READING QUIZZES – 10%

There will be several short reading quizzes administered at the beginning of class every other Monday, beginning September 12. Each will consist of between three (3) and five (5) questions asking you to identify people, places, events, and/or other information from that day's readings.

3. COMMONPLACE BOOK – 10%

Over the course of the semester, each of you will compile a commonplace book of quotations from course readings. Personal commonplace books were manuscript collections of quotations that individuals found meaningful in their reading and were popular in the English-speaking colonies of North America and the early United States. Creators of such books used them to copy passages they found particularly interesting or important, and added their own brief commentary. Commonplace books often included an index for future reference.

Your commonplace book will include at least three quotations from each of your assigned readings this semester (including each chapter of the textbook and each of the additional books and primary sources we read), together with periodic commentary highlighting what you found significant about each passage, as well as a short summary at the end, reflecting on the experience and what you chose to record. In addition, each entry should include 2-3 index terms, which will be used to create an index at the end of the semester.

*Please bring your commonplace book with you to each class. I will conduct periodic spot checks throughout the semester to ensure you are keeping up on the assignment. Failure to be up to date will result in points being deducted from your final grade for the assignment. **You do not need to purchase an expensive notebook or journal for this assignment – a cheap bluebook from the BYU Bookstore should suffice.***

*** DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11***

4. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT – 25%

Respond to the following prompt, following the guidelines in OPTION A or OPTION B:

Select a central theme that you think is particularly significant to the history of the United States to 1877. Choose a total of three persons, places, and/or events, and make a case why those three people, places, and/or events are significant to that history, presenting a clear argument and evidence.

OPTION A: Traditional Essay

Write a 1500-2000 word essay responding to the prompt. Include an introduction, clear thesis statement, and evidence. **Consult and cite both secondary and primary sources.** Papers should include a brief heading (student's name, class section number, and due date should suffice) and title, and should be doubled-

spaced, 12-pt. standard font, with 1-inch margins. **All source citations should be footnotes following the rules of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.**

OPTION B: The Unessay

Respond to the prompt any way you want. Be creative. You might submit a work of art in a chosen medium or compose original song lyrics. It can be a BuzzFeed-style listicle (complete with a click bait headline), a short story, or the script to a Broadway play. It can further be presented in any medium of your choosing: video, audio, sculpture, watercolor, etc. You can also either work alone or in groups of up to three people for this option. (Please keep in mind that the three of you will receive the same grade).

The above options are intended only to illustrate the possibilities. You can and should think beyond those ideas.

All students are required to meet with me and have their theme and the people, places, and/or events to be included approved by SEPTEMBER 22. This is to ensure that your project is both feasible and fulfills the assignment's requirements.

OPTION A and OPTION B will both be graded on similar criteria. Each is expected to present an argument with supporting evidence. Your essay or unessay should be well written (or painted or sung or otherwise presented) and its argument clear. It should connect the three individuals, places, and/or events to one another and to the argument you are advancing, and it should make a claim about American history.

ASSIGNMENT IS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

5. MIDTERM EXAMINATION – 20%

In-class blue book exam, consisting of several short IDs (4-5) and (1) more substantial essay question. This midterm will include material—drawn from lectures, in-class discussions and outside readings—covered through week seven.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

6. FINAL EXAMINATION – 25%

Blue book exam, consisting of several short IDs (7-8) and (2) more substantial essay questions. The final examination is comprehensive, covering everything discussed in class and in outside readings throughout the semester.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

POLICIES AND REMINDERS:

Please feel free to ask questions and offer opinions during class (in fact, your grade depends on it!), but always treat your classmates and your professor with respect. Disagreement is allowed, but personal attacks and insults are not. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. If you experience a problem, please report the situation to the professor immediately.

A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices in class for taking notes and/or viewing reading materials. Each of us learns differently and takes notes differently. Please do your best to not distract the class or your fellow students. To that end, please silence your electronic devices and use them only to take notes or access course materials. As a former student and a current instructor, please rest assured that I can tell when you are facebooking, tweeting, snapchatting, instagramming, WhatsApping, or using any other social media app or game, or reading material not relevant to this class.

Honor Code: In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment, please bring your concerns to the professor. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or with the Honor Code Office (4440 WSC).

Students With Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should contact the University Accessibility Center (2170 WSC). This office can evaluate your situation and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable accommodations.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (September 4-8): A NEW WORLD

September 6 Course Overview

September 8 Statues, Memory, and Meaning in America

WEEK 2 (Sept. 11-15): EXPLORATION, CONTACT, AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

September 11 Foner, chapter 1

September 13 Foner, chapter 2

September 15 Townsend, *Pocahontas* (all)

WEEK 3 (Sept. 18-22): ESTABLISHING NEW COMMUNITIES

September 18 Foner, chapter 3
 Reading Quiz #1

September 20 Foner, chapter 3

September 22 Film: *Slavery and the Making of America*

WEEK 4 (Sept. 25-29): SLAVERY AND EMPIRE

September 25 Foner, chapter 4

September 27 Foner, chapter 4

September 29 Runaway Slave Ads

WEEK 5 (October 2-6): AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS

October 2 Foner, chapter 5
Reading Quiz #2

October 4 Foner, chapter 5

October 6 Harris, *The Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah* (all)

WEEK 6 (Oct. 9-13): AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS, PART II

October 9 Foner, chapter 6

October 11 Foner, chapter 6

October 13 “Four Slave Petitions for Freedom;” Esther Reed, “Sentiment of an American Woman” (1780); Cassandra Pybus, “Mary Perth, Harry Washington, and Moses Wilkinson: Black Methodists Who Escaped from Slavery and Founded a Nation”

WEEK 7 (Oct. 16-20): INVENTING AMERICA

October 16 Foner, chapter 7
Reading Quiz #3

October 18 Foner, chapter 7

October 20 NO CLASS – Study for Midterm

WEEK 8 (Oct. 23-27): THE NEW NATION

October 23 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION – IN CLASS**

October 25 Foner, chapter 8

October 27 Foner, chapter 9

WEEK 9 (October 30-November 3): THE NEW NATION

October 30 Foner, chapter 9
Reading Quiz #4

November 1 Foner, chapter 10

November 3 John Calhoun, "South Carolina Exposition and Protest" (1828);
Daniel Webster, "Second Reply to Hayne" (1830); Joseph Smith
Revelation, 25 December 1832

WEEK 10 (Nov. 6-10): EXPANSION – MARKETS, GEOGRAPHIES, PEOPLES

November 6 Johnson and Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias* (all)

November 8 Foner, chapter 11
Reading Quiz #5

November 10 No class – work on research assignment

WEEK 11 (Nov. 13-17): PECULIAR INSTITUTIONS

November 13 Slave narratives (excerpts)

November 15 Foner, chapter 12

November 17 Foner, chapter 12

WEEK 12 (Nov. 20-24): REFORM AND RETRENCHMENT

November 20 "Seneca Falls Declaration;" "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?"
RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE

November 21 No class

NOVEMBER 22 or 24 – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 13 (November 27-December 1): THE ROAD TO DISUNION

November 27 Foner, chapter 13
Reading Quiz #6

November 29 Foner, chapter 13

December 1 NO CLASS

WEEK 14 (Dec. 4-8): REFORM AND RETRENCHMENT

December 4 Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*

December 6 Foner, chapter 14

December 8 Film: "A Nation Reborn"

WEEK 15 (Dec. 11-13): FREEDOM AND A NEW NATION

December 11 Foner, chapter 15
COMMONPLACE BOOKS DUE

December 13 The Legacies of Early America

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM