

HISTORY 220

UNITED STATES HISTORY THROUGH 1877

Christopher Jones

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Office: 2109 JFSB

Office Hours: W, 1:30-3:00 pm; Th, 10:00-11:30 am

Summer 2018

Section 001 (1127 JKB)

MWF 10:00-11:40 am

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 various online retailers.

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History, Volume 1* (Seagull 5th Edition)
- Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma*
- Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: The Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*
- Additional readings available via Learning Suite

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

There are five graded components to this course:

I. 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 three class periods without being penalized, though you are responsible for any material missed in case of absence and cannot make up any assignments missed as a result of your absence. **Your participation grade will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class period missed after that.** In addition, **I reserve the right to adjust borderline grades up or down based on attendance and participation in class discussion.**

2. READING QUIZZES – 15%

There will be several short reading quizzes administered at the beginning of class, beginning **Wednesday, May 9**. 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. See the schedule below for the date of each quiz.

3. EVERYTHING HAS A HISTORY – 25%

Although this class cuts off chronologically in 1877, much of what we study is crucial for understanding issues that continue to play an important role in American society today. This assignment is intended to help students focus in on one such issue and to study its early American history.

Students will select one relevant contemporary issue (i.e. income inequality, racism, distrust of media, gender equality, partisan politics, executive power, popular protest, etc.) and then write a short, 4-5 page research essay on that issue's early American history. You are required to consult at least 2-3 peer-reviewed sources for this assignment. **The paper should include a brief heading and title, and should be double-spaced, in 12-pt. standard font, with 1-inch margins. All source citations should be footnoted following the rules of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.**

Alternately, working in groups of no more than three, you may select one issue and then research, write, and record one 12-15 minute podcast episode about the subject's early American history. You are required to consult at least 2-3 peer-reviewed sources for this assignment. In addition to the audio recording, you are required to submit "show notes," including a transcript of the recording and a bibliography of sources consulted. All recordings are expected to be high quality, using professional equipment. The Harold B. Lee Library has a professional sound recording studio that can be used to record your podcast.

As part of this project, you are required to meet with me during office hours by Wednesday, May 16 in order to get your topic approved and to help you get started identifying sources to read.

Additional information, including links to sample podcasts, potential topics, and more, is available via Learning Suite.

DUE VIA LEARNING SUITE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

4. MIDTERM EXAMINATION – 20%

Blue book exam consisting of some combination of short-answer IDs and longer essays. **The midterm will be held in class on Friday, May 25.**

5. FINAL EXAMINATION – 30%

Comprehensive blue book exam consisting of some combination of short-answer IDs and longer essays. **The university-scheduled time for the final exam is Wednesday, June 20 from 11:00 am-12:50 pm.**

POLICIES AND REMINDERS:

This class is intended to be a space to critically and thoughtfully discuss American history. 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. Regardless of how you take notes, 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 browsing the internet, facebooking, tweeting, snapchatting, instagramming, WhatsApping, or using any other social media app or game, or reading material not relevant to this class. I reserve the right to ask you to put your electronic devices away at any point.

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 (810) 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Brigham Young University prohibits unlawful sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. The university also prohibits sexual harassment—including sexual violence—committed by or against students, university employees, and visitors to campus. As outlined in university policy, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are considered forms of "Sexual Misconduct" prohibited by the university.

University policy requires all university employees in a teaching, managerial, or supervisory role to report all incidents of Sexual Misconduct that come to their attention in any way, including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Incidents of Sexual Misconduct should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at t9coordinator@byu.edu or (801) 422-8692. Reports may also be submitted through EthicsPoint at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours a day).

BYU offers confidential resources for those affected by Sexual Misconduct, including the university's Victim Advocate, as well as a number of non-confidential resources and services that may be helpful. Additional information about Title IX, the university's Sexual Misconduct Policy, reporting requirements, and resources can be found at <http://titleix.byu.edu> or by contacting the university's Title IX Coordinator.

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 + READINGS

WEEK 1 (May 1-4)

May 2 **Course Overview; History and Historical Narratives**

May 4 **Worlds, Old and New**
Read: Foner, chapters 1 & 2

WEEK 2 (May 7-11)

May 7 **Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma**
Read: Townsend, *Pocahontas* (all)

May 9 **Anglo-America**
Read: Foner, chapter 3
Reading Quiz #1

May 11 **NO CLASS**

WEEK 3 (May 14-18)

May 14 **Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire**
Read: Foner, chapter 4

May 16 **American Revolutions**
Read: Foner, chapter 5
Reading Quiz #2

May 18 **American Revolutions, Part II**
Read: Selections from Paine, *Common Sense*; Ingliss; Response to *Common Sense*

WEEK 4 (May 21-25)

May 21 **Declarations of Independence**
Read: Foner, chapters 6 & 7
Reading Quiz #3

May 23 **America in the Age of Revolutions**

May 25 **MIDTERM EXAM: In Class**

WEEK 5 (May 28-June 1):

May 28 **NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY**

- May 30** **The New Nation**
Read: Foner, chapters 8 & 9
Reading Quiz #4
- June 1** **Democracy in America**
Read: Foner, chapter 10
- WEEK 6 (June 4-8)**
- June 4** **Peculiar Institutions**
Read: Foner, chapter 11
Reading Quiz #5
- June 6** **Peculiar Institutions, Part II**
- June 8** **Slavery + Antislavery, Transformed**
Read: Foner, chapter 12; Seneca Falls Declaration; "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"
- WEEK 7 (June 11-15)**
- June 11** **Road to Disunion**
Read: Foner, chapter 13
Reading Quiz #6
- June 13** **Road to Disunion**
Read: Dew, *Apostles of Disunion* (all)
- June 15** **The Civil War + Reconstruction**
Read: Foner, chapters 14 & 15
- WEEK 8 (June 18)**
- June 18** **A New Birth of Freedom?**

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 11:00 AM-12:50 PM