

History 201-D11 American History I Fall 2008

MW
5:45-7:00
Kress 206

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Required Books (available at the Aims Bookstore)

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume I*, 2nd Edition (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2008.)

Bruce Wheeler and Susan Becker, *Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence, Volume I to 1877* (New York: Houghton/Mifflin, 2007.)

Six Blue Book Exam Booklets

Ideas About The Course/Objectives

This course is a survey of American History from the beginning (the Colonial Era) to 1877 (the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War). We will be covering a lot of material and a lot of history in a short time, so be sure to keep up on reading assignments and attend class often. Although this is a survey course, it will not focus primarily on mundane facts, names, dates, and figures. Although facts, names, dates, and figures are important in the study of history, what is more important is the ability to analyze, discuss, and interpret historical data. More profoundly, the central goal to the study of history is to bring the past to life; to try to empathize or put yourself in the shoes of the people who lived through the time period we are studying. To that end, the main goal of this course is to help you develop oral and written communication and critical thinking skills concerning trends and ideas from this particular time period of American History. You will be asked to read valuable works about the period, to participate in class discussions and activities, and to be attentive listeners to lectures and films. Then it will be up to you to analyze the information and ideas and come up with your own interpretations of this most fascinating period in American History. Furthermore, this course, once completed with a passing grade, satisfies general education competencies and requirements in critical thinking and writing.

Expectations

Reading

Reading is a critical component of this or any history course. If you do not like to read, or feel you have no time to read, this course is not for you! Each week, you will be expected to read one to three textbook chapters (about 25-30 pages per chapter).

Furthermore, you will also have to prepare for several class discussions by reading an additional text or an article and producing written assignments. The writing assignments will be 2 page analytical essays. The writing assignments will be handed out in class at a later date and we will go over it together in detail then. The point here is—Be prepared to read this semester!!

Attendance and Participation

It is also very important that you attend every class session so that you do not miss any important material that will be covered on exams, and information that can help you on your writing assignments. Attendance and participation (coming to class, asking questions, participating in discussions, keeping up on the reading, and overall involvement) will always make the difference between a poor grade and a grade you will be pleased with. Attendance and participation have the ability to improve your final grade, especially in borderline cases. If you do not attend class and participate often, it will show on your exams and essays, and of course, on your final grade. Students who wish to do well in this course should attend class regularly and take good, detailed lectured notes.

Evaluation

The most important aspect of this course is learning how to utilize the processes and resources of historical data and inquiry (those critical thinking and writing skills I mentioned above). To that end, the central components of your evaluation and final grade will be based upon your performance on two exams, five 2 page writing assignment, and five interactive class discussions and group work opportunities.

Exams

The majority of your grade will be determined by your performance on two exams. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade, worth 100 points each. Each exam will be comprised of two sections. Each exam will take one class period to conduct, including the final. We will discuss the exams and the exam format in thorough detail together in class at a future date.

Writing Assignments/Analytical Essays

In addition to the two exams you will be expected to write five 2 page critical analysis essays. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for every day they are late. To avoid late penalties, always try and hand your papers in on time. The writing assignments constitute 25% of your final grade. The writing assignments will be handed out during class, when we will go over it, in detail, together.

Class Discussions

Throughout the duration of the semester we will conduct five interactive class discussions/group activities (some will be group based activities and discussions, some will be discussions among the entire class). Participation is expected and constitutes 25% of your final grade.

Important Policy Reminders

- (1) If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered and get a copy of the lecture noted from a classmate. You can talk with me about missed material and I will be glad to answer any questions, however, **I will not email or give out my lecture notes.**
- (2) Late writing assignments will be penalized one full letter grade for every day they are late. The writing assignments will be due at the **beginning** of class on the days they are due, after that they will be considered one day late. Be sure to hand in the writing assignments on time to avoid penalties.
- (3) **I do not offer make-up exams or extra-credit.** Be sure to attend on the discussion and exam days.
- (4) If you have any special educational/disability needs or requirements talk to me, and more importantly, contact Barbara Crane in the Disability Access Center in Horizon Hall 327. Hone: 970-339-6388. E-mail: disabilities@aims.edu Fax: 970-506-6937.
- (5) Turn off all cell phones and behave responsibly in class.
- (6) Plagiarism is the act of using someone else’s words, ideas, or writing without giving them their deserved credit. Buying a paper off the internet, copying and pasting pieces of information from the internet into your paper, or retyping a paper your roommate or classmate used last semester are all considered forms of plagiarism (just to name a few). Students who plagiarize typically get caught. Each writing assignment submitted to me will be carefully screened for plagiarism. Students who plagiarize will fail this course and possibly face further disciplinary action from the Dean of Students. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!!!!**
- (7) Please see me if you have additional questions about the course or about materials covered in class. Also, be sure to inform me if you have any special educational/disability needs or requirements.

Grade Distribution

Exam #1 (Wednesday October 8 th).....	100 points = 25%
Class Discussions (Monday, September 8 th , Wednesday, September 24 th , Wednesday, October 22 nd , Wednesday, November 5 th , Wednesday, December 3 rd)	100 points/20 points each = 25%
Writing Assignments.....	100 points/20 points each = 25%
Final Exam (Wednesday, December 10 th).....	100 points = 25%

AN “F” ON THE FINAL EXAM OR FAILURE TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM WILL RESULT IN AN “F” FOR THE COURSE, REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL AVERAGE FOR THAT STUDENT

Course Assignments and Schedule:

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change. Because the changes will be announced in class, it is the student’s responsibility to attend class regularly in order to learn of any schedule changes. Also, all readings must be completed before the days scheduled events.

Week 1	M, Aug. 25	Intro/Ethnohistory	
	W, Aug. 27	Spanish Colonization/The Middle Ground	
Week 2	M, Sept. 1	LABOR DAY—NO CLASS	
	W, Sept. 3	The Chesapeake & New England	Foner, Chs.1 & 2
Week 3	M, Sept. 8	CLASS DISCUSSION #1	Wheeler, Ch. 1 Analytical Essay #1
	W, Sept. 10	Witches & Rebellions	Foner, Ch. 3
Week 4	M, Sept. 15	The Origins of Slavery	Foner, Ch. 4
	W, Sept. 17	Maturing Societies	
Week 5	M, Sept. 22	The Origins of the American Revolution	Foner, Ch. 5
	W, Sept. 24	CLASS DISCUSSION #2	Wheeler, Ch. 4 Analytical Essay #2
Week 6	M, Sept. 29	Alternative Revolutions	Foner, Ch. 6
	W, Oct. 1	Creation of the American Republic	
Week 7	M, Oct. 6	Slavery in the New Republic	Foner, Ch. 7
	W, Oct. 8	EXAM #1	
Week 8	M, Oct. 13	Republican Mothers	
	W, Oct. 15	Wars of 1812	Foner, Ch. 8
Week 9	M, Oct. 20	Labor and Immigration	Foner, Ch. 9
	W, Oct. 22	CLASS DISCUSSION # 3	Wheeler, Ch. 7 Analytical Essay #3
Week 10	M, Oct. 27	Nationalism & the Monroe Doctrine	
	W, Oct. 29	Jacksonian Democracy	Foner, Ch. 10
Week 11	M, Nov. 3	The Character of Slavery	Foner, Ch. 11
	W, Nov. 5	CLASS DISCUSSION #4	Wheeler, Ch. 8 Analytical Essay #4
Week 12	M, Nov. 10	Revivals & Schools	
	W, Nov. 12	Abolition & Feminism	Foner, Ch. 12
Week 13	M, Nov. 17	Manifest Destiny	
	W, Nov. 19	Ideologies of the 1850s	Foner, Ch. 13

Week 14	M, Nov. 24	Civil War	
	W, Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING—NO CLASS	
Week 15	M, Dec. 1	Emancipation	Foner, Ch. 14
	W, Dec. 3	CLASS DISCUSSION #5	Wheeler, Ch. 10 Analytical Essay #5
Week 16	M, Dec. 8	Reconstruction	Foner, Ch. 15
	W, Dec. 10	FINAL EXAM	