

HISTORY 201-G11
American History: Beginning to 1877
Aims Community College
Spring 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays

College Center 769

9:10am to 10:25am

Mr. Clint Heiner, M.A.

Office: Westview 697 B

Office Phone: (970) 339-6442

Office Hours: MWF = 10am to 11am

Tu/Th = 11am to noon

E-mail: clint.heiner@aims.edu (the best way to contact me is via e-mail)

Required Book (Available for Purchase at The Aims Bookstore)

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History Volume I*, Second Edition, (Published by W.W. Norton and Company, 2008).

Peter Frederick, *American History Firsthand: Working with Primary Sources Volume I to 1877*, Second Edition, (Published by Pearson/Longman, 2008).

Six Blue Book Exam Booklets (Must Have These for Exams)

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 it 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 and put yourself in the shoes of the people who lived through the time period we are about to study. 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, does satisfy 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 conduct a good bit of research and do a lot of outside reading in order to complete one writing assignment. The writing assignment will be a 5-6 page research paper. The writing assignment will be handed out during the third week 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 just 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. There is a direct correlation between students who attend class regularly and those who are pleased with their overall grade in the class. Again, there is a direct correlation between regular attendance and high academic achievement. Students who wish to do well in this course should attend class regularly and take good, detailed lecture 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 mention on page one). To that end, the central components of your evaluation and final grade will be based upon your performance on three exams, one 5-6 page writing assignment, and four interactive class discussion and group work opportunities (which count as extra credit!).

Exams

The majority of your grade will be determined by your performance on three 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. The IDs section is worth 40% (40 points) of each exam, and the essay portion is worth 60% (60 points) of each exam. To study for the IDs sections of every exam see "Important Terms and People" at the end of every note set, I will draw all ID material exclusively from those banks of terms. For the essay portion of each exam I will hand out study guides one week before every exam. We will discuss the exams and the exam format in thorough detail together during the third week of class.

Writing Assignment/ Analytical Essay/ Research Paper

In addition to the three exams you will be expected to write one 5-6 page essay worth 100 points, worth 25% of your final grade. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for every day they are late. To avoid late penalties, always try and hand your paper in on time. The writing assignment is a 5-6 page research paper, with a proposal completed before any writing begins. The writing assignment and the proposal guidelines will be handed out during the third week of class, and we will go over both of them, and the exam format, in detail, together.

Class Discussions and Extra Credit

Throughout the duration of the semester I will also offer four extra credit opportunities by way of contribution in four interactive class discussions/group activities (some will be group based activities and discussions, some will be discussions among the entire class; in either case, all of them will require and be based upon primary source readings). If you participate in all four of the class discussions you will receive ten extra credit points, equivalent to a whole letter grade. If you do not contribute in all four class discussions, each individual contribution will be worth two extra credit points.

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 notes 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 so make-up exams will not be given.** Be sure to show up on the appropriate 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. Phone: 970-339-6388. E-mail: disabilities@aims.edu Fax: 970-506-6937.

(5) Turn off all cell phones and behave like an adult in class.

(6) **Plagiarism:** 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!!!!**

Questions: 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 (Tuesday, February 24 th).....	100 points = 25%
Exam #2 (Thursday, April 2 nd).....	100 points = 25%
Writing Assignment (Research Project) (Due at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 16 th); Don't forget about the Proposal for the Writing Assignment (Due much earlier at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 3 rd) Proposal worth 10pts, Research Project worth 90pts	
All of it together is worth.....	100 points = 25%
Exam #3 (Final Exam) (Tuesday, May 5 th , from 9:10am to 11am in CC 769).....	100 points = 25%

	400 points total = 100%

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: T, January 13 = Introduction
- H, January 15 = The Meeting of Cultures (Africa, Europe, and the Americas):
 - America Before European Contact, Columbus, The Spanish Empire
 - The Meeting of Worlds (Africa, Europe, and the Americas):
 - African Slavery, the Slave Trade, the French, Dutch, and English Arrive in America
 - Read Foner, Chapter #1 All

- Week 2: T, January 20 = The English: The Early Chesapeake, Birth of American Slavery, and New England (Pilgrims and Plymouth; Puritans and Massachusetts)
Read Foner, Chapter #2 First Half, to page 81, stop at “Religion, Politics and Freedom”
- H, January 22 = The English: The Carolinas, The Delaware Valley and the Quakers, the Backcountry Migrations, the Caribbean, “Middle Grounds,” and the Development of Empire
Read Foner, Chapter #2 Finish, page 81 to 89
Read Foner, Chapter #3 to page 111, stop at “The Growth of Colonial America”
Hand Out Reading for Class Discussion #1 (Puritan-Indian Contact)
- Week 3: T, January 27 = Class Discussion #1:
The Clash of Cultures: European and Indian Encounters
From your primary source reader, *American History Firsthand*, by Peter Frederick, before class on this day, have Archive 1: “European-Indian Encounters,” Completely Finished (read, look at, and analyze all of the documents in Archive 1)
AND
Have the hand out on Puritan-Indian contact read/finished by this day as well
- H, January 29 = VERY IMPORTANT TECHNICAL DAY = We will discuss the exam for and I will hand out the Writing Assignment (Research Paper) and the Proposal. We will deal with all technical issues on this day, and go over everything as a class.
- Week 4: T, February 3 = Society and Culture in Colonial America: The Beginnings of Slavery in English America
Foner, Chapter #4, pages 132 to 142, stop at “Slave Culture and Slave Resistance”
Film: *Amistad*
- H, February 5 = Society and Culture in Colonial America: Changing forces of European Immigration; The Colonial Economies; Masters and Slaves, and Slave Culture; Puritans and the Salem Witch Craft Trials; Awakenings and Enlightenments
Read Foner, Chapter #3, pages 111 to 129 AND
Read Foner, Chapter #4, pages 142 to 158, stop at “Imperial Rivals”
- Week 5: T, February 10 = Catch Up day
- H, February 12 = Empire in Transition: The Struggle for the Continent, French and Indian War (Seven Years War), New Imperialism
Read Foner, Chapter #4, pages 158 to Finish (page 171)
Film: *Last of the Mohicans*
- Week 6: T, February 17 = The Origins of the American Revolution (Military and Ideological)
Read Foner, Chapter #5, pages 178 to 191, stop at “The Outbreak of War”
Hand Out Study Guide for Exam #1
- H, February 19 = Class Discussion #2: What Caused the American Revolution and was it Inevitable?
From your primary source reader, *American History Firsthand*, by Peter Frederick, before class on this day, have Archive 4: “Causes of the American Revolution,” Completely Finished (read, look at, and analyze all of the documents in Archive 4)
- Week 7: T, February 24 = **Exam #1**
- H, February 26 = The American Revolution: Declaration of Independence, and the War for Independence
Read Foner, Chapter #5, pages 191 to 209

Week 8: T, March 3 = **Proposal for Writing Assignment (Research Project) Due at Beginning of Class**

The American Revolution: War and Society, Slavery, Indians, and Women

The Creation of State Governments and the Articles of Confederation

Possibly start the Age of Federalism and the Constitution

Read Foner, Chapter # 6 All AND

Read Foner, Chapter #7, to page 255, stop at "A New Constitution"

H, March 5 = The Constitution and the New Republic: Forming a New Government,

George Washington, and the Age of Federalism;

National Sovereignty and the Downfall of Federalism

Read Foner, Chapter #7, pages 255 to 275

Read Foner, Chapter #8, pages 278 to 293, stop at "The Revolution of 1800"

Week 9: T, March 10 = The Jeffersonian Era and Thomas Jefferson: Western Expansion, Louisiana Purchase, and Lewis and Clark

Read Foner, Chapter #8, pages 293 to 302, stop at "The Second War for Independence"

H, March 12 = The Jeffersonian Era, Tecumseh, and the War of 1812

Read Foner, Chapter #8, pages 302 to Finish (page 309)

Week 10: March 16-20 = NO CLASS ALL WEEK FOR SPRING BREAK

Week 11: T, March 24 = America's Economic Revolution and "The Artificial River"

American Nationalism: Expanding West and "The Era of Good

Feelings"; Missouri Compromise, Monroe Doctrine, and John Marshall (3 M's)

Skim Foner Chapter #9 All, AND

Skim Foner, Chapter #10, pages 352 to 370, stop at "The Age of Jackson"

Start Jackson Here as well

H, March 26 = The Age of Jackson: The Rise of Mass Politics, The Nullification

Crisis, Indian Removal, the Trail of Tears, The Bank War, Jacksonian

Democracy, and the Jackson Legacy

Read Foner, Chapter #10, pages 370 to Finish (page 385)

Hand Out Study Guide for Exam #2

Week 12: T, March 31 = Film: Documentary on Indian Removal

H, April 2 = **Exam #2**

Week 13: T, April 7 = The Old South: The Cotton Economy, Southern White Society

Slave Culture and Society

Read Foner, Chapter #11 All

Hand Out Reading for Class Discussion #3, Frederick Douglass

H, April 9 = Antebellum Culture and Reform

Read Foner, Chapter #12 All

Week 14: T, April 14 = Class Discussion #3: Frederick Douglass and the Pain of Enslavement and the Case of Enslaved Women
From your primary source reader, *American History Firsthand*, by Peter Frederick, before class on this day, have Archive 9: "Changing Views of Slavery: The Case of Enslaved Women," Completely Finished (read, look at, and analyze all of the documents in Archive 9)

AND

Have the handout I gave you on Frederick Douglass finished before class on this day as well

H, April 16 = **Writing Assignment (Research Project/Paper) Due at the Beginning Of Class**

Short film on Manifest Destiny and Settlement of the American West
The Impending Crisis: Western Expansion and War, The Mexican-American War

Read Foner, Chapter #13, First Half, to page 474, stop at "A Dose of Arsenic"
The Origins of the American Civil War

Week 15: T, April 21 = The Origins of the American Civil War

Read Foner, Chapter #13, Finish, pages 474 to 501

Hand Out Reading for Class Discussion #4 on the Civil War

H, April 23 = Finish with the Origins of the American Civil War

Week 16: T, April 28 = The American Civil War

Read Foner, Chapter #14 ALL

Film: *Gettysburg*

Hand Out Study Guide for Final Exam (Exam #3)

H, April 30 = Class Discussion #4: The Crucible of War, Life and Death in the Civil War, and the Purposes and Meaning of the American Civil War

From your primary source reader, *American History Firsthand*, by Peter Frederick, before class on this day, have Archive 11: "The Purposes and Meaning of the Civil War," Completely Finished (read, look at, and analyze all of the documents in Archive 11)

AND

Have the handout I gave you on the Civil War finished before class on this day

Final Exam:

Tuesday, May 5th, from 9:10am to 11:00am in College Center 769