

ENCOUNTERING HISTORY -- HISTORY OF THE U.S. TO 1865



*"In the beginning, all the world was America
..."*

*John Locke,
English philosopher 1632-1704*

History 211
Dr. Phyllis Hunter
Fall 2006

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GOALS: ENCOUNTERING HISTORY

This course serves as an introduction to American History at the college level. The purpose of the course is to enable you to use texts, documents, and secondary readings to understand the life experiences of ordinary people from different races, cultures, and time periods. This course will also help you learn to synthesize information and improve your ability to understand historical changes. We will explore how material conditions, that is, the environment, production and consumption of goods, and use of social space interacted with religious, political, and interpersonal beliefs to shape experience. Our goal is to arrive at an understanding of why and how life in the past differed from region to region and changed over time in the United States up to 1865.

In addition we will examine the "construction" of history in three ways: one, by developing our own interpretations of primary sources; two, by discussing important and sometimes conflicting secondary works; third, by using primary and secondary materials to develop interpretations of important historical developments. In these ways, we can begin to see that history is an interpretation of the past shaped by the concerns of the present

REQUIRED TEXTS

Out of Many: A History of the American People Volume 1, 6th ed. by John Mack Faragher, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom, and Susan H. Armitage (Prentice Hall, 2005).

Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence Vol. 1: To 1877 6th ed. by William Wheeler and Susan Becker (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006)

Both texts are required and are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will learn about the material conditions and cultural adaptations of the diverse peoples in America up to 1865.
2. Students will know the difference between primary and secondary sources, will be able to locate each kind of source via the library shelves and electronic media, and will have an understanding of how interpret both kinds of sources.
3. Students will know how to use historical analysis and historical imagination to understand the lives of common people of different races, ethnicities, classes, and gender in the American past.
4. Students will gain experience in presenting their ideas in writing, in class discussion, and in group projects.

REQUIREMENTS

Class Preparation:

The most important requirements for this course are careful reading of the assignments, attending lectures and taking notes, completion of written work, and thoughtful participation in class discussion and group exercises. The assigned reading must be done before coming to class. To prepare for class participation, the student should take notes on the reading and develop questions for class discussion. Short written exercises will be assigned throughout the semester. There will be one mid-term exam and one final exam and a final group presentation.

**** Attendance is required** and more than three absences will adversely affect your grade. Please turn off your cell phones during class.

Final Project:

The final project is based on group work that will utilize primary and secondary sources and the understanding of developments in American history gained during the course. Each group will create a class presentation based on an important social movement or historical development or political event and demonstrate its impact on a family, a collection of individuals, or a community. The final project can take the form of a play, video, or a web page if approved by your section leader and or Dr. Hunter well in advance. Detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.

Course Grades:

Class Participation & Group Work	20%	
Short papers and written exercises	20%	
Mid-Term Exam	10%	
Final Project	20%	
Final Exam	30%	= 100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

PART I -- INVENTING AMERICA

Topic 1 – Native American Societies

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 1 (by Friday Aug 20)
 Mon – Aug 14 Discussion Sections: Introduction
 Wed – Aug 16 America before 1492
 Fri -- Aug 18 Native Cultures
 Mon -- Aug 21 Discussion Sections

Topic 2 Cultural Encounters

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 2; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 1
 Wed – Aug 23 Cultural Exchanges and Encounters
 Fri – Aug 25 Black Robe
 Mon – Aug 28 Discussion Sections: **Due:** Answers on Black Robe

Topic 3 – Early American Settlements

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 3;
 Wed – Aug 30 New France, New Spain, and British colonies
 Fri – Sept 1 Comparing regional settlement patterns
 Mon – Sept 4 OFF! LABOR DAY

Topic 4 -- Slavery Comes to America

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 4; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 3
 Wed -- Sept 6 Origins of Slavery
 Fri -- Sept 8 Slavery in Virginia and South Carolina
 Mon – Sept 11 Discussion Sections

Topic 5 -- 18th Century Changes

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 5.
 Wed – Sept 13 Development of Provincial Societies and 1763
 Fri -- Sept 15 Library introduction and selection of primary sources
 Mon – Sept 18 Discussion Sections

Topic 6 -- War, Politics, and Society

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 6 and pp.174-188;
 Wed -- Sept 20 Interpreting the Revolution
 Fri – Sept 22 Mary Silliman's War
 Mon – Sept 25 Discussion Sections and Review for mid-Term
 Due: Primary source report **and** answers on Mary Silliman's War
 Wed -- Sept 27 **Mid-Term Exam**

PART II -- CREATING A NEW NATION FOR WHOM?

Topic 7 -- A New Government: Two Visions

Reading: *Out of Many*, Finish Chap.7 and all of Chap.8; (*NB long assignment)

Fri – Sept 29 Two Views of Civil Society

Mon – Oct 2 Discussion Sections

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 9. Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 5 (Oct 4)

Wed -- Oct 4 The Early Republic

Fri -- Oct 6 Shay's Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion

Mon – Oct 9 OFF! FALL BREAK

Topic 8 -- Jackson and the Growth of the Cotton Kingdom

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 10; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 6

Wed – Oct 11 Jackson, Indian Removal and King Cotton

Fri – Oct 13 Denmark Vesey

Mon -- Oct 16 Discussion Sections: **Due**, Answers on Demark Vesey

Topic 9 -- New Workers in New Towns

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 12; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 7

Wed -- Oct 18 Transportation and the Industrial Revolution,

Fri -- Oct 20 Urbanization, Immigration and Sectional Differences

Mon -- Oct 23 Discussion Sections

Topic 10 -- Reforming Society

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chaps 11 and 13;

Wed -- Oct 25 Antebellum Reform Movements

Fri -- Oct 27 Introduce Final Project – please sit with your section.

Mon – Oct 30 Discussion Sections

Topic 11 -- Manifest Destiny

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 14; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 9

Wed – Nov 1 Manifest Destiny and war with Mexico

Fri -- Nov 3 Map Workshop

Mon – Nov 6 Discussion Sections

Topic 12 -- Free Labor vs. Slave Labor

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 15; Wheeler and Becker, *Discovering the Am. Past*, Chap 8

Wed -- Nov 8 Free Labor, Slave Labor, and Sectional Differences

Fri -- Nov 10 Coming of the Civil War -- (see Chronology pg. 448)

Mon -- Nov 13 Discussion Sections

Topic 13 -- Living Through the Civil War

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 16;

Wed – Nov 15 Men and Women's Lives during the Civil War

Fri – Nov 17 Web Lab: Valley of the Shadow

Mon – Nov 20 Discussion Sections **Due:** Valley of the Shadow Report

Final Projects

Wed – Nov 22

OFF! THANKSGIVING

Fri – Nov 24

OFF! THANKSGIVING

Mon – Nov 27

Discussion Sections: Work on Group Projects

Wed -- Nov 29

Presentations of Group Projects

Fri -- Dec 1

Presentations of Group Projects

Final Exam Preparation

Mon -- Dec 4

Discussion Sections: Exam Review

Final exam**Wed – Dec 6 from 3:30 to 6:30 Graham 313**