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

John Locke, 
English philosopher 1632-1704

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


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:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Group Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers and written exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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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
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