

US HISTORY TO 1877
HIS 211

Instructor: Joseph Moore

Office Hours: By Appointment through Skype (username: josephmoore2)

Contact Information: jsmoore3@uncg.edu

Class Meeting: Online lectures and online discussion posts

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the social, cultural, and political history of the United States from the initial contact between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans through the collapse of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Students will be challenged to answer many questions. What constitutes US History, and when does it begin? How were Europeans, Indians and Africans influenced and transformed by their interactions with one another? How did slavery develop, how did it change, and how did the institution become the heart of division within American society? How did Americans reconcile their increasing obsession with democracy with the contrast of American slavery? How unified was early America? Was America founded as a 'Christian nation', a secular state, or something else? How did the rise of capitalism transform class and gender roles in American society? How have Americans balanced the demands of democratic equality with the necessary economic inequalities of capitalism? How were capitalism and slavery related? What caused the American Civil War? In what ways were genuinely bi-racial democracies attempted in the South after the war, and why did they ultimately fail?

The nature of an introductory course requires that a variety of topics be covered. In giving an overview covering the fifteenth through the nineteenth centuries, the course will give students a broad working knowledge of the events, players, and themes of early American history. This course will serve as a foundation for further study, as well as give insights into the development of civic and cultural life in the United States.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will acquire foundational knowledge in the major themes and events in American history before 1877. Students will analyze and interpret historical data and improve their ability to make historical arguments. Emphasis on content mastery will provide a solid base for future study and discussions, and writing assignments will improve students' writing skills.

TEXTBOOKS:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty*, Volume 1, 2nd Edition (Seagull Edition) ISBN: 978-0-393-93255-3

Voices of Created Equal, Volume 1 ISBN: 0-321-39591-3

GRADING

Exam 1: 20% [Complete by September 25th at 11:59pm]
Exam 2: 20% [Complete by October 23rd at 11:59pm]
Exam 3: 20% [Complete by December 3rd at 11:59pm]
Exam 4: 20% [Complete by December 15th at 11:59pm] (Not cumulative)
Final Paper: 10% [Due by December 10th at 11:59pm] Submit via Blackboard
Online Participation: 10% (despite what I say in the audio, I will treat this as a separate category, please make a note of it)

EXAMS

Exams will be given as take home, open book tests at the end of each section of the class. Exams will be posted on blackboard and have a time limit. You are free to take the exam at your convenience, but the window closes at midnight of the due date. NOTE: ONCE YOU BEGIN THE EXAM THE TIME LIMIT BEGINS AND YOU MUST COMPLETE THE TEST! Do not attempt to take part of the test and then return to it later.

Each exam has two sections. The first section is multiple choice and is based on lecture materials AND course readings. The second section is an essay based on the themes in the course and requires you to give a broad account of various thematic issues of American history.

**There is no exam makeup policy* except for documented hospital emergencies and verifiable family death. Failure to take an exam results in a 0.

FINAL PAPER- Due Saturday, December 10th by 11:59pm.

Submit this paper through Safe Assign in Blackboard.

This paper will be a thematic essay on an issue in American history from multiple perspectives.

Requirements:

*Do not play with the margins, use exactly these specifications.

6-7 Pages.

Times New Roman Font.

12 point font.

1 inch margins.

DOUBLE SPACED!!!

Paper must include at least 10 (minimum) sources and no less than 20 (minimum) quotations from primary sources found in *Voices of Created Equal*.

Using the sources from the book, *Voices of Created Equal*, write a paper examining at least three (3) different experiences of race, economics, or freedom.

(continued on next page)

Pick one (1) of these paper topics:

- 1) Examine different developments of racial identity from Colonization through Reconstruction. Make sure to include at least three different perspectives on what race meant, and how race changed in American history.
- 2) Examine the tension between democracy and capitalism in US history. Make sure to include at least three different perspectives on what democracy and capitalism meant to people in America.
- 3) Examine different definitions of freedom in American history. Make sure to include at least three different perspectives on what freedom meant to people. (Feel free to include gender and religion as part of your discussion)

Grading papers:

- A: - Thoughtful, reflective analysis of primary sources showing how people understood their world
- explains *change over time*, showing how different understandings are responses to new experiences and adaptation to new challenges
- well organized and coherent argument throughout
- B: - Well organized and coherent argument throughout
- analysis of primary sources showing how people understood their world
- recognizes change over time, without exploring that change in detail
- C: - decently organized and coherent argument throughout
- uses primary sources as quotations in a descriptive rather than analytical way
- little attention to change over time
- D: - not well organized or coherent
- poor use of primary sources (either not enough or poorly explained)
- little or not attention to change over time
- F: - assignment fails to meet requirements (too short, wrong font, wrong margins, not enough quotations or sources)

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS

You are expected to post thoughtful reflections each and every week of this course. These posting weeks will be divided into two kinds.

Lecture Weeks:

On Lecture weeks, simply listen to the lectures available online (with the powerpoints) and post your reflections on the issues and topics coming out of your readings. **USE EVIDENCE OR ELSE!!!!** This is not a place to spout opinions, but to make informed dialogue with other students. The instructor may or may not participate, but will be watching to see how you reflect your thoughts and interact with other people's thoughts.

Discussion Forum Weeks:

These weeks you are expected to do more. The Instructor will present the entire class with a question to be considered. Then you are expected to both post your own insights AND reflect on the insights of your classmates. Agree, or disagree, or go in a new direction, but make sure you stick to the topic at hand. As always, never (ever!) post without supporting your argument with evidence. But be more thoughtful in your posts, and perhaps take a little more space (2-3 well thought out paragraphs).

There will not be week-to-week grades on these posts. Rather the instructor will read over all your posts for the semester and then give you a subjective grade based on how well you participated in the online dialogues.

FOR POLICIES REGARDING WITHDRAWALS, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISABILITIES SERVICES, PLEASE CONSULT UNCG STANDARD POLICIES

*I will accommodate all disabilities confirmed through UNCG Disabilities services as requested

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 Intro to Course

August 23-28	Lecture and Online Topics: 01 Syllabus AND 02 How to Study History
	Readings: Blackboard Readings

Week 2 Pre-Contact Societies and the Columbian Exchange

Aug 30-Sep. 3	Lecture: 03 Winners and Losers in the Columbian Exchange
	Reading: Foner, 1-42

Week 3 Transplanting Societies into British North America

Sep.6-10	Lecture: 04 Transplanting Societies
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	Reading: Foner, 43-84; <i>Voices of Created Equal</i> , 3-34
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Week 4 Folkways in Transition

Sep.13-17	Lecture: 05 Folkways in Transition
	Reading: Foner, 85-124; <i>Voices of Created Equal</i> 35-72

Week 5 Colonial Overview

Sep.20-24	Online Discussion Forum: How Many America's Were There?
	Reading: Foner, 125-166

*****Exam #1 Due by Saturday, September 25 at 11:59pm*****

Week 6 Rebellion or Revolution? American Independence

Sep.27-Oct.1	Lecture: 06 Rebellion of Liberty
	Reading: Foner, 167-234 (2 chapters); <i>Voices</i> 73-98

Week 7 Moderating Democracy

Oct.4-Oct8	Lecture: 07 Moderate Constitution
	Reading: Foner, 235-301

Week 8 The Early National Period

Oct.11-15	Lecture: 08 Early National Period
	Reading: <i>Voices</i> 113-139

Week 9 Overview: Creating An American Nation

Oct.18-22	Online Discussion Forum: How "American" was the American Revolution? The Constitution?
	Reading: Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution Foner, A-9 to A-13 (back of book)

*****Exam #2 Due by Saturday, October 23 at 11:59pm*****

Week 10 Societies with Slaves

Oct. 25-29	Lecture: 09 Atlantic Slavery
	Reading: Foner, 375-408

Week 11 Slave Societies: American Slavery

Nov.1-5	Lecture: Lecture 10 Southern Slavery
	Reading: <i>Voices</i> 158-159; 180-210

Week 12 Race and Class in American History

Nov.8-12	Online Discussion Forum: Does race “exist” or was it “constructed”?
	Reading: Blackboard readings

Week 13 The Market Revolution and Democracy TWO THIS WEEK

Nov.15-19	Lecture: 11 Market Revolution and 12 Jacksonian Democracy
	Reading: Foner, 302-375

Week 14 Making Modern America

Nov.22-26	Online Discussion Forum: How do we still live with the legacy of the Market Revolution?
	Reading: <i>Voices</i> 140-186

*****Exam #3 Due by Saturday, December 4 at 11:59pm*****

Week 15 Moral Reform Movements

Nov. 29- Dec.3	Lecture: 13 Moral Reform Movements
	Reading: Foner, 409-441

Week 16 Sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction TWO THIS WEEK

Dec. 6-10	Lectures: 14 Sectionalism and Civil War and 15 Reconstruction
	Reading: Foner, 441-519; <i>Voices</i> 211-226

*****FINAL PAPER DUE BY SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 AT 11:59PM*****

Week 17 The Legacies of Early American History

Dec. 13-15	Online Discussion Forum: How has the memory of the Civil War and Reconstruction effected us today?
	Reading: Foner, 520-555, <i>Voices</i> 227-243

*****Exam #4 Due by !!!!!WEDNESDAY!!!!!! December 15 at 11:59pm*****