



## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

--Students will establish a strong foundation of knowledge in the major themes and events in American history before 1865.

--Students will be able to historically contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.

--Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument.

--Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Attendance:**

A student who is not present to sign the attendance sheet when it circulates at beginning of class will be marked “absent.” Once the sheet has circulated the room, no late students will be allowed to sign it. Students who leave class early without permission will be marked absent. More than five absences will lower your *Final Grade* by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your seventh will make it a “C+,” your eighth will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. Please use your 5 un-penalized absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, or have special needs that make the attendance policy burdensome, you **MUST** inform the instructor in the first week of class, and provide proof of your condition to the Dean of Students. We will do our best to accommodate any legitimate, documented, special needs.

### **Participation:**

You must take notes during class lectures and be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked “absent.” Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. No laptop computers may be used for note-taking.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in their weekly discussion sections with your assigned Teaching Assistant. It is important that you participate actively in your discussion section. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive.

### **Short Reflection papers:**

Students must write a three paragraph response to the reading each week, totaling no less than 200 words, to be turned in on Fridays in discussion section. Questions by your Instructor to guide your response papers will be posted to the Blackboard site no later than 1 pm on Wednesday before your discussion section. These short papers will be graded according to the quality of the writing, the accuracy of the information, and the depth of its engagement with the reading assignment.

### **Term Paper:**

There will be one term paper of 1600-1850 words in length. You must write your term paper on one of three assigned topics. You will be assigned a topic by your Instructor. Paper due dates are as follows:

**Topic #1:      September 17**  
**Topic #2:      October 1**  
**Topic #3:      November 5**

Late papers will be marked down one grade for each day they are late. An assignment sheet with the term paper topic questions will be distributed in class. In order to pass this course you must hand in all written work and complete all assignments. You will be required to take your paper to the Writing Center at least 3 days in advance of the due date for help revising it before the due date. You will have the option of revising your paper a second time after it is graded.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Safe Assignment” function on Blackboard which automatically scans your paper for plagiarism. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

### **Grading Formula:**

10% Class participation  
20% Short Reflection papers  
30% Term Papers  
20% Midterm  
20% Final Exam.

### **REQUIRED READING (available at UNCG’s Bookstore):**

Brown and Shannon, eds. *Going to the Source: The Bedford Reader in American*

*History Vol. 1: To 1877*

Equiano, *Interesting Life of Oladuh Equiano*  
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense and other Writings*  
Johnson and Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*  
Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*

**Week 1. INTRODUCTION**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 1.

**Aug. 20** When does U.S. history begin?  
**Aug. 22** Consequences of the Columbian Encounter  
**Aug. 24** Discussion Section

**Week 2. EUROPEAN COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 2-3.

**Aug. 27** War, Trade, and Settlement in North America  
**Aug. 29** Puritan New England  
**Aug. 31** Discussion Section.

**Week 3. SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA**

Reading: *Interesting Narrative of Oladuh Equiano*, 1-196.

**Sept. 3** **LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)**  
**Sept. 5** Slavery in the American Colonies  
**Sept. 7** Discussion Section

**Week 4. IMPERIAL WARS AND RIVALRIES**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 4.

**Sept. 10** Growth of British North America  
**Sept. 12** France, Indians, and War  
**Sept. 14** Discussion Section

**Week 5. THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION**

Reading: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1-132.

**Sept. 17** Causes of the American Revolution [Paper topic #1 due]  
**Sept. 19** Declaring Independence  
**Sept. 21** Discussion Section

**Week 6. REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 5.

**Sept. 24** The War Against the British  
**Sept. 26** The Impact of the War  
**Sept. 28** Discussion Section

**Week 7. FOUNDING A NATION**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 6.

**Oct. 1** The 1787 Constitution, and its Ratification. [Paper topic #2 due]  
**Oct. 3** The Tumultuous 1790s  
**Oct. 5** Discussion Section

**Week 8. JEFERSONIAN AMERICA**

Reading: Exam Review

**Oct. 8** Jefferson's America  
**Oct. 10** The Market Society  
**Oct. 12** **Midterm Exam**

**Week 9. THE SECOND GENERATION OF AMERICANS**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapters 7-8.

**Oct. 15** **FALL BREAK**  
**Oct. 17** The Missouri Compromise and Slavery's Expansion  
**Oct. 19** Discussion

**Week 10. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Reading: Johnson and Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*, 3-179.

**Oct. 22** Religion, Reform, and the Northern Middle Class  
**Oct. 24** Rise of the Second Party System  
**Oct. 26** Discussion Section

**Week 11. DEMOCRACY AND SLAVERY**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 9.

**Oct. 29** Indian Removal and the Nullification Crisis  
**Oct. 31** Democrats versus Whigs  
**Nov. 2** Discussion Section

**Week 12. ANTEBELLUM POLITICS AND CULTURE**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 10.

**Nov. 5** Slavery, Abolitionism and Sectionalism in Politics [Paper topic #3  
due]

**Nov. 7** Westward Expansion and the Mexican-American War

**Nov. 9** Discussion Section

**Week 13. POLITICAL MELTDOWN**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 11.

**Nov. 12** The Compromise of 1850

**Nov. 14** The Rise of the Republican Party

**Nov. 16** Discussion Section

**Week 14. THE CIVIL WAR**

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 12.

**Nov. 19** The Secession Crisis 1860-61

**Nov. 21** **THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)**

**Nov. 23** **THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)**

**Week 15. WAR AND EMANCIPATION**

**Reading:** Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*

**Nov. 26** The Road to Emancipation

**Nov. 28** Union Victory

**Nov. 30** Discussion Section

**Week 16. DEFEAT OF THE CONFEDERACY**

**Dec. 3** Union Victory and Reconstruction

**Week 17 FINAL EXAM**

**Dec. 5 (Wed.) 12:00-3:00 pm in FERG 100**