

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 2012

Office: 2119 MHRA
Email: pwhunter@uncg.edu
Office Hrs:
Tues & Thurs 3:30 - 4:30

Lectures: 2:00-3:15 on Tues. & Thurs. in MHRA 1214

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 TEXT

Out of Many: A History of the American People Volume 1, **7th ed.** by John Mack Faragher, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom, and Susan H. Armitage (Prentice Hall, 2005).

This text is required and is 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 to 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 genders in the American past.
4. Students will gain experience in presenting their ideas in writing, and orally 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 individual and group exercises. The assigned reading must be done before coming to lectures. 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, 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 Dr. Hunter well in advance. Detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.

Course Grades:

Short papers and written exercises	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

CLASS SCHEDULE

PART I -- INVENTING AMERICA

Topic 1 – Introduction and Native American Societies

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 1

Tues - Aug 21 Doing History

Thurs- Aug 23 Native Cultures

Topic 2 -- Cultural Encounters

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 2

Tues - Aug 28 Cultural Exchanges and Encounters

Thurs - Aug 30 Black Robe - Movie, Handout assignment

Topic 3 – Early American Settlements

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 3;

Tues - Sept 4 New France, New Spain, and British colonies

Due: Answers on Black Robe

Thurs - Sept 6 Comparing regional settlement patterns

Topic 4 -- Slavery Comes to America

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 4;

Tues - Sept 11 Origins of Slavery

Thurs - Sept 13 Slavery in Virginia and South Carolina

Topic 5 -- 18th Century Changes

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 5 and pp. 135-141

Tues - Sept 18 Development of Provincial Societies and 1763

Thurs - Sept 20 Library introduction and selection of primary sources

(Bring your laptop computer if you have one)

Topic 6 -- War, Politics, and Society

Reading: *Out of Many*, Finish Chap 6 and all of Chap 7 (*N.B. Long assignment)

Tues - Sept 25 Interpreting the Revolution

Thurs - Sept 27 Mary Silliman's War - Movie, Handout assignment

Due: Primary source report

Tues - Oct 2 Mid-Term Exam

Due: Answers on Mary Silliman's War

PART II -- CREATING A NEW NATION FOR WHOM?

Topic 7 -- A New Government: Two Visions

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap.8;

Thurs - Oct 4 Two Views of Civil Society

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 9.

Tues - Oct 9 The Early Republic

Thurs - Oct 11 Shay's Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion

Tues - Oct 16 OFF FALL BREAK

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

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 10 and Chap 11 (* N.B. Long assignment)

Thurs - Oct 18 Jackson, Indian Removal, and King Cotton

Tues - Oct 23 Denmark Vesey - Movie, Handout assignment

Topic 9 -- New Workers in New Towns

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 12; Wheeler and Becker, Chap 7, Lowell Mill Girls [On Blackboard]

Thurs - Oct 25 Transportation and the Industrial Revolution

Due: Answers on Denmark Vesey

Tues - Oct 30 Urbanization, Immigration and Sectional Differences

Topic 10 -- Reforming Society

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 13;

Thurs - Nov 1 Antebellum Reform Movements

Topic 11 -- Manifest Destiny

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 14;

Tues - Nov 6 Manifest Destiny and war with Mexico

Thurs - Nov 8 Map Workshop, Handout assignment

Topic 12 -- Free Labor vs. Slave Labor

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 15;

Tues - Nov 13 Free Labor, Slave Labor, and Sectional Differences

Topic 13 -- Living Through the Civil War

Reading: *Out of Many*, Chap 16;

Thurs - Nov 15 Coming of the Civil War, Discussion of most important developments

Tues - Nov 20 Men and Women's Lives during the Civil War

Thurs – Nov 22 OFF! THANKSGIVING

FINAL PROJECTS

Tues - Nov 27 Presentations of Group Projects

Thurs - Nov 29 Presentations of Group Projects

Final exam

Sat – Dec 8 from 3:30 to 6:30 MHRA 1214