

**SYLLABUS**  
**HIS211-04/04D The United States to 1865**

**Meeting Time/Location: Online**  
**Instructor: Mark Moser     Office: MHRA 2104**  
**Office Hours: MW 2:00 to 3:00 --- F 12:00 to 12:30 (and by appointment)**  
**Email: [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu)**

**Required Texts:**

Michael Schaller, et al. *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context Volume I to 1877* (New York: Oxford UP, 2013) ISBN 9780199740154

Jon Butler. *Becoming America: The Revolution before 1776*. (Trilateral Publishers)  
ISBN 9780674006676

Joseph J. Ellis. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (New York: Vintage Books, 2002). ISBN 9780375705243

Edward J. Larson. *A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign* (New York: Free Press, 2007). ISBN 9780743293174

Louis P. Masur. *1831: Year of Eclipse* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001).  
ISBN 9780809041190

(Required books for the course are listed above in the order they will be needed)

**Learning Goals for this Course:**

(These learning goals are applicable to both history majors and non-history majors alike.)

- **Historical Comprehension:** Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in analyzing historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
- **Historical Analysis:** Students will demonstrate ability to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- **Historical Interpretation:** Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting original arguments in writing.

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of United States history, placed within a global context, from its pre-colonial origins to the end of the Civil War
- Think critically and make informed judgments

### **Procedures/Assignments:**

This course requires a significant amount of scheduled reading. It will be essential for you to complete all reading assignments in a timely manner in order to do well on quizzes and discussion posting assignments. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should be able to manage the workload for this class. Each academic week you can expect to have one multiple choice quiz (consisting of 10 questions) and one discussion posting based on that week's reading assignments. Both the quizzes and discussion prompts will normally be posted early in the week—usually no later than Tuesday. These assignments will not appear on Blackboard until I have posted and activated their respective due dates. All quizzes will have a strict 15 minute time limit that is controlled by Blackboard. Quizzes are automatically submitted at the end of 15 minutes. Discussion postings do not have a time limit but must be completed by their respective due dates. The following assignments: Comparative Analysis Paper, Midterm Exam Essay, and Final Exam Essay must be submitted through the **SafeAssign** feature on blackboard. For those of you who may not be familiar with it, **SafeAssign** is a software program that is highly effective in detecting plagiarism in submitted papers. If you are uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism, please take time to thoroughly review the University's Academic Integrity Policy. A link has been provided at the end of this syllabus.

### **Attendance:**

As this is a WEB based class, normal attendance guidelines do not apply. However, while you will have a certain amount of flexibility in completing assignments/quizzes, etc., please be aware that ALL assignments/quizzes/exams in this course have a specific time frame in which they must be completed! Students who repeatedly miss deadlines and/or frequently seek exemptions to stated guidelines will be dropped from the course. **Any student who wishes to receive a grade of "W" must drop the class on or before Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.** All quizzes, discussion postings and exams must be completed and submitted through Blackboard by 11:59 PM of the date they are due. Academic weeks in this course will normally begin on Monday and end at 11:59PM on the following Sunday. I strongly recommend that you not get in the habit of waiting to the last minute to complete/upload assignments, as this is most certainly when computer problems or internet glitches are likely to occur.

**Grading:**

Discussion Postings	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Comparative Analysis Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point grading scale)

**Course Outline:**

Week One—(August 18-24) *American Horizons* chapter 2 and  
*Becoming America* Introduction and Chapter One

Week Two—(August 25-31) *American Horizons* Chapter 2 (continued) and  
*Becoming America* Chapters Two and Three

Week Three—(September 2-7) *American Horizons* Chapter 3 and  
*Becoming America* Chapters Three and Four

Week Four—(September 8-14) *American Horizons* Chapter 4 and  
*Becoming America* Chapters Five and Six

Week Five—(September 15-21) *American Horizons* Chapter 5 and  
*Founding Brothers* Preface through Chapter Two

Week Six—(September 22-28) *American Horizons* Chapter 6 and  
*Founding Brothers* Chapters Three and Four

Week Seven—(September 29-October 5) *American Horizons* Chapter 7 and  
*Founding Brothers* Chapters Five and Six

**\*Midterm Exam due by 11:59 PM Monday, October 6**

Week Eight—(October 6-12) *American Horizons* Chapter 8 and  
*A Magnificent Catastrophe* Preface through Chapter Four

Week Nine—(October 13-19) *American Horizons* Chapter 9 and  
*A Magnificent Catastrophe* Chapters Five through Eight

Week Ten—(October 20-26) *American Horizons* Chapter 10 and  
*A Magnificent Catastrophe* Chapters Nine through Epilogue

Week Eleven—(October 27-November 2) *American Horizons* Chapter 11 and  
*1831* “Eclipse “ and “Slavery and Abolition”

Week Twelve—(November 3-9) *American Horizons* Chapter 12 and  
*1831* “Religion and Politics”

Week Thirteen—(November 10-16) *American Horizons* Chapter 13 and  
*1831* “State and Nation”

**\*Comparative Analysis Paper due by 11:59 PM Monday, November 17**

Week Fourteen—(November 17-23) *American Horizons* Chapter 14 and  
*1831* “Machines and Nature”

Week Fifteen—(November 24-25)\* **No assigned reading** (Thanksgiving 11/26-11/28)

**FINAL EXAM --- due by 11:59 PM Monday, December 1**

**Academic Integrity:**

*On all exams and papers you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.*

*\*If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*

**Communication with the instructor:**

Please keep all emails brief and to the point and be sure to include your name and course information in each email. You should allow at least 24 hours for a response on weekdays—36 hours on weekends. In every case I will respond as quickly as possible. For those of you who also attend classes on campus, it may be advantageous to stop by and see me during my scheduled office hours or make an appointment at a time convenient to both of us.