

HIS 211: The United States to 1865

Professor Mark Elliott
Office: 2125 MHRA
Office Hours: Thurs. 2:00-4:00
or by appointment
E-mail: mark.elliott@uncg.edu

Teaching Assistants:
Mr. Matthew Hintz
Mr. Timothy Reagin
Ms. Kimberly Cheek

Monday and Wednesday Lectures:

10:00-10:50 FERGUSON 100 Dr. Elliott

Friday Discussion Sections:

Section 01	10:00-10:50	Curry 244	Mr. Hintz
Section 02	10:00-10:50	SOEB 219	Mr. Reagin
Section 03	10:00-10:50	MHRA 1207	Ms. Cheek
Section 04	11:00-11:50	Curry 247	Mr. Hintz
Section 05	11:00-11:50	MHRA 1213	Ms. Cheek
Section 06	11:00-11:50	SOEB 214	Mr. Reagin

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys the social, cultural, and political history of the United States from the beginnings of European colonization of America to the end of the American Civil War. Because of its broad historical sweep, the variety of topics covered in this course make no claim to be comprehensive. No single course can cover all of the important issues over two hundred and fifty years of American history. Therefore this course focuses on particular events, historical figures, and social issues that illuminate the issues and experiences of the time that have been of the greatest current interest to historians. Special attention will be given to correcting popular myths and misconceptions about American history.

This course also serves as an introduction to the discipline of history as a field. Students will be trained to think as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to ask questions that help to understand the historical context of the evidence. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence—narratives, diaries, drawings, photographs—and make arguments based on such evidence. Articles and books written by historians will also be read and critically analyzed. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in history in upper level courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will establish a strong foundation of knowledge of the major themes and events in American history before 1865.
- Students will improve their ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.
- Students will improve their ability to make historical arguments, drawing upon primary and secondary source evidence.
- Students will improve their ability to read secondary sources and assess their arguments and uses of evidence.
- 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 “late” if they arrive within a few minutes or “absent” if they miss a substantial portion of the class. **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. Two “late” arrivals will count as an absence. 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.

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 must be silenced and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. No laptop computers may be used for note-taking. You will learn to take notes the “old school” way.

Students are expected to complete the reading assignments in time to participate in their weekly discussion sections with their 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.

Term Paper:

There will be one term paper of 1600-1850 words in length. You will write your term paper based on one of three assigned topics that will be distributed in Friday discussion sections. You will be assigned ONE of the topics. Paper due dates are as follows:

- Topic #1:** Sept. 16
- Topic #2:** Oct. 2
- Topic #3:** Oct. 30

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.

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.

Resources for Students with Disabilities:

Students with recognized disabilities should register with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (OARS). OARS is located on the second floor of the Elliott University Center (EUC) in Suite 215 and maintains a webpage at <http://ods.uncg.edu/>. The mission of OARS is to provide, coordinate, and advocate for services which enable undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities to receive equal access to a college education and to all aspects of university life

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 Breakdown:

- 100 Points: Participation in class discussion at TA sections (13 sessions)
- 100 Points: Short Papers
- 100 Points: Term Paper

100 Points: Midterm
100 Points: Final Exam.

Final Grade Scale: A 465-500; A- 450-464; B+ 435-449; B 415-434; B- 400-414; C+ 385-399; C 365-384; C- 350-364; D+ 335-349; D 315-334; D- 300-314; F 299 or less.

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 Olaudah 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. 17 When does U.S. history begin?
Aug. 19 Consequences of the Columbian Encounter
Aug. 21 Discussion Section

Week 2. EUROPEAN COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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

Aug. 24 Virginia
Aug. 26 New England
Aug. 28 Discussion Section.

Week 3. SLAVERY AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA

Reading: *Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*, 38-128.

Aug. 31 The African Slave Trade
Sept. 2 Slavery in the American Colonies
Sept. 4 Discussion Section

Week 4. IMPERIAL WARS AND RIVALRIES

Reading: *Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*, 7-35, 130-182,
215-231.

Sept. 7 LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)

Sept. 9 France, Indians, and War
Sept. 11 Discussion Section

Week 5. THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

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

Sept. 14 Causes of the American Revolution
Sept. 16 Declaring Independence [Paper topic #1 due]
Sept. 18 Discussion Section

Week 6. REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA

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

Sept. 21 The War Against the British
Sept. 23 The Impact of the War
Sept. 25 Discussion Section

Week 7. FOUNDING A NATION

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

Sept. 28 The 1787 Constitution, and its Ratification.
Sept. 30 The Tumultuous 1790s [Paper topic #2 due]
Oct. 2 Discussion Section

Week 8. JEFERSONIAN AMERICA

Reading: Exam Review

Oct. 5 Jefferson's America
Oct. 7 The Market Society
Oct. 9 **Midterm Exam**

Week 9. THE SECOND GENERATION OF AMERICANS

Reading: *Going to the Source*, Chapter 8.

Oct. 12 **FALL BREAK**
Oct. 14 The Missouri Compromise and Slavery's Expansion
Oct. 16 Discussion

Week 10. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

- Oct. 19** Religion, Reform, and the Northern Middle Class
Oct. 21 Rise of the Second Party System
Oct. 23 Discussion Section

Week 11. DEMOCRACY AND SLAVERY

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

- Oct. 26** Indian Removal and the Nullification Crisis
Oct. 28 Democrats versus Whigs [Paper topic #3 due]
Oct. 30 Discussion Section

Week 12. ANTEBELLUM POLITICS AND CULTURE

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

- Nov. 2** Slavery, Abolitionism and Sectionalism in Politics
Nov. 4 Mexican-American War
Nov. 6 Discussion Section

Week 13. POLITICAL MELTDOWN

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

- Nov. 9** The Compromise of 1850
Nov. 11 The Rise of the Republican Party
Nov. 13 Discussion Section

Week 14. THE CIVIL WAR

Reading: Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*

- Nov. 16** The Secession Crisis 1860-61
Nov. 18 Union Victory
Nov. 20 Discussion

Week 15. WAR AND EMANCIPATION

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

- Nov. 23** The Road to Emancipation
Nov. 25 **THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)**
Nov. 27 **THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)**

Week 16. DEFEAT OF THE CONFEDERACY

- Nov. 30** Union Victory and Reconstruction

Dec. 1 READING DAY (optional Final Exam review session)

Dec. 2 FINAL EXAM 12:-00-3:00 pm (FERG 100)