

The History of the United States to 1865

Fall 2017

HIS 211 Section 06

MWF 8 - 8:50 a.m.

MHRA 1214

Instructor: Ms. Kelsey Walker

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Office: MHRA 2104

Office Hours: Mondays 9am-10am, and by appointment

Course Description:

For many years, historians focused on statesmen and other great men as the sole agents of change in American history. This course shifts focus to ordinary Americans and their efforts to shape their own history and the history of their nation. The goals of this course are to introduce students to the controversies, trends, events, and actors in the first half of American history and to familiarize students with the analytical skills employed in the study of history.

Required Readings:

- **Required Book:** William L. Barney, *The Making of a Confederate: Walter Lenoir's Civil War* (2007)
 - While you may choose to purchase this book from the university bookstore, it is recommended that you look for a cheaper copy online
 - This text is available through Jackson Library as an e-book, using this link: <https://login.libproxy.uncg.edu/login?url=http://site.ebrary.com/lib/uncgreen/detail.action?docID=10199708>

- **Articles and Primary Sources:** A series of articles and primary sources, which are available in PDF format on Canvas or on the internet (as marked), are listed on this syllabus. You are responsible for downloading, printing, reading and bringing these readings to class on the day they are due. You may also bring a laptop or tablet to access the readings in class. Students who do not bring their copies of the reading or are unprepared to discuss them in class will receive a zero for participation for the day.
- **Handouts and Study Questions:** Along with the assigned readings, you will be given a handout or set of questions to complete and bring with you on the day they are due. These questions will be collected at random throughout the semester. No late submissions will be accepted.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. **Attendance:** Students are required to attend class. A maximum of 4 absences are allowed (no documentation required). Once a student reaches four absences, he or she will lose 5 points from the final grade for each additional absence. If you miss class, you are still responsible for all discussion, lecture and reading materials. It is up to you to find out about any class announcements, activities, or changes to the syllabus.
1. **Participation and Discussion (15%):** Participation in this class is a requirement. To receive full credit for participation, students must come prepared to class having done the reading, thoughtfully completed any study questions, and actively contribute to in-class discussions. SLO 2
1. **Written Responses to the Readings (15%):** For each reading, you will be assigned study questions (posted on Canvas). You must complete these questions and bring them with you to each class. At several points throughout the semester, I will collect these written responses at random. SLO 1, 2

1. **Reading Response Paper (10%):** Students are required to write one reading response paper (3-5 pages) that offers an analytical response to the assigned reading and question. The final copy of this paper is due Monday, November 27th in-class. All papers must be submitted in hard copy on the day they are due. SLO 1, 2

1. **3 Essay Exams (20% each):** Students will be assigned three take-home essay exams, where students will use their class notes and readings to write an analytical response to the essay question. A rough draft of **Paper 1** is due on Friday, September 22nd and the final draft is due on **Monday, September 25th**. The final draft of **Paper 2** is due on **Monday, October 23rd** in class. **Paper 3** is due on **Wednesday, December 6th by 5pm**. SLO 2

Course Policies:

Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy (except the final exam, which I will accept via e-mail). Unless otherwise specified on the syllabus, papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Students who submit assignments after the deadline will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment. No assignments will be accepted one week after the due date. If a student leaves a paper in the professor's mailbox, it is the student's responsibility to check that the professor has received the paper.

Plagiarism: The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1- Course Introduction

Wednesday 8/16: Course Introduction

Friday 8/18: What is History? 1

- Jules R. Benjamin, "How Historians Work" (2004) on Canvas
- Mary Beth Norton, "History Under Construction" (2006) on [internet \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- Two Views on Columbus Day, Canvas

WEEK 2- Race and the Early Atlantic World

Monday 8/21: Creating the Atlantic World 2

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin Press, 2002), pp. 24-37, on Canvas

Wednesday 8/23: The "Myth" of the Conquest" 3

- Olivia Harris, "The Coming of the White People Reflections on the Mythologization of History in Latin America." In *Colonial Spanish America: a Documentary History* Kenneth Mills and William Taylor. (Wilmington, Del: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1998). Canvas
- Christopher Columbus, "An Abundant Nature and Promises of Wealth" Canvas

Friday 8/25: The Legacy of the Conquest 4

- Jack Hitt, "Mighty White of You: Racial Preferences Color America's Oldest Skulls and Bones," *Harper's*, July 2005, pp. 39-55 on Canvas
- Stanley and Barbara Stein. "The Racial Heritage of Colonialism" in *The Colonial Heritage of Latin America: Essays on Economic Dependence in Perspective*. Stanley and Barbara Stein, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970). Canvas

WEEK 3- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

M 8/28: The Atlantic Slave Trade 5

- Why were Africans Enslaved- “Why Were Africans Enslaved?” in David Northrup, ed., *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, Second Edition (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2002), pp. 1-29 on Canvas
- Documents: John Hawkins, “An Alliance to Raid for Slaves” (1568), Willem Bosman, “Trading on the Slave Coast” (1700), Olaudah Equiano, “Kidnapped, Enslaved, and Sold Away” (c. 1756) on Canvas

W 8/30: The Chesapeake- Constructing Race and Slavery 6

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America*(New York: Penguin Press, 2002), pp. 138-157 on Canvas
- James Revel, “The Poor Unhappy Transported Felon’s Sorrowful Account of His Fourteen Years Transportation at Virginia in America,” (c. 1680) on Canvas; “Servitude and Slavery in 17th-Century Virginia Courts,” (1630-89) on Canvas

F 9/1: In-class activity- Anthony Johnson

WEEK 4- Race and Gender in the North American Colonies

M 9/4: LABOR DAY- NO CLASS

W 9/6: Gender in the Chesapeake 7

- Kathleen Brown, “The Anglo-Algonquian Gender Frontier,” in *Negotiators of Change Historical Perspectives on Native American Women*, ed. Nancy Shoemaker (New York: Routledge, 1995), pp. 26-48 on Canvas
- John Smith, “Description of Virginia” on Canvas; Father Paul LeJeune, “Encounter with the Indians” on Canvas

F 9/8: In-Class Activity

WEEK 5- North American Colonies

M 9/11: New England 8

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin Press, 2002), pp. 158-186 on Canvas

W 9/13: Carolina 10

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin Press, 2002), pp. 222-244 on Canvas
- Document: "The Stono Rebellion in South Carolina" (1739) on Canvas

F 9/15: Middle Colonies 11

- Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (New York: Penguin Press, 2002), pp. 246-272 on Canvas
- Document: Gabriel Thomas, "Pennsylvania, The Poor Man's Paradise" (1698) on Canvas

WEEK 6- Lead Up to Revolution

M 9/18: In-Class Activity- Graphic Organizer

- BE SURE TO BRING COPIES OF THE TAYLOR READINGS FOR The Chesapeake, New England, Carolina, and the Middle colonies as well as any notes or guided reading question responses.

W 9/20: Writing Workshop

F 9/22: Writing Workshop- **Paper 1 Rough Draft Due**

WEEK 7- Radical Origins of the American Revolution

M 9/25: Paper 1 Final Draft Due

- Lecture, "Colonial (Dis)Order"

W 9/27: The Push for Revolution from Below 12

- Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, "Sailors and Slaves in the Revolution," in *The Social Fabric*, ed. Thomas L. Hartshorne (New York: Longman, 2006), pp. 131-49 on Canvas

F 9/29: Yom Kippur- NO CLASS

WEEK 8- The Revolution Continued

M 10/2: Unrest in the Lower Orders 13

- Documents: "New Jersey Land Riots" (1746 and 1748) on Canvas
- William Livingtons, "The Vanity of Birth and Titles; with the Absurdity of Claiming Respect without Merit" (1753) on Canvas; Paxton Boys, "Manifesto" (1764) on Canvas; North Carolina Regulators, "Shew Yourselves to be Freemen" (1769) on [internet \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#); J. Hector St. John Crèvecoeur, "What is an American?" (1770) on Canvas

W 10/4: Rhetoric of Revolution 14

- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, [Section I \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [Section II \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [Section III \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) on internet; Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence" (1776);

F 10/6: CLASS CANCELLED- Enjoy Fall Break!

WEEK 9- The Constitution

M 10/9: FALL BREAK- NO CLASS

W 10/11: Rhetoric of Revolution 14

- Documents: Abigail and John Adams, “Remember the Ladies” (1776) on Canvas; Joseph Brant, “Mohawk Loyalty to Britain” (1776) on Canvas; John Dickinson, “A Speech Against Independence” (1776) on Canvas; Slave Petitions for Freedom during the Revolution (1774-79) on Canvas

F 10/13: In-Class Activity

- Lecture: "We the People"

WEEK 10- Understanding the Constitution

M 10/16: Creating the Constitution through Compromise 15

- “Grievances of the Shays Rebels,” Canvas.
- In-Class Activity- Shay's Rebellion

W 10/18: Constitutional Conservatism 16

- Documents: Bill of Rights (1791) on [internet \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#); Elbridge Gerry, “The Danger of the Leveling Spirit” (1787); George Clinton, “To The Citizens of the State of New York,” (1787); James Madison, “The Federalist, No. 10,” on Canvas

F 10/20: Constitutional Uncertainty 17

- Documents: “On the Whiskey Rebellion” (1794) on Canvas
- Review for Essay 2

WEEK 11- Westward Expansion

M 10/23: Paper 2 Final Draft Due

- Lecture: The "Era of the Common Man"

W 10/25: Indian Removal and Manifest Destiny 18

- Document: Tecumseh's Plea to the Choctaws and the Chickasaws on Canvas; James Tallmadge, "Denunciation of Slavery in Missouri" (1819); "James Flint Recall the Panic of 1819" (1822); "Davy Crocket, Advice to Politicians" (1833), on Canvas.

F 10/27: Gender (dis)order in the West 19

- Susan Lee Johnson, "'Domestic' Life in the Diggings: The Southern Mines in the California Gold Rush," in Matsumoto and Allmendinger, eds., *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*, pp. 107-132 on Canvas
- Document: John O'Sullivan, "Annexation," *The United States Magazine and Democratic Review* 17 on [internet \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

WEEK 12- The Market Revolution in the North

M 10/30: Market Revolution in the North- the Middle Class- In Class Activity

W 11/1: Market Revolution in the North- the Working Class 20

- Documents: B. Julianna, "Factory Life as it Is" (1845) on Canvas; "Accounts of Urban Riots" (1835) on Canvas; William Sanger, "New York Prostitutes" (1858) on Canvas

F 11/3: In-Class Activity

WEEK 13- Market Revolution in the South- the Domestic Slave Trade

M 11/6: Market Revolution in the South 21

- Stephanie McCurry, "The Two Faces of Republicanism: Gender and Proslavery Politics in Antebellum South Carolina," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 78, No. 4 (Mar., 1992), pp. 1245-1264 on Canvas
- Daniel R. Hundley, from *Social Relations from Our Southern States* on Canvas; Reverend Thornton Stringfellow, *A Brief Examination of the Scripture Testimony of the Institution of Slavery*, 1841, on Canvas

W 11/8: Antebellum Slavery 22

- Brenda Stevenson, "Distress and Discord in Virginia Slave Families, 1830-60," in *In Joy and In Sorrow: Women, Family, and Marriage in the Victorian South, 1830-60*, pp. 103-124 on Canvas
- Documents: Harriet Jacobs, from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* on Canvas; Frederick Douglass, from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* on Canvas

F 11/10: Debating Slavery 23

- Documents: Secession Era Editorials Project on Canvas; George Fitzhugh, *Cannibals All! or Slaves Without Masters* (1857) on Canvas; James D. B. DeBow, "The Interest in Slavery of the Southern Non-Slaveholder" on Canvas; Frederick Law Olmsted, *The Cotton Kingdom* (1861) on Canvas; and Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (1852) on Canvas

WEEK 14- Civil War and Memory

M 11/13: Why did the South Secede? 24

- Documents: South Carolina's "Declaration of Causes" (December 24, 1860); Mississippi's "Declaration of Causes" (January 9, 1861); Georgia's "Declaration of Causes" (January 19, 1861) on Canvas (PICK 1)

W 11/15: William Barney. *The Making of a Confederate, Walter Lenoir's Civil War*, pgs. 3-45 (Prologue and Chapter 1)

F 11/17: William Barney. *The Making of a Confederate, Walter Lenoir's Civil War*, pgs. 46-107 (Chapters 2 and 3).

WEEK 15- Civil War and Memory

M 11/20: Barney, *The Making of a Confederate, Walter Lenoir's Civil War*, pgs. 108-end (Chapters 4, 5, 6 and Afterword)

W 11/22: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

F 11/25: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 16- Wrap-Up

M 11/27: READING RESPONSE PAPER DUE

W 11/29: Review for Final Essay

FINAL EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY 12/6 by 5pm- Submissions accepted via e-mail (to kewalke3@uncg.edu) or you may submit a hard copy to my mail box in the history department (MHRA 2104).