HIS 211: The United States to 1865 (WI)
Course Syllabus

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.

Course Requirements: The requirements for this course include assigned readings for each class, periodic assignments and quizzes on the assigned readings, one paper, and two exams. Assignments submitted in class are due 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. All assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Sections: Students are required to sign up for a discussion section. Attendance in section each week is mandatory. The sections are scheduled as follows:

01. Fridays, 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., SOEB 217
02. Fridays, 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., BRYAN 205
03. Fridays, 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., BRYAN 202
04. Fridays, 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., SOEB 214

Assigned Readings: There are two books assigned for this class: Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America (1995) and William L. Barney, The Making of a Confederate: Walter Lenoir’s Civil War (2007). Both books can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional readings are on Canvas and the internet. The assigned reading list may undergo minor changes, including the addition of primary source readings; students should be sure to consult the most current and official version of the Syllabus on Canvas.

Electronic Devices: The use of laptops, tablets, cellular phones, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class. Use of electronic devices will incur grade penalties.

Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. The door will close ten minutes after class starts. Each student is allowed three absences. After three unexcused absences, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. The instructor will excuse absences with a doctor’s note or legitimate documentation of other emergencies. After fifteen absences, students will receive an automatic F.

Late Assignments: All assignments must be submitted in hard copy. 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: one-third of a letter grade per day. 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 “representing the words, thoughts or ideas of another, as one's own in any academic exercise.”¹ (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 Rights and Responsibilities for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Final Grade Composition
- Participation 15%
- Assignments 10%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Paper 30%

Participation: Participation in discussion is mandatory. **Students should be prepared to discuss the readings on the day that they are assigned.** Attendance alone is not sufficient for full participation credit.

Assignments: Students will be given brief in-class and take-home writing and research assignments based on the assigned readings. Students will also be periodically quizzed on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up assignments in the case of a missed class.

Exams: There will be two exams in this class: one midterm exam on October 11 and one final exam on December 9.

Paper: Students are required to complete a ten- to twelve-page paper based on assigned readings and lectures. The paper is segmented with preliminary assignments, which allows students opportunities for feedback before submitting their final drafts. The first five- to seven-page segment of the paper is due on October 4 and the final ten- to twelve-page version is due on November 6. All sources in the paper must be properly cited according to the guidelines laid out in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, which is available on-line.

Class Schedule

**Week 1:**

**01: Wednesday, August 21: Introduction**

Readings:

¹ [https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/](https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/)
02: Friday, August 23: Sections

Week 2:

03: Monday, August 26: Precontact

Readings:

04: Wednesday, August 28: Creating the Atlantic World

Readings:
- Documents: Christopher Columbus, *The Diario of Christopher Columbus’s First Voyage to America*, (1492-1493), on Canvas; Bernal Diaz del Castillo, *The Conquest of New Spain*, (1632), on Canvas; *Mexican Accounts of Conquest from the Florentine Codex*, (c. 1547), on Canvas; Bartolomé de Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies: A Brief Account*, (1542), on Canvas; “Two Views on Columbus Day,” (1991 and 2005) on Canvas

05: Friday, August 30: Sections

Week 3:

06: Monday, September 2: Class Cancelled – Labor Day

07: Wednesday, September 4: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Readings:
- 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

08: Friday, September 6: Sections

Week 4:

09: Monday, September 9: An English Empire in the Americas
Readings:
- Documents: George Peckham, “A True Reporte of the Late Discoveries,” (1583); Richard Hakluyt, the Younger, “Discourse of Western Planting,” (1584); Richard Hakluyt, the Elder, “Inducements to the Liking of the Voyage Intended towards Virginia,” (1585) on Canvas

10: Wednesday, September 11: Encounter

Readings:
- Documents: John Winthrop, “But What Warrant Have We To Take That Land” (1629) (See document collection in “08”); John Smith, “Description of Virginia” on Canvas; Father Paul LeJeune, “Encounter with the Indians” on Canvas

11: Friday, September 13: Sections

Week 5:

12: Monday, September 16: Colonial America: Chesapeake

Readings:
- Documents: [Virginia Company], “A True Declaration of the Estate of the Colonie in Virginia,” (1610) (See document collection in “08”); 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

13: Wednesday, September 18: Colonial America: New England

Readings:
- Document: Mary Rowlandson, from “The Narrative of Mary Rowlandson” (1682) on Canvas

14: Friday, September 20: Sections

Week 6:
15: Monday, September 23: Colonial America: Lowcountry

Readings:
- Document: “The Stono Rebellion in South Carolina” (1739) on Canvas

16: Wednesday, September 25: Colonial America: Middle Colonies

Readings:
- Document: Gabriel Thomas, “Pennsylvania, The Poor Man’s Paradise” (1698) on Canvas

17: Friday, September 27: Sections

Week 7:

18: Monday, September 30: Colonial (Dis)Order

Readings:
- 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; J. Hector St. John Crèvecoeur, “What is an American?” (1770) on Canvas

19: Wednesday, October 2: War and Rebellion

Readings:
- Documents: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, [Section I], [Section II], [Section III] on internet; Ann Hulton, “Loyalist View of Colonial Unrest” (1774) on Canvas; Thomas Jefferson, “Declaration of Independence” (1776); 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

20: Friday, October 4: Sections

*First segment of paper due at the beginning of class*

Week 8:
21: Monday, October 7: “We the People”

Readings:

22: Wednesday, October 9: Competing Visions for the Early Republic

Readings:
- Drew R. McCoy, “The Fears of the Jeffersonian Republicans” on Canvas; Linda Kerber, “The Fears of the Federalists” on Canvas
- Documents: Governor Thomas Mifflin, “Proclamation on Unlawful Combinations,” 1794; Judge Alexander Addison, “On the Whiskey Rebellion” (1794) on Canvas

23: Friday, October 11: *Mid-Term Exam*

Week 9:

24: Monday, October 14: Class Cancelled – Fall Break

25: Wednesday, October 16: American Expansion and Indian Removal

Readings:
- Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 3-48
- Document: Tecumseh’s Plea to the Choctaws and the Chickasaws on Canvas; James Tallmadge, “Denunciation of Slavery in Missouri” (1819) on Canvas

26: Friday, October 18: Sections

Week 10:

27: Monday, October 21: Market Revolution

Readings:
- Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 49-90
- Documents: James Flint, “Panic of 1819” (1822) on Canvas; David Crockett, “Advice to Politicians” (1833) on Canvas
28: Wednesday, October 23: Northern Working Class

Readings:
• Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 91-164
• 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

29: Friday, October 25: Sections

Week 11:

30: Monday, October 28: Northern Middle Class

Readings:
• Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 164-180
• Documents: Excerpt from David Walker’s *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (1829) on Canvas and William Lloyd Garrison’s “On the Constitution and the Union” on the internet

31: Wednesday, October 30: Creating the “Old South”

Readings:
• Documents: Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, from *Georgia Scenes* on Canvas; Daniel R. Hundley, from *Social Relations from Our Southern States* on Canvas; Mary Boykin Chesnut, from *The Private Mary Chesnut* on Canvas; Reverend Thornton Stringfellow, *A Brief Examination of the Scripture Testimony of the Institution of Slavery*, 1841, on Canvas

32: Friday, November 1: Sections

Week 12:

33: Monday, November 4: Life in the “Quarters”

Readings:
• 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

34: Wednesday, November 6: Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War
Readings:

- 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

*Final version of paper due at the beginning of class*

35: Friday, November 8: Sections

Week 13:

36: Monday, November 11: Political Crises of the 1850s

Readings:

- 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

37: Wednesday, November 13: Secession and the Descent to War

Readings:

- 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

38: Friday, November 15: Sections

Week 14:

39: Monday, November 18: On the Frontline

Readings:


40: Wednesday, November 20: On the Homefront

Readings:


41: Friday, November 22: Sections
Week 15:

42: Monday, November 25: War’s End

Readings:
- Documents: Spotswood Rice to “My Children” (1864) and Spotswood Rice to Kittey Diggs (1864) on internet

43: Wednesday, November 27: Class Cancelled – Thanksgiving Break

44: Friday, November 29: Sections Cancelled – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16:

45: Monday, December 2: The Rise of Reconstruction

Readings:

46: Wednesday, December 4: The Fall of Reconstruction

Readings:

Final Exam
Monday, December 9, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.