

HIS 701: Colloquium in American History
Fall 2020 Mondays 2:00pm-4:50pm

Professor: Dr. Warren Miltee, Jr.
Office: MHRA Building, Room 2114

Email: wemiltee@uncg.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Bulletin Description: Issues of historical interpretation from the Colonial era through the Civil War.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the historiographic themes, debates, and interpretations of United States History to 1865. Students will learn how to read not only for content but also to understand how historians develop their narratives. We will analyze several aspects of the construction of historical narratives including the development of arguments and the use of evidence. The course readings will include classics in the field along with current scholarship. Class will run as a seminar with weekly discussions about the assigned readings.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a thorough and solid knowledge of American History. Students should know events, people, and major issues under consideration and be able to communicate this knowledge.
- Connect events in sequence, recognize cause and effect, and pinpoint change over time.
- Discern and explore the natures, means of interpretation, and biases within original historical source materials and later scholarly interpretations and understand how these distinctions can further their understanding of the human story.
- Recognize the rudimentary issues of historiography in the period and understand how changing questions influence these schools of thought.
- Construct a basic argument on the historical issues of the period and support the argument appropriately.

Course Rules:

- The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus
- Students are required to attend class
- Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated
- Students should abide by all aspects of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy. See <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/student-code-of-conduct/> and <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>
- Please do not use your cellphones or other distracting devices during class

Academic Integrity Policy: Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Policy on all major work submitted for the course. Refer to the following URL: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>.

Accommodations: UNCG seeks to comply fully with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in 215 Elliott University Center, (336) 334-5440, ods.uncg.edu.

Required Texts:

- Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2014)
- Ned Blackhawk, *Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008)
- William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1983, 2003)
- Kathleen DuVal, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006)
- Melvin Patrick Ely, *Israel on the Appomattox: A Southern Experiment in Black Freedom from the 1790s Through the Civil War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005)
- Amy S. Greenberg, *A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012)
- Woody Holton, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999)
- Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers, *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019)
- Ethan J. Kyle and Blain Roberts, *Denmark Vesey's Garden: Slavery and Memory in the Cradle of the Confederacy* (New York: New Press, 2018)
- Bruce Levine, *The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution that Transformed the South* (New York: Random House, 2013)
- Elizabeth Varon, *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008)

Grade Break Down:

Participation	25%
Book Reviews (2)	25%
In-Class Presentations	25%
Historiographical Paper	25%

Grade Scale: 100-93 A, 92-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, 72-70 C-, 69-67 D+, 66-63 D, 62-60 D-, 59-Below F