

History 211-01
Spring 2007
HHRA 1214
MWF 12-12:50

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This course will survey both chronologically and topically the history of the United States from the first English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 through the Civil War. We will seek to understand the events of our early history in terms of individual decisions and the forces that shaped them, creating a unique American culture.

1. Required text: Alan Brinkley, American History, A Survey. Vol. I, to 1877. In your reading assignments, the chapters cited refer to the Brinkley text. We will spend approximately one week on each chapter. It is very important for you to read your text BEFORE coming to class.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly. (You are held responsible for material presented in lectures, which may not appear in your text.) With 5 unexcused absences, you will be dropped from the class. To be excused, contact me within 48 hours after your absence. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to be in class.
3. Research projects/student presentations: Some topics in America's social history deserve to have more time spent on them than your text can give. So each student will be asked to do some research on one of these and make a 5 to 7 minute oral presentation on your research to the class. Option: If you prefer, you may instead write a 3 page paper, due on the same day your topic is presented. In either case, you must use 3 sources in your research, and turn in your list of sources. Topics and instructions are listed separately.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one- hour tests and a final exam. You will be given study guides for each. The tests are each 25% of your final grade, your research report or paper is 25%, and the exam is 25%.
5. This class follows a lecture format. You should take notes as you listen, and feel free to ask questions or contribute your comments at any time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week of January 8: Chapter 1, Meeting of Cultures.

1/15: NO CLASS

January 17-19: Chapter 2, Transplantations and Borders.

Week of January 22: Chapter 3, Society and Culture in America.

Week of January 29: Chapter 4, The Empire in Transition.

1/31: Presentation on Puritan New England and indentured servants.

Week of February 5: Chapter 5, The American Revolution.

2/9: Presentations on the Revolution.

Week of February 12: Finish Chapter 5.

2/16: TEST

Week of February 19: Chapter 6, The Constitution and the New Republic.

Week of February 26: Chapter 7, The Jeffersonian Era.

SPRING BREAK

Week of March 12: Chapter 8, Varieties of American Nationalism.

Week of March 19: Chapter 9, Jacksonian America.

Week of March 26: Chapter 10, America's Economic Revolution.

3/30: Presentations on immigrants and Indian removal.

4/4: TEST

4/6: NO CLASS

4/9: Chapter 11, Cotton Slavery and the Old South.

4/11-4/13: Chapter 12, Antebellum Culture and Reform.

4/13: Presentations on slavery, the way west, and reform.

Week of 4/16: Chapter 13, The Impending Crisis.

4/20: Presentations on the Civil War.

4/23-4/30: Chapter 14, The Civil war.

5/1: Reading Day.

Exam: Wednesday, May 9 at 12 noon.