



***History 211, sections 1-4:
U.S. History to 1865***

**Spring Semester 2010
Prof. Greg O'Brien
Office: MHRA 2110**

phone: 334-3988

email: wgobrien@uncg.edu

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10am-12pm and/or by appointment

ABOUT THE COURSE

Course description: This course is an introduction to the history of America from pre-Columbian times to 1865. This course will acquaint students with an understanding of the basic forces that have shaped American life through Reconstruction. We will pay attention to the interaction of Native, European, and African peoples, as well as the development of a uniquely American culture, society and government. This course should also further develop your skills in writing, reading, and reasoning.

Meeting times and places:

Lectures

M, W 12-12:50 CURY 225

Friday discussions

4 sections:

- 1) Section 01—12-12:50 NMOR 328
- 2) Section 02—12-12:50 STON 352
- 3) Section 03—1-1:50 HEHP 236
- 4) Section 04—1-1:50 NMOR 328

The two teaching assistants for this course are:

Karen Medlin, email: kemedlin@uncg.edu, sections 2 & 3
Keri Petersen, email: ktpeters@uncg.edu, sections 1 & 4

Readings: The two textbooks are available at the university bookstore. For most weeks, as you can see below, you are to read about a chapter per week in each text before that week's classes. The readings in *Taking Sides* are intended to supplement your textbook readings and to be the focus of your writing and discussion sections this semester. They are to be completed before your Friday meetings with your TAs. Whether or not you are completing a paper for your Friday discussion section (see paper assignment below), take notes on each week's reading from *Taking Sides* and be prepared to analyze and interpret the material in a group setting and discussion.

Required Textbooks:

1. Jones, Jacqueline, et. al. *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States, Vol. 1 to 1877*. Brief Second Edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008.
2. Madaras, Larry and James M. SoRelle. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in United States History, Volume 1*. 13th edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Attendance and related issues:

You are expected to attend every class. Roll will be taken in lecture and in the discussion sections. I do not give out my lecture notes or copies of the PowerPoint presentations. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes on the lecture from a classmate. All assignments and exams must be completed on the date they are due, or earlier. No late assignments or make-up exams are accepted.

Grading Summary:

Position Briefs = 5% each (6 total)	= 30%
2 Exams = 25% each	= 50%
Participation in discussions (Friday discussion sections)	= 20%

TOTAL	= 100%

Graded Assignments:

ALL assignments must be completed; failure to complete any exam or paper will result in failure of the course.

Exams will be drawn from lecture material, textbook readings, films in class, and class discussions. The format will be essays plus a section of "objective" questions.

Position Briefs: based on the book *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in United States History*. This book includes 16 chapters on various issues in early American history. Choose 6 of those chapters and write a 2-3 page position paper explaining which one of the two views you most agree with and why. Incorporate specific evidence from each of the readings on that topic to prove your interpretation. You may disagree with both views presented on a particular topic or you may think that they both make compelling arguments - that is fine, tell me why you feel that way in your position brief along with supporting evidence. Pay attention to each historian's

arguments and thoroughly explain why one of them makes a better case for his/her view than the other one. This exercise is meant to portray the differing interpretations of major issues in American history and to give you the opportunity to analyze the arguments and make a judgment about which one is more valid. There is not a preset “right” or “wrong” answer; rather you are being graded on how effectively you support your interpretation. Each position paper is worth 5% of your overall grade and will be graded for insightful thought and analysis, use of evidence from the readings, as well as proper grammar and spelling. Check the schedule below for due dates for each of the 16 possible papers (remember, you only complete 6 of them of your choosing).

Letter grades assigned as follows:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
<60	F

NOTE: plagiarism (to take the ideas, writings, etc. of another and present them as your own) is strictly forbidden and will be punished to the fullest extent possible, including failure of the course and/or expulsion from the university. Do not even look for internet material to write your papers; we will discover it and you will fail. Please review UNCG’s policy on plagiarism: <http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/tutorial/integrate/plagdef.asp>

Schedule:

1/20	Introduction
1/22	Discussion Section Reading & Paper: <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 1
1/25 & 1/27	America before Amerigo, or the People who Discovered the Europeans Biological and Ecological Invasions of America Reading: <i>Created Equal</i> , chapter 1
1/29	Discussion Section Reading & Paper: <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 2

- 2/1 & 2/3 European Invasions: Spain & France
European Invasion: England
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 2 & Chapter 3, pp. 55-65
- 2/5 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 3
- 2/8-2/10 Film: *Massacre at Mystic*
The Development of Slavery in Virginia & South Carolina
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 3, pp. 66-79 & chapter 4
- 2/12 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 4
- 2/15-2/17 The People of Colonial America
Growth & Conflict in Colonial America
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapters 5 & 6
- 2/19 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 5
- 2/22-2/24 The American Revolution:
Causes, War, and Impacts
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 7 & chapter 8, pp. 191-202
- 2/26 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issues 6 & 7
Review for Mid-term Exam
- 3/1 A New Constitution
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 8, pp. 203-214
- 3/3 **Mid-term Exam**
- 3/5 **NO DISCUSSION SECTION THIS WEEK**
- 3/8-3/12 **Spring Break – no classes**
- 3/15-3/17 Early U.S. Politics
The War of 1812
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 9 and chapter 10, pp. 242-250
- 3/19 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 8
- 3/22-3/24 Economic Revolutions:

Changing Northern and Southern Societies
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 10, pp. 251-259

- 3/26 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 9
- 3/29-3/31 The Second Party System
Andrew Jackson as President
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 11
- 4/2 **Good Friday – no classes, no discussion sections**
- 4/12-4/14 Indian Removal
Reform & New Thinking:
Individualism, Communalism, New Religions
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 12
- 4/16 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issues 10 & 11
- 4/19-4/21 More Reform: Women’s Movement, Temperance & Abolitionism
Texas, Mexico, and a War
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 12
- 4/23 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 12 & 13
- 4/26-4/28 The Road to Disunion
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 13
- 4/30 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issue 14
- 5/3 The Civil War
Reading: *Created Equal*, chapter 14
- 5/4 **Discussion Section**
Reading & Paper: *Taking Sides*, Issues 15 & 16
*Note: May 4 is a Tuesday, but Friday classes meet on this last day of classes.

Final Exam: Friday, May 7 @ 12:00 noon