

HIS211-07 The U.S. to 1865

Spring 2011
TR 9:30-10:45
Petty 313

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Class meets January 11 through April 21; midterm Th, Mar 3; final exam Th, Apr 21

Course Description

This United States History survey course is designed to provide an overview of major events and ideas from the settlement of the New World through the Civil War. With an emphasis on social and cultural history, we will examine particularly those who have often existed on the margins in traditional narratives of U.S. History – including women, African Americans, American Indians, and immigrants. We will explore relationships of power to gain an understanding of how ideas about race, gender, ethnicity, and class were formed, how they changed over time, and how they shaped American experiences in the formative years of our nation. Generous time will be spent learning to analyze and appreciate various historical documents and interpretations of historians, and then using those sources as evidence in our discussions and essays.

Anticipated Learning Outcomes

Through active participation in this course, students will

- Discuss major events in early U.S. History and identify their causes, outcomes, and participants
- Trace connections among people and events over time in U.S. history
- Use historical documents to draw conclusions about factors that led to political, economic, and social developments in the U.S.
- Analyze arguments historians construct from their sources
- Understand how perspective shapes history and be able to critically assess the biases in sources
- Develop arguments based in historical inquiry for classroom discussions and written assignments

Textbook and Other Course Materials

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History* (volume 1, second edition, paperback, ISBN 13: 978-0-393-93255-3)

The required textbook is available in the bookstore and online through several retailers.

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/foner2/welcome.asp>

You will access all other required reading through Blackboard and the textbook website. Use the link above to access the website, and select the current chapter for study materials and the chapter quiz each week one is assigned. There is also an e-book available for purchase at approximately half the book price on the textbook website.

Familiarize yourself with Blackboard and the textbook website right away and be prepared to use them routinely to find documents and other materials, check your grades, and read announcements pertaining to the course.

Course Requirements

Assignments consist of chapter readings from the textbook, primary and secondary source documents accessible through the textbook website and Blackboard, online quizzes, and two short analytical papers based on assigned documents. The textbook reading assignment includes the primary documents found in each chapter, such as those on pp. 32-33 in chapter 1, unless stated otherwise. We will routinely discuss the assigned primary documents in class and you will use them as evidence in your essays and exams.

The **exam** format is identification and short essay responses; the midterm will cover the lectures, readings, and other assignments through March 3 and the final exam will cover all material from March 15 forward.

Chapter quizzes are administered through the textbook website and consist of 15 multiple-choice questions. You take these at your convenience during the weeks assigned, and submit your results electronically to my email address by midnight the Friday of that week. You may skip one quiz without penalty.

You will write two 3-page **analytical papers** based on assigned primary documents. I will provide a topic and you will pull evidence from the documents to formulate a thesis and write an essay. I will provide formatting guidelines and instructions on how to cite your sources in preparation for writing your paper.

Participation is evaluated on your contributions to in-class discussions and writing assignments. You are responsible for reading the textbook chapter and assigned documents before attending class. Print out and bring documents not in your textbook with you so that you may reference them during class discussions. We will spend approximately half of our class time each week in discussions and activities, including small group work and in-class writing assignments directly related to the reading material. You must be prepared each class meeting to share what you have learned and respond to questions. You will find it useful to bring the notes you have taken while doing your reading for the week, along with any ideas or questions inspired by the reading. Students who do not actively and regularly participate in class discussions cannot expect to receive an A for the participation portion of the grade.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Midterm 20%

Final Exam 25%

Quizzes 15%

Document Analysis 20%

Participation 20%

If you need to turn an assignment in late, contact me via email prior to the class meeting when the assignment is due. In cases of emergency, you will not be penalized, although you will need to provide verification that you had an actual emergency, and the assignment is due when you return to class. All other late assignments will be penalized 15% and are due no later than the class meeting following the original due date, after which they will not be accepted.

Course Expectations and Policies

Students can expect to spend, on average, 10 to 14 hours per week in and out of class per course. Your textbook reading and documents combined will average about 50 pages most weeks. You should plan to read the chapter all the way through once, taking notes as you read, and then look over the chapter and your notes at least once more. You will benefit from reading most of the primary documents assigned for this course at least twice, especially since the language used by early Americans was often quite different from our own. You will also need to schedule time each week to take your chapter quiz and review your notes. Those weeks when you have a paper or exam you will not have a chapter quiz, but may find that you still need to spend extra time on this course.

We will divide our class time each week between lecture and discussion. I will use PowerPoint to guide you through the lectures and provide focus. The PowerPoint slides are designed to highlight key terms, events, and ideas rather than a complete set of notes, so you should expect to take notes beyond the information provided on the slides. If you miss a class, make arrangements to get notes from a fellow student.

We will frequently engage in discussions in class, and your contributions to those discussions make up a significant portion of your grade for the course. Since this is an interactive class in which each student plays an essential role, you may not use a laptop computer in this class and must turn off – not merely silence – all electronic devices before class begins. You may be asked to leave class, resulting in an unexcused absence, if you violate this policy.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an important part of your success in a college course. You are allowed three (3) absences without penalty. You are not required to contact me or explain your absences if you miss three or fewer classes, but you should use these absences judiciously. If you have additional absences due to a medical emergency or some unforeseen event, send an email notification in advance, or within 24 hours of the missed class meeting in cases of emergency, AND provide a doctor's note or other official notification (jury duty, e.g.) on the date you return to class. If you miss additional classes without a verifiable excuse, you will incur a severe penalty of one letter grade off your final grade for each additional unexcused absence.

You should avoid arriving late or leaving early, as you miss important material and it causes a distraction for me and the other students. If you have an occasion when it cannot be avoided, please let me know the reason. Students will incur penalties as for absences in cases of excessive tardiness or instances of leaving class early.

Be sure to sign or initial the roster every class meeting.

Communication

Please feel free to talk to me before or after class, schedule a meeting during my office hours, or send me an email if you have any course-related questions or concerns. Email is the best way to contact me outside of class. Any information you communicate to me via email is not valid unless you have received confirmation from me. I will confirm receipt of your email within 48 hours. If you have not received a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your email and resend. This is especially important if you are emailing me regarding a missed class or assignment.

Plagiarism and the Honor Code

Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of someone else as your own. You may effectively avoid this offense by paraphrasing rather than copying from sources and using proper citations in your written work, which we will discuss before your first essay is due. Review and understand UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy as it governs all your written work.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Note that reading assignments include the primary documents in the textbook chapter and additional primary and secondary sources as assigned on Blackboard each week. A detailed course schedule, outlining all readings and assignments each week, is on Blackboard under the tab Assignments. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.

Week One (Jan 11/Jan 13)

Introduction, Syllabus

Read Foner chapter 1: *A New World* and sources on Blackboard (BB)

Week Two (Jan 18/Jan 20)

Read Foner chapter 2: *Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660* and BB sources

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Complete chapter quiz online through the textbook website and submit results electronically to my email address by midnight Friday, January 21. Subsequent quizzes are also submitted electronically by midnight Friday each week one is assigned.

Week Three (Jan 25/Jan 27)

Read Foner chapter 3: *Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Four (Feb 1/Document Analysis Due Feb 3)

Read Foner chapter 4: *Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire to 1763* and BB sources

Week Five (Feb 8/Feb 10)

Read Foner chapter 5: *The American Revolution, 1763-1783* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Six (Feb 15/Feb 17)

Read Foner chapter 6: *The Revolution Within* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Seven (Feb 22/ Feb 24)

Read Foner chapter 7: *Founding a Nation, 1783-1789* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Eight (Mar 1/Midterm Exam Mar 3)

Read Foner chapter 8: *Securing the Republic, 1790-1815* and BB sources

SPRING BREAK

Week Ten (Mar 15/Mar 17)

Read Foner chapter 9: *The Market Revolution, 1800-1840* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Eleven (Mar 22/Mar 24)

Read Foner chapter 10: *Democracy in America, 1815-1840* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Twelve (Mar 29/Document Analysis Due Mar 31)

Read Foner chapter 11: *The Peculiar Institution* and BB sources

Week Thirteen (Apr 5/Apr 7)

Read Foner chapter 12: *An Age of Reform, 1820-1840* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Fourteen (Apr 12/Apr 14)

Read Foner chapter 13: *A House Divided, 1840-1861* and BB sources
chapter quiz

Week Fifteen (Apr 19/Final Exam Apr 21)

Read Foner chapter 14: *A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865*

Th, Apr 21 – Last Day of Class (University follows Friday schedule on Tuesday, April 26)

Course Evaluations, Final Exam