

HIS: 211-05 United States History to 1865

Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-9:15, SOEB 202

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Office hours: Mondays 9:00-11:00, or by appointment

History Department Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

“The truth is rarely pure and never simple.”

Oscar Wilde

Course Description:

For many years, historians focused on statesmen and other great men as the sole agents of change in American history. This course is an introduction to the history of America from preColumbian times to 1865. This course will acquaint students with an understanding of the basic forces that have shaped American life through the Civil War and delve into certain specific events and people. We will pay attention to the interaction of Native, European, and African peoples, as well as the development of uniquely American cultures, societies, and governments. This course will also further develop your skills in writing, reading, and reasoning.

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn to use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Students will learn to use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The requirements for this course include attendance and participation, assigned readings of both primary and secondary sources for each week of class, two short exams based upon readings and lectures, two papers based upon books that you will read, four primary source analysis questions, and a syllabus quiz. **Assignments submitted in class (the two book papers) are due at the beginning of the class period, and must be submitted in hard copy. Assignments submitted on Canvas (the two exams and the primary source analysis questions) will be due by the deadline specified in the Course Schedule (see below). Students who submit assignments after the deadlines will be penalized with a grade deduction based on the lateness of the assignment.**

Final Grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Syllabus Quiz:	5%
Four Primary Source Analysis Questions: 5% each x4 =	20%
<i>The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand</i> Paper:	15%
First Exam:	15%
<i>Soul by Soul</i> Paper:	15%
Second Exam:	15%

Attendance:

Attendance is crucial to your success in this course. In addition to attendance and participation comprising 15% of your grade (as noted above), **attendance is crucial because exam questions will be drawn from both readings and lectures. Attend class and take good notes.** If you must miss class for any reason it is your responsibility to ensure that you get notes of the missed class from one of your classmates. Also, if you will miss class for any reason, **you must notify the instructor via email as soon as possible, preferably well ahead of time, of the reason for your absence.** A limited number of absences *may* be excused with documentation provided by the student.

Required Readings:

Books: All are available at the UNCG bookstore.

Oberg, Michael Leroy. *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Roanoke's Forgotten Indians*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.

Johnson, Walter. *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies*. New York: Viking, 2001.

These books are **required**. You may purchase them at the UNCG bookstore or online at significant savings.

In addition to these books, there will be other required readings each week of the semester (see below for weekly schedule). All other readings will be posted on Canvas or an online link will be provided, as noted in the weekly schedule. Each week of the semester will include readings from both primary and secondary sources.

Assignments:

The assignments for this class are as follows (see Course Schedule below for all due dates):

- A short syllabus quiz on Canvas
- Four primary source analysis questions on Canvas (Weeks 5,6, 10, and 14) (GHP SLO 1)
- Two exams on Canvas (based upon assigned readings and lectures) (GHP SLO 2)
- A minimum 1000-word essay on the book *The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand*, by Michael Leroy Oberg (GHP SLO 2)
- A minimum 1000-word essay on the book *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*, by Walter Johnson (GHP SLO 2)

Further instructions in various forms (emails, handouts, in class) on each of these assignments will be given well ahead of due dates.

Plagiarism:

The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." (See the University's [Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) See also this helpful and informative video on [How to Avoid Plagiarism](#). 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 Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Electronic Devices Policy:

Use of phones and tablets is strictly prohibited. Use of these devices will result in your being asked to leave the class and being counted as absent. Although I would prefer that you also do not use laptops in class, **laptops may be used for notetaking only, and if you are going to use a laptop in class, you must sit in the front rows.** If at any time, however, I discover that you are using your laptop in class for anything else (checking your email, playing games, surfing the web, etc.), you will be asked to leave class and counted as absent and will no longer be able to use your laptop for the remainder of the semester. In addition, if it comes to my attention that your laptop use in class is distracting your fellow students in any way, you will no longer be able to use your laptop for the remainder of the semester.

Electronic Communication:

Students are responsible for checking their UNCG iSpartan email on a regular basis. Email is the primary means in which the instructor will communicate with you about important information concerning the course, including any changes to the syllabus. Students are encouraged to utilize email to contact the instructor (amhanso2@uncg.edu). Please be aware that an email response may not be immediate. Please allow for a 24-hour (48 hours on the weekend) response time. If you fail to receive an email response after 24 hours (48 on the weekend) please contact me again.

Canvas:

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that they are able to logon to Canvas. If you are having issues accessing Canvas, please note that I am not a technician and cannot assist you in resolving these issues. If you are having difficulty logging into Canvas, first contact 6-Tech Online for assistance.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 3-25

Primary source: [“Cherokee Creation Story” \(American Yawp\)](#)

Get started reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*. Recommended that you read the Introduction and Chapter 1.

Tuesday, 1/9: Syllabus and Introduction to the Course

Thursday, 1/11: Before 1492

WEEK 2:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 25-49

Primary source: [Excerpt from the Journal of Christopher Columbus \(American Yawp\)](#)

Continue reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*. Recommended at least through Chapter 2.

Tuesday, 1/16: 1492/Columbian Exchange

Wednesday 1/17: Syllabus Quiz will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.

Thursday, 1/18: Columbian Exchange/Early Encounters

Friday, 1/19: **Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.**

WEEK 3:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 117-137, 187-203

Primary source: [Song about life in Virginia \(American Yawp\)](#)

Continue reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*. Recommended at least through Chapter 3.

Tuesday 1/23: Early Encounters

Thursday 1/25: Virginia, 1570-1650

***The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand* paper assigned via class handout and on Canvas.**

WEEK 4:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 245-272, 158-186

Primary sources: [“John Winthrop Dreams of a City on a Hill” \(American Yawp\)](#)

Continue reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*. Recommended at least through Chapter 4.

Tuesday, 1/30: New England, 1600-1700

Thursday, 2/1: Middle Colonies, 1600-1700

WEEK 5:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 138-157, 222-244

Primary sources: Documents from Maryland Slave Laws:

[“An Act Restraining the Frequent Assembling of Negroes” \(1695\)](#)

[“An Act Relating to Servants and Slaves” \(1715\)](#)

Continue reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*. Recommended at least through Chapter 5.

Monday, 2/5: Primary Source Analysis Question will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.

Tuesday, 2/6: Chesapeake, 1650-1750

Wednesday 2/7: Primary Source Analysis answer due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.

Thursday, 2/8: Carolina, 1670-1760

WEEK 6:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Colonies*, pages 301-337, 420-443

Primary sources: [Drawing of “The Slave Ship Brooks,” 1789 \(American Yawp\)](#)

[Olaudah Equiano describes the Middle Passage \(American Yawp\)](#)

Finish reading *The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand*.

Monday, 2/12: Primary Source Analysis Question will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.

Tuesday, 2/13: Colonial Slavery

Wednesday, 2/14: Primary Source Analysis answer due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.

Thursday, 2/15: Prelude to Revolution (causes and ideology, French and Indian War)

***The Head in Edward Nugent’s Hand* paper due (hard copy in class)**

WEEK 7:

Readings:

Secondary source: [American Yawp, Chapter 5](#)

Primary sources: [Thomas Paine calls for American Independence \(Excerpts from *Common Sense*\) \(American Yawp\)](#)

[The Declaration of Independence \(American Yawp\)](#)

Correspondence of John and Abigail Adams (1776) (in “Files” tab on Canvas)

Get started reading *Soul by Soul*. Recommended that you read Chapter 1.

Tuesday, 2/20: Peoples in Revolution

Thursday, 2/22: Peoples in Revolution

WEEK 8:

Readings:

Secondary source: [American Yawp, Chapter 6, Sections 1-9](#)

Primary sources: Articles of Confederation: <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=001/llsl001.db&recNum=127> (Look at images 6-9).

The Federalist Papers, #6, Alexander Hamilton

The Anti-Federalist, #3, and #7.

Continue reading *Soul by Soul*. Recommended at least through Chapter 2.

Tuesday, 2/27: Early Republic, Confederation, George Washington

Wednesday, 2/28: First Exam will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.

Thursday, 3/1: Constitution and Constitutional Debates

Friday, 3/2: **First Exam due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.**

WEEK 9:

Readings:

Secondary source: Paul Finkelman, “Garrison’s Constitution,” [Part 1](#)

Primary sources: [George Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796 \(American Yawp\)](#)
[The Bill of Rights.](#)

Continue reading *Soul by Soul*. Recommended at least through Chapter 3.

Tuesday, 3/13: Constitution and Constitutional Debates, First Party System

Thursday, 3/15: Thomas Jefferson

WEEK 10:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Yawp*, [Chapter 7](#)

Primary sources: [“Thomas Jefferson’s Racism” \(American Yawp\)](#)

[Thomas Jefferson: Excerpts from “Notes on the State of Virginia”—On Native Americans](#)

Jefferson’s Letter to William Henry Harrison (in “files” tab on Canvas)

Thomas Jefferson: Address to the Wolf and People of the Mandan Nation, 1806 (in “Files” tab on Canvas)

Continue reading *Soul by Soul*. Recommended at least through Chapter 4.

Monday 3/19: **Primary Source Analysis Question will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.**

Tuesday, 3/20: Jefferson and “Jeffersonian America”

Wednesday, 3/21: **Primary Source Analysis answer due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.**

Thursday, 3/22: Tecumseh, War of 1812

***Soul by Soul* paper assigned via class handout and on Canvas.**

WEEK 11:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Yawp*, Chapters [8](#), [9](#), and [Chapter 10, sections 1 and 2](#)

Primary source: [William Lloyd Garrison introduces The Liberator, 1831 \(American Yawp\)](#)

Continue reading *Soul by Soul*. Recommended at least through Chapter 5.

Tuesday, 3/27: Market Revolution America

Thursday, 3/29: Market Revolution America

WEEK 12:

Readings:

Secondary sources: [American Yawp, Chapter 11](#)

Hanson, “Business as Usual” (in “Files tab on Canvas)

Primary source: [Nat Turner explains his rebellion, 1831 \(American Yawp\)](#)

Finish Reading *Soul by Soul*.

Tuesday, 4/3: Antebellum Slavery

Thursday, 4/5: Antebellum Slavery

***Soul by Soul* paper due (hard copy in class)**

WEEK 13:

Readings:

Secondary source: *American Yawp*, Chapters [12](#), and [13](#)

Primary sources: [Cherokee petition protesting removal, 1836 \(American Yawp\)](#)

[John O’Sullivan, “Manifest Destiny,” 1845 \(American Yawp\)](#)

[Diary of a woman migrating to Oregon, 1853 \(American Yawp\)](#)

Tuesday, 4/10: Sectionalism, expansion, Mexican War

Thursday, 4/12: Sectionalism, expansion, Mexican War

WEEK 14:

Readings:

Secondary sources: *American Yawp*, [Chapter 10, Sections 5-7](#), and [Chapter 14 \(all sections\)](#)

Primary sources: James Henry Hammond: “Letter to an English Abolitionist,” 1845 (in “Files” tab in Canvas)

Frederick Douglass: The Anti-Slavery Constitution, 1860 (in “Files tab in Canvas)

Jefferson Davis: The Pro-Slavery Constitution, 1860 (Speech before the US Senate) (in “Files” tab in Canvas)

Monday, 4/16: **Primary Source Analysis Question will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.**

Tuesday, 4/17: Abolition, lead up to war

Wednesday, 4/18: **Primary Source Analysis answer due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.**

Thursday, 4/19: The Civil War

WEEK 15:

Reading: [“For Civil-War Scholars, a Settled Question That Will Never Die: What Caused the War?”](#)

Tuesday, 4/24: The Civil War and Memory, semester wrap-up

Second Exam will be posted to Canvas no later than 5:00 PM.

Friday, 4/27: **Second Exam due by 11:59 PM on Canvas.**