

U.S. History I

U.S. History to 1877: Regime Change in the New World

Fall 2020

21:512:201:91
Rutgers University-Newark
Online Format – Asynchronous

Prof. Brian Murphy
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Virtual Office Hours via Zoom by appointment

For most of you, this is likely the first course you have ever taken about American history. This course is a *survey*, designed to help you develop an understanding of the events and debates which led to the founding of the United States as a nation in 1776 and the Civil War that divided it from 1861 until 1865.

During the semester, we will visit the cultural, political, social, and economic changes and which define these centuries. We will look at these developments through the eyes of both political leaders and the ordinary people who played a vital role in U.S. history. We will become more familiar with the debates that these participants engaged in over independence, slavery, rights, religion, and labor.

Learning Goals and Course Objectives:

Your objective in this course is to develop the skills necessary to interpret and analyze sources and information. You will do this by examining historical events following the settlement of North America by European colonists until the aftermath of the U.S. Civil War. This will be accomplished through close readings of documents, written responses to those readings, and discussions about the presented material.

- Learn the basic facts (who, what, when, where) of early American history
- Recognize and analyze a variety of historical documents known as "primary sources"
- Assess primary sources in terms of their reliability, veracity, and bias
- Evaluate how historians use primary sources to build their own interpretations of the past
- Generate original historical arguments using evidence gleaned from reading primary sources
- Improve your critical thinking and written skills through a critical engagement with early American history

By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with the major periods and themes of 17th, 18th and 19th century U.S. history, the Constitution and form of government established after Independence, and the individuals who participated in its creation. You will be able to look at history more critically, engage in present-day historical debates with more

knowledge and confidence, and be better able to present arguments and evidence in your writing.

Textbook:

To guide the professor's lectures and provide context to your readings, the following textbook is *required* and will be made available in segments on the Blackboard site:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History Volume 1(2017)*

Blackboard:

Because this course is being conducted entirely online, all students must be able to use an internet-connected computer to access the course information system.

Email:

My email address is bm628@rutgers.edu.

Quizzes:

In this class, I will assign quizzes on the assigned readings and source material to help students keep up with their work. There will be a quiz each week starting in Week 3.

Midterm and Final Exams:

This course will also have a midterm and final examination that will cover material assigned up to that point. Please see the schedule for those dates.

Both exams will be conducted online.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Assignments:

Students **MUST** complete the readings each week and to listen to the lecture each week about the assigned material to pass this course.

Grades:

Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes (8)	40%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
TOTAL:	100%

Students who perform the readings and study carefully should have no difficulty earning an “A” in this class.

Technology Resources for Students:

<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>

Counseling Center:

The Rutgers-Newark Counseling Center provides a number of counseling and consultative services to enrolled and eligible undergraduate and graduate students. For students, if you are seeking individual or group therapy, you can expect to find a safe, supportive space to collaboratively identify and begin to change the thoughts, behaviors, and beliefs that prevent you from being your best self. <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu>

Disabilities:

Rutgers welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:

Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

Students Who are Pregnant:

The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:

Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Food:

PantryRUN, the campus food pantry, helps students who have difficulty affording enough healthy food to remain focused on their studies and stay healthy. You can find hours and information here: <https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/pantryrun>.

Writing:

The Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center provides tutoring for students who want to strengthen their reading, writing, and research skills and offers individual sessions and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers University-Newark campus. More details here: <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS STATEMENT:

“Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university’s [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so. Finally, as the instructor for this course, I have the responsibility to protect students’ right to privacy. Classroom recordings of students will therefore be treated as educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the U.S. federal law that governs access to educational information and records.

Instructors and students must provide notification if any part of online sessions are to be recorded, and such recordings cannot be circulated outside the course.”

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1&2 (September 1-11)

Overview of 1491 and English Colonization

New England, New France, the Caribbean, and a New Virginia

Textbook, Chapters, 1-2

Primary Source: Manatus Map

Primary Source: Virginia Map

Week 3 (September 18)

Global Competition for Empires

Textbook, Chapter 3

Primary Source: Memorial Against Non-English Immigration

Online Quiz

Week 4 (September 25)

30 March: Slavery and the Great Awakening,

Textbook, Chapter 4

Primary Source: Slave Codes

Online Quiz

Week 5 (October 2)

War = Money = Problems

Textbook, Chapter 5

Primary Sources: Official Stamp, “Join Or Die,” and The Declaration of Independence

Online Quiz

Week 6 (October 9)

What Now? Creating a Republic

Textbook, Chapter 6

Primary Source: U.S. Constitution

Online Quiz

Week 7 (October 16)

MIDTERM EXAM (Posted on Blackboard on October 12 to be completed by October 16)

The Early American Republic

Textbook, Chapter 7

Primary Sources: Whiskey Rebellion and Jefferson to Choctaw Nation

Week 8 (October 23)

The Antebellum (Pre-War) 19th Century

Textbook, Chapter 8

Primary Source: Selections from the Burr-Hamilton duel correspondence

Online Quiz

Week 9 (October 30)

The Market Revolution

Textbook, Chapter 9

Primary Sources: Cotton Gin and Voice for the Erie Canal

Online Quiz

Week 10 (November 6)

Jacksonian *Democracy* (!!?)

Textbook, Chapter 10

Primary Source: Memorial of the Non-Freeholders of the City of Richmond

Online Quiz

Week 11 (November 13)

Slavery

Textbook, Chapter 11

Primary Source: Daniel Drayton's *Memoir*

Online Quiz

Week 12 (November 20)

Reform

Textbook, Chapter 12

Primary Source: Grimke letter in *The Liberator*

Week 13 (November 25)

Isn't It Funny That There Seems To Be A Crisis Every 2 Years?

Textbook, Chapter 13

Primary Source: Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Week 14 (December 4)

The Civil War

Textbook, Chapter 14

Primary Source: SC articles of secession

Week 15 (December 11)

LAST DAY OF CLASS

Reconstruction

Textbook, Chapter 15

Primary Source: Gettysburg Address, Sharecropping contract

**FINAL EXAM (Posted on Blackboard on December 15
to be completed by December 22)**

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