

History of the United States I

21:512:201:64

Class Location/Time: Thursdays, 6:00 - 9:00 PM, Conklin Hall, Room 346
Professor: E. Eittreim
Office: Conklin Hall, Room 326
Office Hours: by appointment
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Course Description:

This course examines the history of the United States from the pre-colonial era through 1877. Topics covered include indigenous-European encounters, slavery, nation-building, the Revolutionary War, urbanization, immigration, the Civil War, and empire. Course lectures, readings, and activities survey diverse perspectives and experiences and engage with contemporary scholarship.

In this class, students will apply analytic reading and writing skills. “Close reading” and “active reading” of primary and secondary sources will be modeled and practiced. Guided and unguided writing assignments will help students to organize their ideas and formulate arguments about class readings and topics covered in the course.

Course Requirements:

- 1) **Attendance/Participation:** You are required to attend and participate in class discussions and activities.
- 2) **Readings:** You are required to carefully read the assigned texts by the date indicated on the syllabus and complete related writing assignments (“Reading Reactions”). You are also required to bring the assigned readings with you to class to facilitate class discussion.
- 3) **Papers:** You will be assigned one short paper (2 pages – final draft due Sept. 27) and one long paper (5 pages – final draft due Nov. 15) to be completed outside of class. There will be in-class writing workshops to edit and review peers’ work before the final drafts are due.
- 4) **Exams:** Midterm exam held on October 11 and final exam TBD.
- 5) **Does History Matter Blog:** You are required to sign up for, share with the class, and submit (a minimum of) one original blog entry on Blackboard that draws from contemporary news relevant to U.S. history. You may post up to two additional blog entries and make comments on your classmates’ posts for extra credit.

Grading:

Participation:	20%
Short Paper:	10%
Long Paper:	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	20%
Blog:	10%
Reading Reactions*:	+/-

Reading Reactions*: You are required to complete short writing assignments relevant to course readings. These will be conducted in and out of class on a regular basis and will include simple tasks like writing questions about the reading, listing key terms, note-taking, etc. Extraordinarily good “Reading Reaction” assignments (many check-pluses) will raise your course grade by half a grade (from “B” to “B+,” for example). Barely passable “Reading Reactions” (many check-minuses) will lower your course grade by half a grade (from “B” to “C+” for example). Seriously incomplete “Reading Reactions” will lower your final grade by ONE FULL GRADE (from “B” to “C,” for example).

Attendance/Tardiness:

Attendance is required and you are expected to sign in each class. Class will begin on time. Habitual lateness is not acceptable and will be penalized. Do not take the course if you are unable to get to class on time. There will be no make-up opportunities for missed classes.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences: The Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate Catalog (http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html) states: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact within the first two weeks of class.

Tardiness and Grade Penalties: Lateness of twenty minutes or more counts as a half-absence and puts a student at risk of grade penalties (discussed below). Any student who is habitually late for class (five or more times over the course of the semester)—even if the student arrived within twenty minutes after the start of class—will receive a half grade reduction (from a “B” to “C+,” for example).

Attendance and Grade Penalties: Any student who misses TWO classes will receive a half grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). Any student who misses THREE classes will receive a full grade reduction (from “B” to “C,” for example). Any student who misses FOUR or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.

Late writing assignments:

Writing Assignments: Papers must be posted to Blackboard prior to the beginning of class on the dates indicated on the syllabus. For every class day that a paper is not turned in, the paper will lose a half grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example). If posted late on the due date (after class has begun), the paper will lose a half-grade reduction (from “B” to “C+,” for example).

Blog and Reading Reactions: Late Blog or “Reading Reaction” assignments will not be accepted. One of the main purposes of these assignments is to give students a chance to reflect on and engage with the readings, ultimately preparing them for class. As indicated above, several late assignments can significantly bring down the final grade.

Technology and Class Environment:

Use of technology for personal use (texting, social media, etc.) during class time is prohibited. Breaking this code of conduct will result in penalties, including dismissal from class and grade reductions (pertaining to class participation).

Members of the class are expected to create a “safe” learning space by speaking, listening, and engaging with one another in a respectful manner. It is important to both be present—demonstrate that you are engaged in the class—and to consider others’ opinions and ideas regardless of whether they complement or challenge your own. Many of the topics are sensitive (i.e. violence, abortion), and it is important both to respect your own limits as a scholar as well as those of others.

Disabilities:

Rutgers University 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 on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or contact odsnewark@rutgers.edu

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and ethical offense. It violates your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. . As a standard minimum penalty, students who are suspected of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Pending investigation, further penalties can include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment.”

Course Readings:

There are no required books to purchase for the course. All required readings can be accessed via Blackboard (blackboard.newark.rugters.edu).

Recommended Readings – In class, I will often cover material that is *not* required reading for the course but is “recommended.” If you would like a textbook to reinforce some of the background material covered in lectures, I recommend the following book: Nancy A. Hewitt and Steven F. Lawson, *Exploring American Histories: A Survey With Sources*, 2nd edition (Boston: Bedford St. Martin’s, 2017).

SYLLABUS

Reminder: All readings must be completed by the class date under which they are listed below. Any modifications to the assigned readings will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Thursday Sept. 6 – Introduction: Does History Matter?

Thursday Sept. 13 – Indigenous Lands

Required Readings:

- Ned Blackhawk, “Introduction: The Indigenous Body in Pain” and “Spanish-Ute Relations to 1750,” in *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West*, (Cambridge, MA, 2006), 1-54.
- Daniel R. Richter, “Prologue: Early America as Indian Country” and “Imagining a Distant New World,” in *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (Cambridge, MA: 2003), 1-40.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapters 1 and 2, “Mapping Global Frontiers: to 1585” and “Colonization and Conflicts: 1550-1680,” 1-68.

Thursday Sept. 20 – Slavery in/to North American Colonies

Required Readings:

- David Brion Davis, “Slavery in Colonial North America,” *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World* (New York, 2006), 124-140
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, “ *Between the World and Me* (New York, 2015), 5-13.

- Jennifer L. Morgan, “Slavery and the Slave Trade,” in *A Companion to American Women’s History*, ed. Nancy A. Hewitt. (Malden, MA, 2005), 20-34.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 3, “Colonial America amid Global Change: 1680-1750,” 69-102.

Thursday Sept. 27 – Religious Awakenings and Retaliations

*****SHORT PAPER DUE*****

Required Readings:

- Peter Nabokov, “Bearers of the Cross” including “Burn the Temples, Break up the Bells” in *Native American Testimony, Revised Edition*, (New York, 1999), 49-56.
- Carol F. Karlsen, “The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: The Economic Basis of Witchcraft,” in Linda K. Kerber, et al, eds., *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past, 8th ed.* (Oxford, 2016), 53-66.
- Frank Lambert, “‘I Saw the Book Talk’: Slave Readings of the First Great Awakening,” *The Journal of African American History* Vol. 87, (Winter 2002), 12-25.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 4, “Religious Strife and Social Upheavals: 1680-1750,” 103-136

Thursday Oct. 4 – Families of Monticello and Short Midterm Exam

Required Readings:

- Annette Gordon-Reed, “Introduction,” “Young Elizabeth’s World,” “Thomas Jefferson,” “The First Monticello” in *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* (New York, 2008), 21-56, 91-130.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 5, “Wars and Empires: 1750-1774,” 137-170.

Thursday Oct. 11 – Midterm Exam

*****MID-TERM EXAM*****

Thursday Oct. 18 – American Revolution

Required Readings:

- Jon Butler, “1776” in *Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776* (Cambridge, MA: 2000), 225-248.
- David Brion Davis, “The problem of slavery in the American Revolution” in *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World* (New York, 2006), 141-156.
- Philip J. Deloria, “Introduction: American Indians and American Identities” and “Patriotic Indians and Identities of Revolution” in *Playing Indian* (New Haven, CT, 1998), 1-37.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 6, “The American Revolution: 1775-1783,” 171-204.

Thursday Oct. 25 – Political “Parties”

Required Readings:

- Susan D. Becker and William Bruce Wheeler, “The First American Party System: The Philadelphia Congressional Election of 1794,” in *Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence, 6th ed., Vol. 1* (Boston, 2007), 92-115
- Theda Perdue, “Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears,” in *Women, Families, and Communities: Readings in American History Vol. 1*, eds. Hewitt et al (New York, 2008), 182-194.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 7, “Forging a New Nation: 1783-1800,” 205-240.

Thursday Nov. 1 – Westward Exploration

Required Readings:

- Thomas P. Slaughter, “Introduction,” “Being First,” “Porivo’s Story,” and “York’s Mystery” in *Exploring Lewis and Clark: Reflections on Men and Wilderness* (New York, 2003), xiii-xvi (excerpt), 27-46, 86-133.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 8, “The Early Republic: 1790-1820,” 241-274

Thursday Nov. 8 – Speculation, Spectacle, and Survival

Required Readings:

- Scott A. Sandage, “Going Bust in the Age of Go-Ahead” in *Born Losers: A History of Failure in America*, (Cambridge, MA, 2005), 22-43.
- Timothy J. Gilfoyle, “The Whorearchy” in *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920*, (New York, 1992), 55-75.
- Tao Zhang, “The Start of American Accommodation of the Chinese: Afong Moy’s Experience from 1834 to 1850,” *Journal of American Studies* 49 (2015), 475-503.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 9, “Defending and Redefining the Nation, 1809-1832,” 275-310.

Thursday Nov. 15 -Making and Breaking Slavery

*****LONG PAPER DUE*****

Required Readings:

- Walter Johnson, “Introduction: A Person With a Price” and “Reading Bodies and Marking Race,” *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*, (1999), 1-18, 135-161.
- Stephanie Jones-Rogers, “Mistresses in the Making,” in Linda K. Kerber, et al, eds., *Women’s America: Refocusing the Past, 8th ed.* (Oxford, 2016), 139-146.
- David Brion Davis, “Some Nineteenth-Century Slave Conspiracies and Revolts” in *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World* (New York, 2006), 205-230.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 10, “Slavery Expands South and West: 1830-1850,” 311-346.

***Tuesday* Nov. 20 – Waves of Immigration (Thurs. Nov. 22 No Class due to Thanksgiving Recess)**

Required Readings:

- Ronald Takaki, “Emigrants from Erin” and “Searching for Gold Mountain,” in *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* (Boston, 1993), 139-165, 191-221.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 11 and 12, “Social and Cultural Ferment in the North: 1820-1850” and “Imperial Ambitions and Sectional Crises: 1842-1861,” 347-412.

Thursday Nov. 29 – Civil War and Reconstruction

*****LONG PAPER DUE*****

Required Readings:

- Edward L. Ayers, “The American Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction on the World Stage,” *America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to U.S. History* (2008), 125-137.
- Drew Gilpin Faust, “Dying” in *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, (New York, 2008), 3-31.
- Kirk Savage, “Introduction,” and “Slavery’s Memorial,” in *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (Princeton, 1997), 129-161.

Recommended Reading from Exploring American Histories: Chapter 13 and 14, “Civil War: 1861-1865” and “Emancipation and Reconstruction: 1863-1877,” 413-480.

Thursday Dec. 6 – Colonial Legacies

Required Readings:

- David Wallace Adams, “Reform,” in *Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875-1928* (Lawrence, KS, 1995), 5-27.
- Jacqueline Fear-Segal, “Native Views: ‘A New Road for All the Indians’” and “Mission Schools in the West: Precursors of a System” (excerpt), in *White Man’s Club: Schools, Race, and the Struggle of Indian Acculturation* (Lincoln, NE, 2007) 48-73.

Final Exam (TBD)