

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES I

Course Number: 21:512:201:03
Mondays & Wednesdays, 4-5:20pm
Smith Hall, Room 242
Fall 2015

Professor Lyra D. Monteiro
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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30, or by appointment
Office: 317 Conklin Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the history of the United States, from the beginnings of European colonization of the Americas in the fifteenth century, through the era of Reconstruction after the Civil War. In addition to providing a solid grounding in key political and economic aspects of American history, this course will also explore important questions in cultural and social history.

Most of what counts as “history” in American popular culture is a catalog of the deeds of a minority of the population: able-bodied white men who owned property and were the heads of families. This course will give attention instead to the *majority* of the inhabitants of the United States – women, Native Americans, enslaved Africans and their descendants, laborers, immigrants, children, the disabled, sexual nonconformists, and others. In particular, we will be paying close attention to the ways in which the lines dividing full “citizens” from “the rest” shifted over time, as different bodies and the labor they performed were endowed with different symbolic and cultural meaning. By studying the parallel and mutually reinforcing logic of settler colonialism, racism, and sexism in the early United States, we can come to see how they were, paradoxically, constituent elements in the creation of American ideals of equality and justice.

Students will learn and practice techniques for analyzing primary source documents, images, and material culture; and how to develop and support historical arguments, drawing on evidence from our class readings as well as other scholarly sources. Reading and studying material for each chapter outside of class is extremely important – we will use the class time to work with primary documents and discuss key terms and themes related to the material. We will also take one field trip to the New Jersey Historical Society, to visit their exhibition on New Jersey during the Civil War, and their research library.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

15% Class Participation

Students are expected to attend, take notes, and participate productively in every class session, including group work and in-class assignments. Following every class, there will be a brief, ungraded survey posted on Blackboard, which **MUST** be completed prior to midnight of the day after that class. **LATE SURVEYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

20% Blackboard readings quizzes

Prior to the start of each class, students must complete a quiz on the required reading. These quizzes are open-book and open-note, and are a mixture of multiple choice, maps, and short-answer questions. **LATE QUIZZES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

20% Two short assignments

Students will write short, persuasive essays, with a strong thesis supported by evidence from our readings, handouts, and designated scholarly sources. If you struggle with essay-writing, please schedule appointments at the writing center in advance of these due dates.

45% Exams

Exams for this course comprise a combination of maps with key locations for each historical period, matching dates with significant events, identifying key terms, and interpreting and contextualizing images and passages from historical documents.

POLICIES

Academic Integrity All assignments submitted for this class must be your own original work, and information derived from other sources—whether or not you quote it directly—must be cited appropriately. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be investigated fully, in accordance with the Rutgers Policy of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>).

Accommodations If you require accommodations to meet course requirements, please inform me as early in the semester as possible. If you do not already have a Letter of Accommodation from Disability Services, please contact the Paul Robeson Campus Center Office of Student Life and Leadership to obtain one (<http://robeson.rutgers.edu/studentlife/disability.html>).

Assignment Submission The two short assignments for this course must be submitted electronically through Blackboard AND in hardcopy, no later than the start of class on the day that the assignment is due. Late work will be penalized an automatic ½ letter grade reduction for each day (i.e., the maximum grade that can be earned on a paper that is turned in the day after it is due is an A, the following day an A-, etc.), unless a doctor's note or similar official excuse can be provided.

Attendance Students are expected to make every effort to attend class regularly. For an absence to count as "excused," students must do all of the following:

1. Submit acceptable written documentation of the reason for their absence. Excused absences are defined by the course catalog as: "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.”

2. Complete the pre-class Blackboard quiz for each class session you have missed.
3. Within a week of your return to class, meet with Professor Monteiro (during office hours, or make an appointment) to review your results on the quiz, and discuss the material from the class that you missed.

Each unexcused absence beyond three will reduce your FINAL GRADE in the course by 5%. **Any student who misses eight 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.

Cell Phones Except in cases of emergency, cell phones must be turned completely off during class.

Communication Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to the class. I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of my office hours—or to make an appointment if you are unable to come then. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours, so please plan ahead if you have a question related to a paper or exam.

Laptops and Tablets Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for the purposes of accessing the readings and taking notes only. Using facebook/email/etc during class time is a distraction for yourself and other students, and will result in loss of computer privileges for the duration of that class.

Lecture Slides PowerPoints for all lectures will be posted on Blackboard before each class, and are recommended to be used as study guides for exams.

LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

We will be using the following textbook, which is available for purchase at the campus bookstore, at NJ Books, and on Amazon:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, 4th Seagull edition, Vol. 1: to 1877 (Norton, 2014)

Be sure to get the “Seagull” version, which is substantially cheaper than the regular version. You MUST acquire the book before Tuesday, September 8, so that you can complete the first reading assignment. All other required readings and online exercises will be posted on Blackboard.

Bring your readings and notes with you to every class

Wednesday, September 2

Introductions
(no readings)

Unit I: American Colonies to 1763

Monday, September 7

NO CLASS (MEMORIAL DAY)

Tuesday, September 8

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 1: A New World

Wednesday, September 11

Selection from McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*

Monday, September 14

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 2: Beginnings of English America

Wednesday, September 16

Wilder, "The Edges of the Empire: Colleges in the Arsenal of European Imperialism"

Monday, September 21

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 3: Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750

Wednesday, September 23

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 4: Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire to 1763

Short Assignment 1 Due

Monday, September 28

Review for Exam 1

Wednesday, September 30

In-Class Exam

Unit II: A New Nation, 1763-1840

Monday, October 5

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 5: The American Revolution, 1763-1783

Wednesday, October 7

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 6: The Revolution Within

Monday, October 12

Soderlund, "The Delaware Indians and Poverty in Colonial New Jersey"

Wednesday, October 14

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 7: Founding a Nation, 1783-1791

Monday, October 19

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 8: Securing the Republic, 1791-1815

Wednesday, October 21

Sappol, "'Anatomy is the Charm': Dissection and Medical Identity in Nineteenth-Century America"

Monday, October 26

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 9: The Market Revolution, 1800-1840

Wednesday, October 28

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 10: Democracy in America, 1815-1840

Monday, November 2

Review for Exam 2

Wednesday, November 4

In-Class Exam

Unit III: Slavery, Freedom, and the Crisis of the Union, 1840-1877

Monday, November 9

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 11: The Peculiar Institution

Wednesday, November 11

Block, "Lines of Color, Sex, and Service: Sexual Coercion in the Early Republic"

Monday, November 16

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 12: An Age of Reform, 1820-1840

Wednesday, November 18

Nielson, "The Deviant and the Dependent: Creating Citizens, 1776-1865"

Monday, November 23

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 13: A House Divided, 1840-1861

Wednesday, November 26

NO CLASS (Friday schedule)

Monday, November 30

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 14: A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865

Short Assignment 2 Due

Wednesday, December 2

New Jersey Historical Society Visit (no readings)

Monday, December 7

Give Me Liberty! Chapter 15: "What is Freedom?": Reconstruction, 1865-1877

Wednesday, December 9

Review for Final

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 16, 3-6pm