

History of the United States to 1877

“To remain ignorant of things that happened before you were born is to remain a child.”—Cicero

HIST 151-2
Fall 2012
Univ. 201
MWF: 11:30-12:20

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Office: REC 401
Office Hours: M/W 1-2PM
(and by appointment)



Course Introduction: This course is designed to introduce students to the major political, social, cultural, and economic developments from the initial contact of Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans through the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. We will follow a chronological path, interweaving economic, political, and cultural change, in order to better understand how these forces interacted in the American past. For instance, how did change in the political structure from the colonial period to the post-Revolutionary era affect the lives of individuals: men and women, black and white, native and foreign? By focusing on larger structural transformations as well as the actions of individuals and groups, we will see how change emanated from different levels of society, and how a disparate group of colonies (and then states) defined an American identity.

Class meetings will consist primarily of lectures, with a handful of discussion meetings placed throughout the semester. Especially since we have a smaller group of students than other sections of HIST 151, I encourage you to participate, ask questions, and instigate relevant discussion. This is an introductory course. It will serve to develop skills in historical analysis, primary source interpretation, as well as demonstrate the importance of applying insights from the past into your daily life.

Readings: Tindall and Shi, *America: A Narrative History, Brief Volume 1, 8th Edition*

Calloway, *The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America*

McPherson, *What They Fought For*

Berlin, “Prologue: Making Slavery, Making Race,” from *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America* (**Posted on BlackBoard**)

Kaye, “Neighborhoods and Nat Turner: The Making of a Slave Rebel and the Unmaking of a Slave Rebellion” (**Posted on BlackBoard**)

Assignments: You are expected to complete all respective readings by the beginning of each week. There will be six unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. Make-ups for these will not be given under any circumstances. Your quiz with the lowest score, however, will be dropped. Together these quizzes amount to **50 points**, or 25% of your total grade for the class. Information from both lectures and assigned readings are

fair game. These quizzes are also open-note and open-book, so be sure to bring your textbook to class and to keep up with your notes.

Exams: There will be three exams, worth a total of **150 points**, 75% of your final grade. The exams will consist of short identification and one essay question. The essay question will be provided to the students ahead of time (along with a more general review sheet) and will draw from outside readings (McPherson, Calloway, Berlin, Kaye), and the textbook (Tindall and Shi), as well as my class lectures. Make-up exams will not be given unless you have a written excuse for medical issues, special needs, or family tragedy.

Grading: Grades will be based on a total of 200 possible points. I do not give out minuses, but will give out plusses when relevant. For instance, if you score 195 or higher, your grade will be an A+, 175 or higher: B+ etc...

180-200 = A
160-179 = B
140-159 = C
120-139 = D
0-119 = F

Attendance: It is your responsibility to attend all class meetings. I do not, however, take roll. There will be six informal, in-class quizzes worth ten points each administered throughout the semester without prior warning. Make-ups for these, as stated above, will not be given. Also, the weeks in which we read from outside the textbook, a discussion session will take place. Attendance and participation in these informal discussions **will** benefit you. I expect mutual respect in the classroom. Please turn off or silence all handheld devices. Laptops are allowed, but individual restrictions may apply if it is used inappropriately. And please refrain from eating in the classroom as this can not only distract me, but your fellow students as well.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office. See [University Regulations](#) for details.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

Lectures and Weekly Readings

Week One—August 20-24th

- Readings: *America: A Narrative History*, pp. 5-23
 - o Monday—Introduction
 - o Wednesday—Life in the Old and New Worlds
 - o Friday—Religion and Early Exploration/Settlement

Week Two—August 27-31st

- Readings: *America*: pp. 26-41, 58-63, 70-77
 - o Monday—Jamestown: Death and Cannibalism
 - o Wednesday—Settlement and Tobacco
 - o Friday—New England and the Puritan Vision

Week Three—Sept. 3-7th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 41-44, 64-70, 102-103 **AND** Berlin, “Making Slavery, Making Race”
 - o Monday—**NO CLASS**
 - o Wednesday—Puritan Vision Continued and the Early South
 - o Friday—Early South continued and **Discussion** of Berlin Article

Week Four—Sept. 10-14th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 45-55, 77-82
 - o Monday—The Middle Passage
 - o Wednesday—The Middle Colonies
 - o Friday—The Middle Colonies Part II

Week Five—Sept. 17-21st

- Readings: *America*: pp. 82-91, 94-102, 103-06
 - o Monday—Enlightening, Refining, and Awakening the Colonies
 - o Wednesday—The Awakening Continues
 - o Friday—**EXAM #1**

Week Six—Sept. 24-28th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 106-13 **AND** Calloway, *The Scratch of a Pen*
 - o Monday—**Discussion** of Calloway
 - o Wednesday—Discontented Subjects
 - o Friday—Society in Revolution

Week Seven—Oct. 1-5th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 116-41, 149-97
 - o Monday—Society in Revolution continued
 - o Wednesday—Creating a New Nation
 - o Discontented Citizens

Week Eight—Oct. 8-12th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 200-29, 232-81
 - o Monday—**FALL BREAK, NO CLASS**
 - o Wednesday—Politics and the Early Republic
 - o Friday—Securing the Nation

Week Nine—Oct. 15th-19th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 330-45
 - o Monday—Expansion in the Postwar Era

- Wednesday—Loose Ends and **Exam Review**
- Friday—**EXAM #2**

Week Ten—Oct. 22-26th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 281-87, 290-312, 354-77
 - Monday—Jackson’s Rise
 - Wednesday—The 2nd Party System
 - Friday—Awakened Again: Religion in Reform

Week Eleven—Oct. 29-2nd

- Readings: *America*: pp. 415-37 **AND** Kaye, “Neighborhoods and Nat Turner”
 - Monday—The Old South and the Slave institution
 - Wednesday—Slave Life and Rebellion
 - Friday—**Discussion** of Kaye article

Week Twelve—Nov. 5-9th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 380-407, 440-68
 - Monday—Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War
 - Wednesday—Mexican War and Negotiating Peace at Home
 - Friday—**NO CLASS**

Week Thirteen—Nov. 12-16th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 468-493
 - Monday—Sectional Crisis and the 1850s
 - Wednesday—The End of the 1850s
 - Friday—Lincoln and the Election of 1860

Week Fourteen—Nov. 19-23rd

- Readings: McPherson, *What they Fought For*
 - Monday—**Discussion** of McPherson
 - Wednesday—**NO CLASS**
 - Friday—**NO CLASS**

Week Fifteen—Nov. 26-30th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 493-531
 - Monday—The War
 - Wednesday—Radical Reconstruction
 - Friday—Reconstructing the South?

Week Sixteen—Dec. 3-7th

- Readings: *America*: pp. 531-551
 - Monday—Grant and the End of Reconstruction
 - Wednesday—Loose Ends and **Exam Review**
 - Friday—**TBA**

****FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME—TBA****