HIST 151: American History to 1877

Dr. John Larson

Fall 2020 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 1:30-2:20pm | STEW 314







This course treats developments in American history from the earliest colonial beginnings through the period of Reconstruction. Subjects include the processes of colonial settlement, the growth of self-government in the English colonies, and an examination of the problems which beset the British empire during the years 1763-1775. Attention is next focused on the American Revolution in its military, social and political dimensions. The launching of the new government under a federal constitution and the growth of political parties form the broad pattern for the middle of the course. Westward expansion and concepts of American nationalism are treated as an integral part of the economic and national growth of the country. The remaining portion of the course emphasizes the hardened definitions of nationalism presented by the breakdown of the democratic process, and the Civil War and Reconstruction.