

## History H105 American History I (3cr)

Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Young  
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### Course Objective

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the establishment and subsequent development of the United States of America. As we explore the early history of the United States, students will be encouraged to think critically about influential events, issues, and people.

### Course Description

This survey course begins with the Indian-European encounter of the colonial period and ends with the conclusion of the Civil War and its aftermath. While political history forms the framework for the course, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history are featured significantly.

### Grading Procedure

A final grade will be determined by class participation, unannounced quizzes and/or short writing assignments, and three exams.

Students are expected to attend class, be prepared for class, and to participate in class discussions.

**All work must be done as scheduled. Illness or a family emergency are the only exceptions to this policy.**

The grade breakdown is as follows:

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Quizzes/writing assignments | 10% |
| First Exam                  | 30% |
| Second Exam                 | 30% |
| Final Exam                  | 30% |

### A Note Concerning Exams

The exams will include multiple choice questions, matching, and identifications. Short answers may also be included as part of the exams. If a student expects to miss an exam,

it is his or her responsibility to inform the instructor in advance in order to get approval to take the make up exam. The make up exam will take place during final exam week at a scheduled time.

### Required Reading

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001)

In addition to the above listed reading, there are a number of items on reserve at the campus library in the Circulation Department. These readings will also be available through ERIS-Electronic Reserve.

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

### Optional Reading

George B. Tindall, David E. Shi, and Thomas Lee Percy, The Essential America Vol. 1 (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001)

### Course Calendar

**January 13:** Introduction  
Syllabus, ERIS, Benjamin Rush's dream (hand out)

#### *Encounter in Colonial North America*

**January 15:** Chapter 1, "Discovery and Settlement," The Essential America

**January 20:** Clip from *Black Robe*

#### *The Chesapeake and New England Colonies*

**January 22:** Richard Frethorne, an Indentured Servant, Laments His Condition in Virginia, 1623 (On Reserve); Nathaniel Bacon Recounts the Misdeeds of the Virginia Governor, 1676 (On Reserve); Chapter 2, "Colonial Ways of Life," The Essential America

**January 27:** Virginia's Statutes Illustrate the Declining Status of African American Slaves, 1660-1705 (On Reserve); William Byrd Describes His Views Toward Learning and His Slaves, 1709-1710 (On Reserve)

**January 29:** John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity," (a.k.a. The Arbella Sermon) 1630 (On Reserve)

#### *The Eighteenth Century and the Origins of the American Revolution*

**February 3:** Chapter 3, "The Imperial Perspective" The Essential America Chapter 4, "From Empire to Independence," The Essential America

**February 5:** Chapter 4, "From Empire to Independence," The Essential America

**February 10:** Review for Exam

**February 12: Exam 1**

*The American Revolution*

**February 17:** Thomas Paine, Common Sense, January 1776 (On Reserve); Chapter 5, “The American Revolution,” The Essential America

*The American Revolution cont.; Creating and Ratifying a Constitution*

**February 19:** Read Declaration of Independence, July 1776, The Essential America, Appendix 13; Abigail Adams Asks Her Husband to “Remember the Ladies,” 1776 (On Reserve)

**February 24:** Cato, an African American, Pleads for the Abolition of Slavery in Pennsylvania, 1781 (On Reserve); Hector St. John Crèvecoeur Compares the Freedom in the North with Slavery in the South, 1782 (On Reserve); Slaveholders in Virginia Argue Against the Abolition of Slavery, 1784-1785 (On Reserve); Chapter 6, “Shaping a Federal Union,” The Essential America

**February 26:** Read the Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the Constitution), The Essential America, A28.

*The 1790s: A Decade of Passionate Politics*

**March 3:** George Washington, “Farewell Address,” 1796 (On Reserve); Thomas Jefferson, “First Inaugural,” 1801 (On Reserve); Chapter 7, “The Federalists: Washington and Adams,” The Essential America

*The Louisiana Purchase and its Consequences*

**March 5:** Chapter 8, “Republicanism: Jefferson and Madison,” The Essential America; Chapter 9, “Nationalism and Sectionalism,” The Essential America; **Historical Images Assignment.**

**March 10:** Review for Exam

**March 12: Exam 2**

**March 17: Spring Break**

**March 19: Spring Break**

*Jacksonian America and the Age of Reform*

**March 24:** Chapter 10, “The Jacksonian Impulse,” The Essential America

**March 26:** Chapter 11, “The Dynamics of Growth,” The Essential America

**March 31:** Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle,” 1819

*Manifest Destiny and an Emerging American Culture*

**April 2:** Chapter 12, “American Renaissance: Religion, Romanticism, and Reform,” The Essential America; Chapter 13, “Manifest Destiny,” The Essential America

**April 7:** View documentary, *Donner Party*

*Antebellum America and Sectional Conflict*

**April 9:** Chapter 14, “The Old South: An American Tragedy,” The Essential America

**April 14:** David Walker, “Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World,” 1829; George Fitzhugh’s defense of slavery, 1854

**April 16:** Discuss Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas: An American Slave

**April 21:** Discuss Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas: An American Slave

**April 23:** Chapter 15, “The Crisis of Union,” The Essential America

*Civil War and Reconstruction*

**April 28:** Lincoln, “Letter to Horace Greeley,” Emancipation Proclamation, and “Gettysburg Address” (On Reserve)

**April 30:** Analysis of Emancipation Proclamation related images; Chapter 16, “The War of the Union,” The Essential; Chapter 17, “Reconstruction: North and South,” The Essential America; Review for Exam

**Please note that the Final Exam will take place at our regular meeting time.**

**Section 2143 (morning session): May 5**

**Section 2142 (afternoon session): May 7**

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus. Students will be informed of any changes.