

UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877 (HIS 117 01)
Humanities Division History Department
Spring Semester, 2011 Melville 201 Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Tod Houghtlin
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:15-5:30 p.m. and by arrangement
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Catalog Course Description: "A survey of the social and political development of North America, the British Colonies, and the United States from before the arrival of the Europeans to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Skills prerequisite: ENG 020 and ENG 060."

Textbook: John Mack Faragher et al, Out of Many: A History of the American People, Fifth Edition, Volume I, 2009, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, ISBN-10:0-3-601566-2

Skills Prerequisite: ENG 020 and ENG 060

Objectives of Course:

1. To strengthen intellectual skills of close reading, precise writing, careful reasoning and intelligent synthesizing;
2. To develop a deeper understanding of historical development;
3. To gain a fairly comprehensive working knowledge of the people, places, cultures and events of United States History from Native American cultures through Reconstruction;
4. To better understand the American past and present and to anticipate the American future;
5. To prepare students for further studies at BCC and/or a four year institution.

Course Requirements:

Three fifty minute tests (short answer, short essays, essays)(3/2, 4/6, 5/4)
One final exam
Various short writing assignments

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to prepare the assigned reading in a timely and intelligent manner so that they can ask relevant questions in class and offer useful contributions to discussion. We meet as a class only once a week, and so it is important that a student attend every single class unless there are important mitigating factors. It's better to get to class- even considerably late- than to miss an entire class. I assume that students will be attentive in class and be respectful of fellow students, of the course content, and of the opportunities of a college education. Finally, I expect that students will take effective class notes.

Attendance Policy: As noted above, class attendance is important to academic success and intellectual growth. Please let me know if you will be absent from of late to class. Students are allowed one unexcused class absence; after that, unexcused absences may have a negative effect on a student's final grade.

Teaching procedures: This class meets one day a week for three hours. Approximately every fifty minutes we will generally have a break. The first two hours and a portion of the third hour will usually be devoted to elucidation of important matters raised in that week's reading, but students are also expected to ask clarifying questions and encouraged to contribute comments. The third hour will include students writing brief "response" paragraphs and my citing of significant matters in the next week's reading.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a central value in a college environment. Except when I encourage students to work collaboratively, students are expected to do **their** own work. I will explain the principles and practices of academic integrity during the first weeks of the semester.

Weekly Assignments and Foci of Classes

January 25- Introduction to course. Geographic features of the U.S. Review of text pp. 1-22, Pre-European Contact Indian Peoples, Migrations from Asia, Development of Farming, Political Systems and Inter-Tribal Warfare, Cultural Regions of North America

February 1- Beginnings of European Colonization, Europe in 1500, Spanish and Portuguese Colonization, the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Reformation, Early English Colonial Efforts, French and Dutch Colonies, the Chesapeake Colonies, text pp. 24-59

February 8- The New England Colonies, the Proprietary Colonies, Various Armed Conflicts, Beginnings of African Slavery, Economic Importance of Sugar, The Slave Trade, Development of Slave Economies, Development of African-American Cultures, text pp. 59-95

February 15- Slavery and Empire, Social Structure of Slave Colonies, Differences among North American Regions, Social and Political Patterns, Cultural Developments, The Great Awakening, Political and Revivalism, text pp. 95-132

February 22- The French and Indian War, British Mercantilist System, Consequences of the French and Indian War- Development of Movement for Independence, Boston Tea Party, the "Intolerable Acts, First Continental Congress, Lexington and Concord, Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence, General Background of Revolutionary War, text, pp. 134-169

March 1- **TEST** (material from text and class notes up to p. 169), text, pp. 170-205, Military Tactics of Revolutionary War, French Support for Americans, Yorktown, Articles of Confederation, Paris Peace Talks, the Restive Frontier, the First State Governments, African Americans and the War, Post-War Economic Problems, Movement for a Constitution, Ratification of the Constitution, Movement for a "Bill of Rights," 1788 Election, Acts of Congress, Hamilton's Fiscal Policies

March 8- Foreign Policy under Washington, The "Whiskey Rebellion," Rise of Political Parties, Adams as President, Alien and Sedition Acts, Jefferson and the Election of 1800, Social and Cultural Developments, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Relations with England, France, Russia, and Spain, Migration to Trans-Appalachian West, Economic Developments, Jefferson as President, Louisiana Purchase, Indian Wars, Strained Relations with England, War of 1812, the Hartford Convention, text, pp. 206-240

March 15- No Class, Spring Vacation

March 22- Further Migration to the “West,” The American System, Diplomacy of John Quincy Adams, Missouri Compromise, expansion of “the Cotton Kingdom,” Internal Slave Trade, the American Slave System/Culture, African-American Slave Society, Free Blacks, Poor and Moderate Income Southern White, Southern Entrepreneurs, the Planter Class, Pro-Slavery Arguments, Nat Turner’s Revolt, Southern Income Inequality,
text, pp. 240-276

March 29- the Rise of “Jacksonianism,” Expansion of the Suffrage, “the Corrupt Bargain” of 1824, the Jackson Presidency, the Nullification Crisis, Indian Removal, Internal Improvements, “the Bank War,” Panic of 1837, Development of the Whig Party, Intellectual, Literary, Artistic Developments, Development of New Forms of Transportation, The Market Revolution, Formation of Capital Markets, the Putting-Out System, pp. 278-315

April 5- **TEST** (material from text and class notes pp. 170-315), text, pp. 316-349, the Yankee West, Development of Northern Industry, rise of a Northern Working Class, the Second Great Awakening, Social Reform, the Northern Middle Class, Development of “Sentimentalism,” Emerson, Thoreau and Transcendentalism, Northern Cities, Accelerating Immigration, Famine in Ireland, Urban Poverty, Urban Politics

April 12- Social Reform Movements, Antislavery and Abolitionism, Women’s Rights, Exploration of Trans-Mississippi West, Manifest Destiny and Expansionism, Oregon Trail, Texas Annexation, Mexican-American War, The California Gold Rush,
text, pp. 349-384

April 19- Consequences of Mexican-American War, the Free Soil Movement, Rising Anti-Slavery, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” Compromise of 1850, Fugitive Slave Law, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Rise of the Republican Party, Dred Scott Decision, John Brown, Emergence of Lincoln, Election of 1860, 11 States Secede, Lincoln’s Inauguration,
text, pp. 384-420

April 26- Optional Class (Pre-Registration Day- classes generally don’t meet.) Review for May 3 Test.

May 3- **TEST** (material from text and class notes pp. 316-420), text, pp. 420-458, Fort Sumter, North and South Mobilize for War, the Confederate States of America, Military Strategies, Emancipation Proclamation, Wartime Politics, Vicksburg and Gettysburg, Election of 1864, Appomattox, Assassination of Lincoln, Reconstruction Policies, 13th Amendment, Freedmen’s Bureau, 14th Amendment, Election of 1868

May 10- REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM, 15th Amendment, Development of Free African American Culture, Southern White Resistance to Reconstruction, Depression of 1873, Electoral Crisis of 1876, Compromise of 1877, End of Reconstruction, text, pp. 457-477

Final Exam- Probably Tuesday, May 17
Date to be Confirmed