

## SYLLABUS

Course: HIS211-04 The United States to 1865  
Meeting Time & Location: T-TR 11:00-12:15 Graham 302  
Instructor: Mark Moser Office: McIver 223  
email: mamoser@uncg.edu  
Office Hours for Fall 2004: Tuesday 3:00-4:00 and Thursday 8:30-9:15

“When a great question is first started, there are very few, even of the greatest minds, which suddenly and intuitively comprehend it, in all its consequences.”

--- John Adams

### **Primary Text:**

Alan Brinkley. *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People, Vol. I to 1877*, Fourth Edition. (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004).

### **Additional Required Readings:**

T. H. Breen and Stephen Innes. *“Myne Owne Ground”: Race and Freedom on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, 1640-1676*. (New York: Oxford UP, 1980).

Robert A. Gross. *The Minutemen and Their World*. (New York: Hill & Wang, 1976).

Joyce Appleby. *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans*. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2000).

Louis P. Masur. *1831: Year of Eclipse*. (New York: Hill & Wang, 2001).

Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. (Barnes & Noble Paperback Edition).

### **Course Objectives:**

This is a broad survey course designed to provide students with a general overview of some of the important political, social, economic, religious, military and cultural events which helped shaped the course of United States history through the end of the Civil War. By incorporating a wide variety of lectures, readings, discussions, research assignments, and group activities, we will attempt to uncover not only *what* happened but *why* it happened and *how* these key events impacted the lives of all Americans--regardless of their background. Finally, by taking a comparative look at the work of various historians we will also attempt to discover how our collective perception of American history has changed over time.

### **Attendance:**

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for students to do their best in any college course--this course is no exception. Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of each and every class. For this class I will allow four (4) absences during the semester with no academic penalty. A fifth absence will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one whole letter grade. A sixth absence, unless incurred under very unusual circumstances, will result in a student being immediately dropped from the class. Students who are habitually late to class (for whatever reason) will also have their final grade penalized. *All students entering class late are responsible for seeing that they are marked present!*

Note: I make no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences---you are either here, or you are not.

### **Procedures:**

This course will normally follow a lecture/class discussion format and may also include a few relevant videos. Students should come to each class well prepared having completed the assigned text readings by the *beginning* of the week indicated in the syllabus. Because of the amount of reading required for this course it is absolutely essential that you keep up!!!

### **Grading:**

The course will follow a 10 point grading scale. All work turned in late will be penalized and any work that is allowed to be turned in late for reduced credit will be done so at my discretion. Absolutely no work will be accepted for credit more than one week past its original due date--regardless of circumstances. The course will be weighted in the following manner:

Take-home tests and in-class test on additional readings .....	40%
Mid-Term Exam .....	15%
Group Debate Exercise .....	20%
Final Exam .....	25%
Total .....	100%

### **Weekly Course Outline:**

Week One: (August 17, 19)

Course introduction and overview of the course syllabus, Tuesday, August 17

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Two "Transplantations and Borderlands"

Begin reading "*Myne Owne Ground*"

Week Two: (August 24, 26)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Three "Society and Culture in Provincial America" Continue reading "*Myne Owne Ground*"

Week Three: (August 31, September 2)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Four "The Empire in Transition"

\* Take Home Test on “*Myne Owne Ground*” due Thursday, September 2 at the beginning of class. Begin reading *The Minutemen and Their World*.

Week Four: (September 7, 9)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Five “The American Revolution” Continue reading *The Minutemen and Their World*

Week Five: (September 14, 16)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Six “The Constitution and the New Republic”

\* Take Home Test on *The Minutemen and Their World* due Thursday, September 16 at the beginning of class. Begin reading *Inheriting the Revolution*.

Week Six: (September 21, 23)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Seven “The Jeffersonian Era” Continue reading *Inheriting the Revolution*

Week Seven: (September 28, 30)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Nine “Jacksonian America” Continue reading *Inheriting the Revolution*

Week Eight: (October 5, 7)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Eight “Varieties of American Nationalism”

\* Take Home Test on *Inheriting the Revolution* due Tuesday, October 5 at the beginning of class. Begin reading *1831: Year of Eclipse*

FALL BREAK -- NO CLASS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Week Nine: (October 14)

\* Midterm Exam Thursday, October 14 (Please bring a “Blue Book” to class) Continue reading *1831: Year of Eclipse*

Week Ten: (October 19, 21)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Ten “America’s Economic Revolution” Continue reading *1831: Year of Eclipse*

Week Eleven: (October 26, 28)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Eleven “Cotton, Slavery, and the Old South”

\* Take Home Test on *1831: Year of Eclipse* due Tuesday, October 26 at the beginning of class. Begin reading *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

Week Twelve: (November 2, 4)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Twelve “Antebellum Culture and Reform” Continue reading *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*

Week Thirteen: (November 9, 11)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Thirteen “The Impending Crisis” Continue

reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Week Fourteen: (November 16, 18)

Reading -- *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter Fourteen "The Civil War" Continue reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Week Fifteen: (November 23)

No Reading This Week -- In-Class Test on *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY -- NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Week Sixteen: (November 30, December 2)

"Debating the Past" group projects --- Group debates presented in class both days

Final Exam-----Tuesday, December 14 12:00 - 3:00PM (Please bring a "Blue Book" to class)

Note: The Final Exam will not be cumulative--it will only cover material since the Mid-Term.

Important dates to remember:

Thursday, September 2	Test on " <i>Myne Owne Ground</i> " due at the beginning of class.
Thursday, September 16	Test on <i>The Minutemen....</i> due at the beginning of class.
Tuesday, October 5	Test on <i>Inheriting the Revolution</i> due at the beginning of class.
Thursday, October 14	Mid-Term Exam
Tuesday, October 26	Test on <i>1831: Year of Eclipse</i> due at the beginning of class.
Tuesday, November 23	Test on <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (In-class examination)