

History 211
Fall, 2009
TR : 9:30-10:15

Laurinda de Beck
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Hours: MWF 10-11 and by appointment
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This course will survey both chronologically and topically the history of the United States from the first English settlement at Jamestown in 1607 through the Civil War. We will seek to understand the events of our early history in terms of individual decisions and the forces that shaped them, creating a unique American culture. To enrich our understanding of this history, each of you will do a research project on some aspect of it, either presenting this to the class orally or by writing a paper.

1. Required text: Alan Brinkley, American History, A Survey. Vol. I, to 1877.
In your reading assignments, the chapters cited refer to the Brinkley text. It is very important for you to read your text BEFORE coming to class, a half of a chapter before each class. You may purchase your text at the university bookstore, which will have the latest edition. I suggest that you go online to find an earlier edition, which will be much cheaper. Be sure to get volume one, however.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly and to be on time. You may have 4 unexcused absences. To be excused, e-mail me within 48 hours after your absence. I will let you know if your excuse is accepted. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to be in class.
3. Tests and grades: There will be two one-hour tests and a final exam. You will be given study guides for each. The tests and the exam are each 25% of your final grade. Your research project is also 25%.
4. This class follows a lecture format, with times for class discussions also. You should take notes as you listen, and feel free to ask questions or contribute your comments at any time.
5. I will provide a list of research topics. You may choose one of these, or propose one of your own, subject to approval. If presenting orally, you may partner with another student. If writing a paper, you will work on your own.

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 25: Introduction

August 27: Chapter 1, Meeting of Cultures.

September 2, 4: Chapter 2, Transplantations and Borders.

September 8, 10: Chapter 3, Society and Culture in America.

September 15, 17: Chapter 4, The Empire in Transition.

September 22, 24: Chapter 5, The American Revolution.

September 29-October 6 : Chapter 6, The Constitution and the New Republic.

September 29: Oral presentations on the Puritans, indentured servants, and the American Revolution. Papers on these topics also due.

October 1: TEST

October 7, 15: Chapter 7, The Jeffersonian Era.

October 13: NO CLASS, fall break.

October 20: Chapter 8, Varieties of American Nationalism.

October 22, 27: Chapter 9, Jacksonian America.

October 27: Oral presentations and papers on Irish and German immigration, and Indian removal.

October 29: Chapter 10, America's Economic Revolution.

November 5: TEST

November 10: Chapter 11, Cotton Slavery and the Old South.

November 12, 17: Oral presentations and papers on the way west, reforms, and slavery.

November 12, 17: Chapter 12, Antebellum Culture and Reform.

November 19, 24: Chapter 13, The Impending Crisis.

November 24: Oral presentations and papers on the Civil War.

December 1, 3: Chapter 14, The Civil War.

Exam: December 10 at 8 a.m.

November 25 thru our last day of class: Chapter 14, The Civil War.

Exam: December 16 at 8:00 am.