

# Syllabus

**History 211-01 (Fall 2002)**  
**The United States to 1865**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50 McIver 228**  
**Instructor: Mark Moser**  
**Office: McIver 223 --- Hours: MWF 9:00-10:30**  
**email: mamoser@uncg.edu**

*“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

## **Texts:**

James West Davidson, et al. *Nation of Nations: A Concise Narrative of the American Republic, Vol. I to 1877*, 3d edition. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2002).

Irwin Unger and Robert R. Tomes, eds. *American Issues: A Primary Source Reader in United States History, Vol. I to 1877*, 3d edition. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002).

Rose Wassman and Lee Ann Rinsky. *Reading Critically about History: A Guide to Active Reading*. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998).

\*In addition there are four readings on e-reserves in the library that you will need to access and read by the weeks indicated in the syllabus.

## **Course Objectives:**

This is a broad survey course designed to provide students with a general overview of the important political, social, economic, and cultural events which shaped the course of United States history through the end of the Civil War.

## **Attendance:**

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for students to do their best in any college course--this course is no exception. Consequently I take roll at the beginning of each and every class. I will allow **five (5) absences** during the semester with no academic penalty. However, each absence beyond five will result in the lowering of your final average by **2 points!!** Habitual absenteeism will be dealt with by dropping student(s) from the class.

**\*\*\*Students entering class late are responsible for seeing that they are marked present!**

## **Procedures:**

This course will normally follow a lecture/class discussion format and may also include a number of relevant videos. Students should come to each class well prepared having completed the assigned readings by the **beginning** of the week indicated in the syllabus.

## **Grading:**

Your final grade for this course will be determined using the following method: You will have two (2) unit tests worth 100 points each for a total of 200 points. Your final exam will be worth 200 points. You will also write four (4) short essays, one for each of the four reading selections I have placed on reserves in the Jackson Library. These essays will be 500-600 words in length (2 to 3 typed, double-spaced pages) and will answer a set of specific questions about each of the reading selections. You will be given these questions in advance. The essays will be

worth 50 points each for a total of 200 points, making a total of 600 possible points for the course. In addition, you will be given ten (10) quizzes during the course of the semester that will be based entirely on weekly reading assignments from your supplemental text *American Issues*. You will not have a quiz every week, nor will you have more than one quiz per week. The purpose of these quizzes is twofold. One, they are an effective means of ensuring that you keep up with your reading assignments. Two, they can also significantly improve your final average since they are counted as extra credit points. Each of the ten quizzes is worth 5 points, for a maximum of 50 points. For example, a student's grades for the semester are as follows:

Unit I exam	85/100
Unit II exam	90/100
Essay	40/50
Essay	45/50
Essay	42/50
Essay	48/50
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>178/200</u>
	528/600 = 88 = B+
+	<u>35/50</u> extra credit points from quizzes
	563/600 = 94 = A

### Course Outline:

#### UNIT ONE: THE CREATION OF A NEW AMERICA

##### **Week One: August 19, 21, 23**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 1, "Old World, New Worlds: Prehistory-1600"

##### **Week Two: August 26, 28, 30**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 2, "The First Century of Settlement in the Colonial South: 1600-1750"

Unger Chapter 1, "The Settlement Enterprise"

##### **Week Three: September 4, 6 (No class Monday, September 2--LABOR DAY)**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 3, "The First Century of Settlement in the Colonial North: 1600-1700"--- Unger Chapter 2, "The British Colonies of North America"

##### **Week Four: September 9, 11, 13\***

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 4, "The Mosaic of Eighteenth-Century America"

Unger Chapter 3, "Native Americans "

**\*Unit One Exam: Friday, September 13\***

#### UNIT TWO: THE CREATION OF A NEW REPUBLIC

##### **Week Five: September 16, 18, 20**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 5, "Toward the War for American Independence: 1754-1776"

Unger Chapter 4, "Patriot Versus Loyalist" **Reserves, Jackson Library**-- "American Crisis, number 1: December 19, 1776" by Thomas Paine (**essay #1 due Friday, September 20**)

##### **Week Six: September 23, 25, 27**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 6, "The American People and the American Revolution, 1775-1783"

##### **Week Seven: September 30, October 2, 4**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 7, "Crisis and Constitution: 1776-1789"

Unger Chapter 5, "The Constitution"

##### **Week Eight: October 7, 9, 11**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 8, "The Republic Launched: 1789-1801"  
 Unger Chapter 6, "Federalist Versus Republican" **Reserves, Jackson Library**--"Creating an American Culture, 1775-1800" [excerpts] by Eve Kornfeld (**essay #2 due Friday, October 11**)

**Fall Break: Monday, October 14 and Tuesday, October 15**

**Week Nine: October 16, 18**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 9, "The Jeffersonian Republic: 1801-1824"  
 Unger Chapter 7, "Pioneers and Native Americans"

**\*Unit Two Exam Monday, October 21\***

**UNIT THREE: THE REPUBLIC TRANSFORMED AND TESTED**

**Week Ten: October 21\*, 23, 25**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 10, "The Opening of America: 1815-1850"  
 Unger Chapter 8, "Capital Versus Labor"

**Week Eleven: October 28, 30, November 1**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 11, "The Rise of Democracy: 1824-1840"  
 Unger Chapter 9, "Jacksonian Democracy" **Reserves, Jackson Library**--"A Corrupt Bargain" by Harry L. Watson (**essay #3 due Friday, November 1**)

**Week Twelve: November 4, 6, 8**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 12, "The Fires of Perfection: 1820-1850"  
 Unger Chapter 10, "The Ferment of Reform"

**Week Thirteen: November 11, 13, 15**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 13, "The Old South: 1820-1860"  
 Unger Chapter 13, "Slavery and the Old South"

**Week Fourteen: November 18, 20, 22, 25\* (No class on November 27 or 29--Thanksgiving)**

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 14, "Western Expansion and the Rise of the Slavery Issue: 1820-1850" and Chapter 15, "The Union Broken: 1850-1861"  
 Unger Chapter 14, "The Clash of Sections" **Reserves, Jackson Library**--"Leading the Republican Party" Chapter 3 from Abraham Lincoln, Slavery, and the Civil War, editor Michael P. Johnson (**essay #4 due Monday, November 25**)

**Week Fifteen: December 2, 4, 6, 9\***

**Reading**--Davidson Chapter 16, "Total War and the Republic: 1861-1865"  
 Unger Chapter 15, "The Civil War"

**Final Exam**-----Monday, December 16 8:00am - 11:00am (Not cumulative--the final exam will only cover material in Unit Three)

**Chronology of key dates for this course:**

Friday, September 13 ----- Unit One Exam

Friday, September 20 ----- Essay #1 due

Friday, October 11 ----- Essay #2 due

Monday, October 21 ----- Unit Two Exam

Friday, November 1 ----- Essay #3 due  
Monday, November 25 ----- Essay #4 due  
Monday, December 16 ----- Final Exam 8:00am-11:00am