

History 211-04 and 05
American History to 1865

Class web page: <http://bb/uncg.edu>

Instructor: Michael Siström
Office Hours: 2:00-3:00pm, MWF
and by appointment.
Office: McIver 208, 334-5488
Home Phone: (919)419-1119
Email: mpsistro@uncg.edu

Fall 2002
226 McIver
MWF
04: 10:00-10:50
05: 1:00-1:50

This class has three objectives. The first is to study selected topics in American history in general and North Carolina in particular in order to describe America and Americans and how they came to be up through the Civil War. Through lectures, readings, audio-visual material, and in-class discussions, we will examine major groups of people, individuals, events, as well as certain reoccurring themes. Those themes are: race relations and racial policy; the migration and expansion of the population; the evolution of a democratic politics and ideology; the growth of regional identities, North, South, and West; and the relationship between the colonies/the United States and other nations occupying American soil. The second objective, which involves the reading assignments and audio-visual material, is to explore different and interesting sources for learning American history. The third objective, which involves the writing assignments, is to train you as an historian to make clearly organized and well supported arguments.

Course Requirements:

Readings: The reading assignments will come from one textbook, a document reader, and a course packet. The course pack is available on-line in three parts or as downloadable files. The books are available at the bookstore.

Divine, Breen, et al. America Past and Present, Vol. I to 1877 (5th edition)
Elliot Gorn, et. al. Constructing the American Past, Vol. I (3rd Edition)

The readings should be completed in advance of each class meeting. My lectures will not be drawn primarily from the readings, so attendance and note taking will not substitute for doing the readings. In addition, on many days, class discussions of the assigned reading and/or video and audio material, will take up a good portion of the class time. You will also sign up for a number of days on which you will take responsibility for initiating the class discussion on the assigned reading. This, of course, requires that you have done the reading before hand. A portion of each exam will also cover material found only in the readings.

Web Material: The class web site is located on UNC-G's Blackboard system. To access Blackboard, you need to have first activated your UNC-G e-mail account. If you have not done so, go to www.uncg.edu/cis. To access Blackboard the first time, use your UNC-G user name. The password will be "password" until you change it. The web site has a copy of the syllabus, exam material and the course packs.

The course pack contains introductory material for the documents in the reader and links to several web sites where some additional supplemental readings are located. This approach avoids the high cost to you of purchasing a printed course pack that includes copyrighted material. You will need to have ready access to the Internet, either from campus or at home and you will need to give yourself time to consult the web-based sources before the assigned class time.

Exams: In the first third of the semester there will be an in-class, short answer, objective question quiz. Its main purpose is to diagnose any problems in time for early grade reports. You will also be responsible for a midterm and a final, each consisting of one take-home essay. The final exam will also have a short answer quiz. (See the syllabus for exam dates. You will find the exam sheets and format at the class web site.) No late essays will be accepted without prior permission, no exceptions. Calling me after the fact to tell me why you missed the deadline does not count as prior notice.

Break Down of the Final Grade:

Participation:	20% (includes group reports and sign-up days)
Quiz:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final:	<u>40%</u>
	100%

In my final analysis, these percentages can be somewhat flexible. I give a great deal of weight to signs of improvement in your written work and to class participation.

Class Schedule

Mon. Aug 19. Introduction: What is “American”? Why and How to Study Its “History”?

Part One: A Collision of Histories, 1500s to 1787

Wed. Aug. 21. North America Before Contact, to 1500s

Readings: Divine & Breen America Past and Present (hereafter referred to as “text”): chapter 1 (pp. 3-9)

Fri. Aug. 23. Contrasting Worlds: America, Europe, and Africa

Readings: text, pp. 11-17

Mon. Aug. 26. European Expansion Pt. I: First Contacts, 1000-1492

Watch first part of 1492: Conquest of Paradise.

Readings: text: chap. 1 (pp. 9-11, 17-18)

Gorn, Constructing the American Past (hereafter referred to as “reader”), chap. 1 (pp. 1-11)

course pack, Pt I (consult coursepack on days listed for introductory comments, supplemental documents and discussion questions for items from reader)

Wed. Aug. 28. European Expansion Pt. II: The Spanish New World: Conquest and Creolization, 1492-1680s

Watch second part of 1492: Conquest of Paradise.

Readings: text, pp. 18-21, 103, 106-107

reader, pp. 11-19

course pack

Fri. Aug. 30. European Expansion Pt. III: French and English, 1524-1660s

Readings: text, pp. 21-29

reader, pp. 21-28

course pack

Mon. Sept. 2. Labor Day. **No Class**

Wed. Sept. 4. The Upper South Pt. I: Initial Floundering, 1606-1619

Readings: text, pp. 33-40

reader, pp. 29-33, 36-37

course pack

Fri. Sept. 6. The Upper South Pt. II: Commercial Adaptations, 1620-1680s

Readings: text, pp. 41-42, 72-74

reader, pp. 39-41

course pack

Mon. Sept. 9. New England Pt I: Puritan Experimentation, 1620-1630s

Readings: text, pp. 43-51
reader, pp. 43-49, 51-54
course pack

Wed. Sept. 11. New England Pt. II/The Middle Colonies, 1640s-1700s

Readings: text, pp. 51-57, 65-72, 82-88

Fri. Sept. 13. The Lower South: Migration and Transplantation, 1663-1700s

Readings: text, pp. 56-62
course pack

Mon. Sept. 16. The Emergence of American Slavery, 1660s-1700

Watch part of Amistad. Discuss Olaudah Equiano's narrative. (Web-based document. See course pack for instructions.)

Readings: text, pp. 74-78
reader, pp. 75-76
course pack

Wed. Sept. 18. The Evolution of American Slavery, 1700-1760s

Readings: text, pp. 78-80

Fri. Sept. 20. The Frontier: The Non-English Experience, 1700-1763

Readings: text, pp. 97-103, 118-126
course pack

Mon. Sept. 23. **In-class Quiz**. Finish discussion of the frontier.

Wed. Sept. 25. A Creolized People I: Economy and Society, 1720s-1770s

Readings: text, pp. 104-105, 107-118 (Also see map p. 135)
reader, pp. 65-67, 81-88

Fri. Sept. 27. A Creolized People II: Politics, 1720s-1770s

Readings: text, pp. 118 (on colonial assemblies)

Mon. Sept. 30. Britain's Imperial Problem, 1763-1774

Readings: text, pp. 129-145
course pack

Wed. Oct. 2. The Rebellion Escalates, 1774-1776

Readings: text, pp. 145-148, "Declaration of Independence", pp. A-3-4
reader: pp. 91-95, 99-104
course pack

Fri. Oct. 4. The Potential for "Revolution," Pt. I, 1776-1780

Watch part of Liberty: The American Revolution.

Readings: text, pp. 149-154
course pack

Mon. Oct. 7. The Potential For “Revolution” Pt. II, 1780-1783

Readings: text, pp. 154-158, 191-194
reader, pp. 105-106
course pack

Wed. Oct. 9. Defining the Revolution, 1776-1787

Readings: text, pp. 161-179, Articles of Confederation, pp. A-5-8
course pack

Fri. Oct. 11. Debating the Constitution, Then, 1787-1789

Readings: text, pp.179-189, skim the Constitution, read the Bill of Rights, pp. A-9-15
reader: pp. 117-126, 130-132
course pack

Mon. Oct. 14. Fall Break. **No Class.**

Wed. Oct. 16. **Midterm essay due.** Debating the Constitution, Now
In-class discussion/debate of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Readings: text, review the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, pp. A-9-15
reader: review pp. 119-124
course pack

Part Two: Expansion and Division, 1790s-1865

Fri. Oct. 18. Limiting the Revolution, Pt. I, Race, 1787-1800s

Pick web-based slave narrative you will read and report on for Nov. 6.
Readings: text, review p. 164-166, 181,184
reader: pp. 112-115

Mon. Oct. 21. Limiting the Revolution, Pt. II, Class and Region, 1787-1796

Wed. Oct. 23. Emergence of American Politics, Pt I, 1788-1800

Readings: text, pp. 197-221
course pack

Fri. Oct. 25. Emergence of American Politics, Pt II, 1800-1824

Readings: text, pp. 225-242, 270-277

Mon. Oct. 28. The United States in an International Context, 1793-1814

Readings: text, review pp. 208-212, 234-236, read 242-250

Wed. Oct. 30. American Mexico, Mexican America, 1790s-1836

Readings: text, review pp. 275-276 (on Monroe Doctrine)

reader: pp. 171-174
course pack

Fri. Nov. 1. An Expanding Country, 1800-1840s

Readings: text, review pp. 232-233, skim pp. 255-270, 350-351, 354-360

Mon. Nov. 4. Life in the South Pt. I: A “Slave” Society? 1800-1860

Readings: text, 363-378

Wed. Nov. 6. Life in the South Pt. II: The Slaves’ World, 1800-1860

Group reports on web-based slave narratives. (See course pack for instructions.)

Readings: text, 378-387

course pack

Fri. Nov. 8. Life in the Urban Northeast, 1800-1860

Pick web-based essay on Mexican-American War to read and report on Nov. 18.

Readings: text, review pp. 266-269, 356-360

course pack

Mon. Nov. 11. Development of “democratic” Politics, 1828-1840s

Readings: text, 281-306

course pack

Wed. Nov. 13. Democracy and the Reform Spirit, 1800-1860

Readings: text, 309-331

Reader: pp. 135-139

course pack

Fri. Nov. 15. Manifest Destiny Pt I: Removing Indians, 1820s-1838

Readings: text, review pp. 257-260, 293-294 (see especially map, p. 294)

Mon. Nov. 18. Manifest Destiny Pt II: Displacing Mexicans, 1836-1850s

Group discussion of documents and web site on the Mexican-American War (see course pack for instructions)

Readings: text, pp. 335-341, 343-350, 352-353

reader: 167-170, 174-191

course pack

Wed. Nov. 20. Manifest Destiny Pt III: Go West, 1840s-1850s

Watch [Search for the Oregon Trail](#). (See course pack for reference material)

Readings: text, review pp. 341, 343, review 345-346

course pack

Fri. Nov. 22. Debating the Future: North vs. South, Pt I. 1840s-1860

Readings: text, review pp. 322-324 (on abolitionism) and cartoons on p. 377,

read 391-412, 417-421

reader: pp. 161-164, 213-227
course pack

Mon. Nov. 25. Debating the Future: North vs. South, Pt II, 1860-1861
Readings: text, pp. 412-415, 423-428
course pack

Wed. Nov. 27. Thanksgiving. **No class.**

Fri. Nov. 29. Thanksgiving. **No class.**

Mon. Dec. 2. The Civil War Pt. I: The South Takes Charge, 1861-1863.
Readings: text, pp. 428-440
course pack

Wed. Dec. 4. The Civil War Pt. II: The North Takes Charge, 1863-1865.
Watch part of *Gettysburg*.
Readings: text, pp. 440-468

Fri. Dec. 6. The Potential For Another “Revolution”, 1861-1865
Readings: text, review pp. 432-433, 441-443
reader, pp. 233-236, 248-250
course pack

Mon. Dec. 9. Planning for the Future, 1865
Readings: text, pp. 447-450, 455-460
reader: pp. 250-251

Final Exam

For 04 section: Wed. Dec. 11, 12:00-3:00pm

For 05 section: Wed. Dec. 11, 3:30pm-6:30pm