

## SYLLABUS

### HISTORY 211: U.S. TO 1865

Fall 2001            TTh 9:30-10:45 am            Section 10  
Instructor:        Susannah J. Link            McIver 225  
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#### Required books:

Alan Brinkley, The Unfinished Nation (Vol. 1, 3rd. ed.).

William A. Link and Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, The South in the History of the Nation (Vol. 1).

(Both books are available at the University Bookstore.)

One book from the suggested readings sections of either required book, the attached list, or another book with historical subject matter--either nonfiction or fiction--subject to approval by the instructor.

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of American history before 1865. The subject matter will be diverse and will focus chronologically on the various factors, including politics, race, economics, gender, and culture, that have combined to create the United States through the mid-19th Century.

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussion, oral presentations, and writing assignments. In addition, there will be two midterms and one final exam. The reading material is an important component in each of these assignments, so students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Biweekly identification lists drawn primarily from the readings will be due every other Tuesday, beginning August 28. Each student will be responsible for reading one extra book, writing a two-page book review of it, and giving a five- to ten-minute oral presentation about it.

Regular class attendance is required, and roll will be taken daily. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Exam makeups will be granted only in rare cases, and there will be no incompletes. Students are responsible for ALL of the material in the lectures and readings. Please use bluebooks for the exams (available in

the University Bookstore).

Evaluation: In-class discussion, 10 percent; biweekly ids, 10 percent; oral presentation, 10 percent; book review, 10 percent; midterms #1, #2, and #3 (final exam), 20 percent each (60 percent total).

-2-

Dates to note: **Aug. 28**: first ids due; **Sept. 4**: author and title of book selection (for review/oral presentation) due in written form; **Sept. 18**: midterm #1; **Oct. 2**: first oral presentations/book reviews due; **Oct. 30**: midterm #2; **Dec. 13**: final exam (8-11 am).

Book suggestions:

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass  
Joseph Ellis, Founding Brothers  
Eric Foner, Reconstruction  
Eric Foner, Thomas Paine  
William Freehling, Prelude to Secession  
Edmund Morgan, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution  
Edmund Morgan, Puritan Dilemma  
Edmund Morgan, Stamp-Act Crisis  
Philip Morgan, Slave Counterpoint  
Stephen Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed  
Stephen B. Oates, To Purge This Land with Blood: A Biography of John Brown  
Thomas Paine, Common Sense  
David M. Potter, The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861  
Willie Lee Rose, Rehearsal for Reconstruction: The Port Royal Experiment  
Jeff Schaara, Road to Rebellion  
Kenneth Stamp, American Slavery, American Freedom  
Kenneth Stamp, The Peculiar Institution  
Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin  
Gore Vidal, Burr