

History 211: U.S. Survey to 1865
Spring 2006

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M, W, F, 12-12:50

The history of every nation has distinctive features, but the notion that the United States has exhibited radical peculiarities that have made its experience categorically different from that of other modern or modernizing nations has encouraged an oversimplified and often idealized view of the American past.

George F. Fredrickson

Description

This class examines American history in international perspective. It is organized into fourteen weekly topics arranged chronologically. It has three aims. First, to enable students to comprehend the multiple spatial and temporal contexts of the U.S. past. Second, to encourage students to break out of parochial approaches to the past in order to comprehend the contemporary world. Third, to get students to think about the contrast between “real” history and “reel” history.

Requirements:

You are expected to attend lectures on Monday and Wednesday. You are expected to attend the film series on Friday. You will write a take-home mid-term exam. You will write a final take-home exam. These requirements are graded accordingly: 10%, 10%, 40%, 40%.

Policies:

Late papers will not be accepted. Papers sent via electronic mail will not be accepted. Instructor reserves the right to fail a student after 3 or more absences. Plagiarism will result in a failed grade and referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Readings:

The following books are required and may be purchased at the University Book store.

Peter Linebaugh & Marcus Rediker, Many Headed Hydra

Carl J. Guarneri, America Compared, vol. 1

David B. Davis & Steven Mintz, The Boisterous Sea of Liberty

Those readings marked with an asterisk* are on-line.

Meetings:

This class meets late. There will be an in-class exam on the La Pietra Report at our first meeting on Jan. 23.

Week 1

American History Internationally

Read: NYU-OAH, La Pietra Report*

Jan. 23: In-class exam

Jan. 25: Lecture

Jan. 27: Film: Christopher Columbus (1992) dir. John Glen

- Week 2** **New World Encounters**
 Read: Guarneri, I; Davis & Mintz, part 1
 Jan. 30, Feb. 1 Lecture
 Feb. 3: Film: Christopher Columbus
- Week 3** **Early America**
 Read: Guarneri, II; Davis & Mintz, parts 2 & 3
 Feb. 6, 8 Lecture
 Feb. 10: Film: The Crucible (1996) dir. Nicholas Hytner
- Week 4** **Atlantic America**
 Read: Guarneri, III; Hydra, chap. 2; Davis & Mintz, part 4
 Feb. 13, 15 Lecture
 Feb. 17: Film: The Crucible
- Week 5** **Age of Revolution**
 Read: Guarneri, IV; Hydra, chap. 6-7; Davis & Mintz, part 5
 Feb. 20, 22 Lecture
 Feb. 24: Film: Patriot (2000) dir. Mel Gibson
- Week 6** **American Respublica**
 Read: Guarneri, V; Davis & Mintz, part 6
 Feb. 27, 1: Lecture
 Mar. 3: Film: Patriot
- SPRING BREAK!!!
- Week 7** **American Culture**
 Read: Guarneri, VII; Davis & Mintz, part 7
 Mar. 13, 15: Lecture
 Mar. 17: Film: Moby Dick (1955) dir. John Huston
- Week 8** **King Cotton**
 Read: Guarneri, 278-296
 Mar. 20, 23: Lecture (M: Anteb; W: Postb)
 Mar. 25: Film: Moby Dick
- Week 9** **Capitalist Transformation of North**
 Read: Guarneri, pp. 262-277
 Mar. 27, 29: Lecture (M: Rurals; W: Wage labor)
 Mar. 31: Film: The Alamo (2004) dir. John Lee Hancock
- Week 10** **Capitalist Transformation of West**
 Read: Guarneri, VIII; Davis & Mintz, 405-439
 Apr. 3, 5: Lecture (M: West) (W: Mexico)

Apr. 7: Film: The Alamo

Week 11

Read: Guarneri, X; Davis, 333-342, 381-404
 Apr. 10, 12: Lecture
 Apr. 14: No class meeting

Week 12

Read: Davis & Mintz, 452-500
 Apr. 17, 19: Lecture (M: sth W: slave)
 Apr. 21: Film: Cold Mountain (2003) dir. Anthony Minghella

Week 13

Read: Guarneri, XI; Davis & Mintz, part 8
 Apr. 24, 26: Lecture:
 Apr. 28: Film: Cold Mountain

Week 14

Read: Guarneri, XII
 May 1, 4: Lecture