

History 211-02
Spring 2006
Moore 130
TR 11-12:15

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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.

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. We will spend approximately one week on each chapter. It is very important for you to read your text BEFORE coming to class, a half of a chapter before each class.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly. (You are held responsible for material presented in lectures, which may not appear in your text.) With 5 unexcused absences, you will be dropped from the class. To be excused, contact me within 48 hours after your absence. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to be in class.
3. Research projects/student presentations: Some topics in America's social history deserve to have more time spent on them than your text can give. So each student will be asked to do some research on one of these. Half the class will make oral presentations of the research, and half will write papers. Topics and instructions are listed separately.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one- hour tests and a final exam. You will be given study guides for each. The tests are each 25% of your final grade, your research report or paper is 25%, and the exam is 25%.
5. This class follows a lecture format. You should take notes as you listen, and feel free to ask questions or contribute your comments at any time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1/10: Introduction
1/12-1/17: Chapter 1, The Meeting of Cultures.
1/19-1/24: Chapter 2, The English Transplantations.
1/26-1/31: Chapter 3, Society and Culture.
1/31: Reports on Puritan New England and slavery in America.
2/2-2/7: Chapter 4, The Empire under Strain.
2/7: Reports on the American Revolution.
2/9-2/14: Chapter 5, The American Revolution.
2/16: TEST.
2/21-2/23: Chapter 6, The Constitution and the New Republic.
2/28-3/2: Chapter 7, The Jeffersonian Era.
3/2: Reports on indentured servants.
3/4-3/11: SPRING BREAK.

3/14-3/16: Chapter 8, The Varieties of American Nationalism.

3/21-3/23: Chapter 9, Jacksonian America.

3/23: Reports on Indian removal.

3/28-3/30: Chapter 10, America's Economic Revolution.

3/30: Reports on immigration and nativism.

4/4: TEST.

4/6: Chapter 11, Cotton, Slavery, and the Old South.

4/11-4/13: Chapter 12, Antebellum culture and Reform.

4/13: Reports on reforms and the way west.

4/18-4/20: Chapter 13, The Impending Crisis.

4/20: Reports on the Civil war.

4/25-4/27: Chapter 14, The Civil War.

5/9: EXAM at 12 noon.