

Introduction

Hours: MWF 10-12

This course surveys U.S. history from the pre-Columbian period through the end of Reconstruction. Our biggest concern is tracing the dynamics of American growth. We will consequently focus on the process of political and social change, and the tensions produced as a result. Thus, even though we will proceed chronologically through the term, the emphasis will be on recurring themes, on persistent tendencies and long-unsolved problems as well as newer developments.

Reading

The required texts are:

- James A. Henretta, et al. *America: A Concise History*. 3rd ed. Vol. 1.
- Roderick Nash. *From These Beginnings*. 8th ed. Vol. 1.
- Frances Hill. *A Delusion of Satan*.
- Gordon S. Wood. *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*.
- Garry Wills. *Lincoln at Gettysburg*.

Grading

Grades will be based on three essay examinations. The first will be given on July 15, the second on August 7, and the third on August 12. The first two exams will account for roughly 60% of the course grade (30% each). The final will account for the remaining 40%. It will be longer and more involved than the first two exams. You will be asked to write on one of two topics: either the growth of democracy from 1607-1877 or the growth of nationalism during that same time frame. You need to master the material presented in both the lectures and the readings for all of the exams. You would be well advised to keep up with the readings, as outlined in the schedule below. Bring a (small) Blue Book for each exam.

Schedule

Reading

June 22 Introduction

Pre-Columbian America

America, Chap. 1

June 24 The Age of Discovery

Discussion: Christopher Columbus

Beginnings, Chap. 1

June 26 The English Incursion

America, Chap. 2

Declension and Social Change

June 29	Discussion: John Winthrop Old Institutions, New Identities	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 2
July 1	Witchcraft in Salem	Hill, <i>Delusion</i>
	Imperial Theory, Imperial Practice	<i>America</i> , Chap. 3
July 3	no class (Holiday)	
July 6	Competition for Empire	<i>America</i> , Chap. 4
	The Road to Revolution	<i>America</i> , Chap. 5, DoI Wood, <i>Radicalism</i> , part I
July 8	Discussion: Benjamin Franklin	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 3
	The War of American Independence	<i>America</i> , Chap. 6 Wood, <i>Radicalism</i> , part II
July 10	Confederation and Constitution	<i>America</i> , Chap. 7; AofC; Con.
	Revolution Ended, Revolution Begun	Wood, <i>Radicalism</i> , part III
July 13	Discussion: Abigail Adams	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 4
July 15	FIRST EXAM	
July 17	The Federalist Era	<i>America</i> , BofR
	American Cincinnatus	
July 20	The Jeffersonians	<i>America</i> , Chap. 8
	Discussion: Thomas Jefferson	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 5
July 22	The Second War of Independence	
	Discussion: Tecumseh	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 6
July 24	no class (Holiday)	
July 27	The Age of Jackson	<i>America</i> , Chaps. 9, 10, 11
	Manifest Destiny and Mission	
July 29	War With Mexico	<i>America</i> , Chap. 13
	Discussion: Kit Carson	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 7

July	31	Limits to Nationalism	
		Slavery and Expansionism	<i>America</i> , Chap. 12
August	3	The Old South	
		Slavery as National Dilemma	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 9
August	5	Discussion: Frederick Douglass	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 8
		Irrepressible Conflict?	Wills, <i>Gettysburg</i>
August	7	SECOND EXAM	
August	9	The North Triumphant	<i>America</i> , Chap. 14
		Discussion: Robert E. Lee	<i>Beginnings</i> , Chap. 10
August	10	The "First" Reconstruction	<i>America</i> , Chap. 15
		The Nation at the Centennial	
August	12	FINAL EXAM (7:00-8:50am)	