ORIGINS OF MODERN AMERICA, 1492-1877

HIST 300-001  
Fall 2013  
Lectures--T R 3:35-4:50  
Lawson 151  

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Office Hours: by appointment

online.siu.edu HIST 300

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the history of the United States of America from their origins as the home of native and colonial peoples to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It will examine the interactions (political, economic, cultural, and social) among the various groups of people who have inhabited the area. The class will consist of informal lectures and discussions of primary sources. While the course will be roughly chronological, individual class sessions and readings will stress topical issues. When you complete this course, you will have gained a general understanding of the ideologies and issues that have contributed to the historical foundations of modern America.

This course requires that students have access to and consult periodically with the information on the university’s online Desire to Learn (D2L) site; go to online.siu.edu to look at the class. All students must also have an SIU email in order to take this class; go to http://policies.siu.edu/policies.siu.edu to obtain an email.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attending classes and participating in discussions. Attendance records will be kept; students should be aware that chronic absences will have a negative effect on final grades and that regular attendance, attention, and participation in class will have a positive effect on exam and paper performances. Attendance and participation will count for one-fourth of the course grade (100 points). Five points will be deducted for each unexcused absence. Therefore, more than eight unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the attendance portion of the course. To be excused, a student must document the absence. Students absent from classes because of observances of major religious holidays will be excused; students must notify the instructor in advance of any such absences.
2. Reading the assigned texts and articles (listed below). Students should come to each class session prepared to take notes on lecture materials and to discuss the readings and the primary documents; the first ten minutes of each class meeting will be devoted to the discussion of a primary source (see online class for material).

3. Writing a midterm examination. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course and will consist of identification and essay questions. It will count for one-fourth of the course grade (100 points). The mid-term will be given, in class, on Thursday, October 10.

4. Writing a 5-7 page historical essay. Students will choose one historical question (out of a group of suggested ones or another one approved by the instructor) and write an essay based upon primary and secondary sources. The essay will count for one-fourth of the course grade (100 points). Students must choose their essay topics (and confirm it with the teaching assistant) by the end of the third week of classes on September 5. The essays will be due on Tuesday, December 3.

5. Writing a final examination. The final exam will cover the second half of the course and will consist of identification and essay questions. It will count for one-fourth of the course grade (100 points). The final will be given on Monday, December 9, from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

6. Grading Scale. The following grading scale will be used to determine final grades:

- 360-400 points  A
- 320-359 points  B
- 280-319 points  C
- 240-279 points  D
- below 240 points  F

REQUIRED TEXTS (for sale in the bookstores):

Nancy A. Hewitt and Steven F. Lawson.  

Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca.  
(Inexpensive versions are also available for Kindle and IBooks; a Spanish-language version is available for free, online, at Project Gutenberg.)

David Walker.  
(Versions are also available for free, online, at Project Gutenberg and for Kindle and IBooks.)

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC HELP:

If a student has any type of special need(s) or disability for which he or she requires accommodations to promote learning in this class, he or she should contact the instructor as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) offers various support services and can help with special accommodations. Students may wish to consult the website at disabilityservices.siu.edu or contact DSS at 453-5738 or go to Room 150 in Woody Hall to verify eligibility and options for accommodations related to special needs or disabilities. Students registered through the SIU Achieve Program and who would like special accommodations should also contact the instructor as soon as possible.

SALUKI CARES:

The purpose of *Saluki Cares* is to develop, facilitate, and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, or personal. To contact *Saluki Cares*, see the website at http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html or call (618) 453-5714 or email siucares@siu.edu.
STATEMENT ON INCLUSIVENESS:

People from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations attend SIU. Learning from and working with people who differ from you is an important part of your education in this class, as well as an essential preparation for any career. Any intolerance based upon prejudice will not be accepted.

STATEMENT ON SIU EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website at www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM:

There will be no tolerance of plagiarism in this course. Plagiarism is taking and passing as one’s own the ideas, writings, etc. of another. Any student who plagiarizes in this course will be subject to the consequences outlined in the policies of the SIUC Department of History and of the university.

INCOMPLETES POLICY:

An INC may be assigned when, for reasons beyond his or her control, a student who is engaged in passing work is unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one semester from the close of the Fall 2013 term, or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within one semester, or graduation, whichever comes first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and the grade will be computed in the student’s grade point average. A student should not reregister for this course if he or she has previously been assigned an INC with the intent of changing the INC grade. Re-registration will not prevent the INC from being changed to an F.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

Students may use laptops or tablets to take notes in class, but all cell phones must be silenced and out of sight during class.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY:

As with any public forum, the classroom is a shared space where consideration and compassion for others are not negotiable. Therefore, any disruptive behavior, including inappropriate use of laptops, cell phones, MP3 players, magazines, newspapers, food, or drink during class, or chronic tardiness or chronic early departure from lecture, will not be accepted. (Students who have a need to come late or leave early should talk to the instructor.) Students should become familiar with the SIU Student Conduct Code at http://policies.siu.edu/documents/StudentConductCodeFINALMay32011.pdf
LECTURE, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS (subject to change):

PART I: NATIVE AND COLONIAL AMERICA

Week 1  (Aug. 19-23)
Lectures: Tuesday: Introduction; Thursday: Pre-Columbian Societies: America.
Readings: *Exploring American Histories*, chapter 1, pp. 2-33; *Cabeza de Vaca*, preface and chapters 1-26, pp 7-70.

Week 2  (Aug. 26-30)
Lectures: Tuesday: Pre-Columbian Societies: Africa and Europe; Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.
Readings: *Exploring American Histories*, chapter 2, pp. 34-63; *Cabeza de Vaca*, chapters 27-57 and afterword, pp. 71-144.

Week 3  (Sep. 3-6)
Lectures: Tuesday: Contact (Nationalism); Thursday: Discussion of The Journey and Ordeal of *Cabeza de Vaca*.

Historical Essay topic due Thursday, September 5.

PART II: LONG REVOLUTION

Week 4  (Sep. 9-13)
Lectures: Tuesday: 16th and 17th Century England (Puritanism); Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 5  (Sep. 16-20)
Lectures: Tuesday: English Colonies; Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 6  (Sep.23-27)
Lectures: Tuesday: Mercantilism, and Slavery (Republicanism); Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 7  (Sep. 30-Oct. 4)
Lectures: Tuesday: The Great Awakening and Taxis; Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 8  (Oct. 7-11)
Lectures: Tuesday: Independence, Confederation, and War; Thursday: Midterm.

Thursday, October 10—Midterm Exam.
PART III: ANTEBELLUM AMERICA

Week 9  (Oct. 16-18)
Lecture: Thursday: Constitution, Politics, and the War of 1812.

Week 10  (Oct. 21-25)
Lectures: Tuesday: Class and the Cult of Domesticity (Sexism); Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 11  (Oct. 28-Nov. 1)
Lectures: Tuesday: Film—The Sins of Our Mothers; Thursday: Antebellum south (Capitalism).
Readings: *David Walker’s Appeal*, pp. vii-78.

Week 12  (Nov 4-8)
Lectures: Tuesday: Slavery (Racism); Thursday: Discussion of *David Walker’s Appeal*.

PART IV: CIVIL WAR

Week 13  (Nov. 12-15)
Lectures: Tuesday: Regions (Sectionalism); Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Week 14  (Nov. 18-22)
Lectures: Tuesday: Civil War; Thursday: Discussion of Primary Sources.

Historical Essay due Tuesday, December 23.

Week 15  (Nov. 25-Nov. 26)
Lectures: Tuesday: Reconstruction; Thursday: Conclusions, Review, Evaluations.

Week 16  Monday, December 9--Final Examination, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM.