HISTORY 300:
United States History to 1877
(Semester: Spring 2013; TR: 11am-12:15pm; Class Location: Lawson Hall 101)

Course Description & Objectives

Welcome! This course provides students with a basic overview of the major social, political, cultural, and economic topics in U.S. history from pre-European and African settlement through the formative years of the nation, 1776 to 1877. Students should be prepared for both broad overviews and detailed case studies of individual regions and events. We will assess historical evidence, arguments, and the gap between professed American ideals and historical realities as experienced by the nation’s diverse populations.

This course is a combination lecture-seminar that emphasizes discussion and active learning.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to identify and discuss basic themes, content, and chronology in U.S. history to 1877.

2. Understand the ways in which different groups impact and affect each others’ lives in the United States.

3. Possess critical academic skills, e.g. the ability to discern historical argumentation (i.e. explain main arguments of historical scholarship in one’s own words), understand evidence usage, assess conclusions, and communicate informed opinions verbally and in writing.

Required Texts

The required books for this course are:


*Additional essays, primary source documents, and films on pre-1877 U.S. history will complete your required course readings. The articles will be made available to students online. The films listed in the syllabus will be shown in class.
Assignments, Exams, and Grading

Students in this course will be evaluated based on their attendance, class participation, 3 summary response papers, 2 reading quizzes, and 3 identification and essay-based examinations.

Students will also have several opportunities to earn extra-credit on quizzes, exams, and specialized assignments throughout the semester.

The percentage breakdown for the student’s final grade is listed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/3 Summary Responses</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Reading for this course is mandatory. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings for each class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class.

As a part of the participation grade, students will be required write three (3) one-page summary-responses in class. Instructions for the summary responses will be given in class prior to the assignment.

Students with learning disabilities documented through SIU-Carbondale’s Disability Support Services (DSS) office must meet with the professor during the first week of class to discuss any special accommodations that the student might require for the course.

Grading Scale

- **A**: 90-100
- **B**: 80-89
- **C**: 70-79
- **D**: 60-69
- **F**: 0-59

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each class. More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter, (i.e. A to B). More than three (3) unexcused tardies will result in the lowering of your final grade by one letter. More than five (5) absences will result in automatic failure.

If a student suffers a medical or family emergency, please notify the professor as soon as possible to arrange for make-up exams and/or assignments, if necessary.

*Students absent from class for medical reasons must provide the professor with a signed note from the physician or medical professional who treated you to have your absence counted as excused.

Policy on Classroom Etiquette

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner becoming of responsible individuals in the pursuit of higher education. Learning is a communal process in which the student as much as the professor has a responsibility to foster an optimal learning environment for the entire class.
In an effort to maintain a collegial and productive classroom environment, **all cell phones, pagers, I-Pods, and any other devices that may cause disruptions must be turned completely off** before entering the classroom. Any student whose **cell phone rings during class time** will **lose three points** from his or her **final course grade** for each occurrence.

Any student who **takes a phone call, is caught sending text messages, or is caught surfing the Internet during class time** will promptly be **asked to leave** for the remainder of the class period and will **automatically lose five points** from his or her **final course grade** for each occurrence.

**Statement on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

Any student who submits a plagiarized written assignment for this course or is caught cheating on a reading quiz or exam will automatically receive a zero (0) for the respective offence. The incident will also be reported to the student’s major program director as well as the SIUC Dean’s Office. In other words, **please don’t cheat!**

It is your responsibility to become familiar with the University’s policy on academic misconduct, which can be found on page 8 of the SIUC **Student Conduct Code** online. Please see the following link for more information: http://libguides.lib.siu.edu/plagiarism

**Statement on Civil Discourse & Respectful Dialogue**

Throughout this course, we will be reading, viewing, and discussing material from some of the brightest and darkest chapters in our nation’s history. Much of this material will likely arouse deep emotions within us all. It should also provoke several stimulating and meaningful scholarly discussions.

With that being said, all students are expected to engage in thoughtful and respectful dialogue in this course. Any person who engages in speech designed to disregard and/or deny the humanity and dignity of any person based on race, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, physical ability, etc. will promptly and publicly be dealt with by the instructor. This is also true for persons who seek to distort and/or deny any aspect of our nation’s complicated (but nonetheless rich) history. **Hate speech will not be tolerated!**

**Class Schedule**

*Note:* The readings should be completed before discussion each week. Also, the instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus such as adding quizzes or moving exam dates, if circumstances dictate.

**Abbreviations:** Major Problems (MP); These United States (TUS)

**Week 1 (January 14-18):** Course Introduction & Historical Methods  
**Readings:** MP – pp. xxi-13

**Week 2 (January 21-25):** “European Conquests and the Beginnings of English America”  
**Readings:** MP: Finish Chapter 1; TUS: Chapters 1-2  

**Thursday Summary Response Paper 1**
Week 3 (January 28-February 1): “The Southern Colonies”
Readings: MP: Chapter 2; TUS: Chapter 3
Tuesday: Begin watching “The Terrible Transformation” from *Africans in America*
Thursday Discussion

Week 4 (February 4-8): “The Northern Colonies”
Readings: MP: Chapter 3
Tuesday Reading Quiz 1

Week 5 (February 11-15): “American Revolution”
Readings: MP: Chapter 4; TUS: Chapter 4-5
Thursday: Watch “Revolution” from *Africans in America*

Week 6 (February 18-22): Founding the United States
Readings: MP: Chapter 5; TUS: Chapter 6
****Tuesday—1st Course Exam****

Week 7 (February 25-March 1): “First Political Parties”
Readings: MP: Chapter 6; TUS: Chapter 7

Week 8 (March 4-8): “Westward Expansion, Indian Removal, and the Market Revolution”
Readings: MP: Chapter 7; TUS: Chapters 8-9
Thursday Reading Quiz 2

Week 9 (March 11-15): Spring Break – No Class

Week 10 (March 18-22): “Jacksonian Democracy”
Readings: MP: Chapters 9-10; TUS: Chapter 10
Film: Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and the Presidency

Week 11 (March 25-29): “Antebellum Labor: North and South”
Readings: MP: Chapter 11; TUS: Chapters 11-12
Thursday Summary Response Paper 2

Week 12 (April 1-5): “‘Antebellum Labor: North and South, cont.’”
Readings: MP: Chapter 12; TUS: Chapter 13
****Thursday—2nd Course Exam****

Week 13 (April 8-12): “Age of Reform: Awakenings, Abolitionism, and the Origins of U.S. Feminism”
Readings: MP: Chapter 10
Film: The Abolitionists

Week 14 (April 15-19): “The Crisis of the 1850s”
Readings: MP: Chapter 13; TUS: Chapter 14

Week 15 (April 22-26): “The Civil War or the ‘Second American Revolution’”
Readings: MP: Chapter 14; TUS: Chapter 15
Thursday Summary Response Paper 3

Week 16 (April 29-May 3): “Reconstruction”
Readings: MP: Chapter 15; TUS: Chapter 16
Film: Slavery by Another Name

****The Final Exam will be administered in class on Monday, May 6, 2013 from 12:50 to 2:50pm.****