

## SYLLABUS

**COURSE:** HI-201-90-1 AMERICA: THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR

**SEMESTER:** SUMMER SESSION 1, 2013 (ONLINE)

**INSTRUCTOR:** MICHAEL E. WEAVER

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**REQUIRED TEXT:** *HIST2, VOL. 1: US HISTORY THROUGH 1877*

**AUTHOR:** KEVIN SHULTZ

**ISBN:** 978-1-111-34761-1

**PUBLISHER:** CENGAGE

### Scope of Course

This course will introduce you to the history of the United States from pre-colonial times to 1877. It will cover basic facts, concepts, and themes, concentrating on migration, diversity, and individual freedom as special features of the early American experience. It will teach you what it means to study history and why history is an important subject in modern times. At the end of the course students should be able to recognize a historical argument when they see one, be familiar with the most important people, ideas, and events of early American history, and understand their significance for today.

### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify and recognize the basic events, issues, ideas, and patterns necessary to the study of American history to 1877.
- Recognize some of the key interpretations connected with early American history.
- Identify methods historians use to gather historical evidence.
- Apply these methods to evaluate historical evidence and use them to support persuasive arguments.
- Explain specific historical issues from a variety of perspectives.
- Apply historical understanding to contemporary issues and events
- Explain their own ideas and interpretations of early American history in organized, logical, persuasive fashion, both orally and in written form

### Course Requirements

Since this is an online course, no specific class meetings are required. To be successful in this course, you must be willing to allocate sufficient time to access course materials, participate in online classes and discussion groups, and complete all of the assignments. Similar to traditional classroom courses, you will interact with the content, your teacher, and your classmates through course assignments and discussion as indicated in this syllabus and on the course website.

**Weekly Essay Assignment Questions (Due each week on Sunday, 11 p.m. HST)**

I will post an essay question in the assignment section on the course website for each individual week. Each student is required to submit an essay answering the questions and post it in the “Drop Box” area of the webpage. A good essay will include a student’s personal opinion on the subject matter as well as thoughtful consideration of the readings and the questions posed. Quotations from the readings to back up or refute any aspect of the topic are also welcome. Your opinions are welcomed and encouraged. Please feel free to include them in your responses. However some relevance to the readings for that week should be included in your answer.

**Weekly Discussions (Due each week on Sunday, 11 p.m. HST)**

Along with each weekly question in the assignments area. I will also post a weekly discussion question for that week. Your responses should be posted in the “Discussion” section of the webpage. The purpose of a threaded discussion is to expand your knowledge through the collective research and comments on the subject from the class. Your comments must be relevant to the question and reflect a thoughtful and researched response to a fellow student’s answer. It is not acceptable to simply post “*I agree with Mary*”. A minimum of three posts per week is required, one as your own statement and two (or more) in response to another student’s statements / comments.

**Grading**

- Weekly Essays 100 pts. (20 pts. ea.)
- Discussion Questions Postings 50 pts. (10 pts. ea.)
- Final Exam 100 pts.

A= 225 - 250pts.

C= 175 - 199 pts.

B= 200 - 224 pts.

D= 150 - 174 pts.

Students who receive a total of less than 150 pts. will not pass the course