

SYLLABUS

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

SEMESTER: SUMMER SESSION I (2014) (ONLINE)
MAY 19, 2014 – JUNE 27, 2014

INSTRUCTOR: MICHAEL E. WEAVER

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REQUIRED TEXT: Hist: Student Edition Vol 1
K. Schultz
Wadsworth, Cengage Learning
3rd edition, 2014
ISBN 9781133953531.

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. Also, please keep in mind that because this course is for only six weeks, it will, of necessity, be a bit more intense in workload. 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 Reading Assignment Questions (Due each week by Sunday, 11 p.m. HST)

I will post a written assignment in the “Weekly Essay” section on the course website for each individual week. The assignment will be based on a related weekly reading assignment. Each student is required to submit an essay of 500 words or more answering the question, and post it in the “Drop Box” area of the course webpage in the appropriate “basket” for that week. Your opinions are welcomed and encouraged. Please feel free to include them in your responses. However some relevance to the readings should be included in your answer. 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.

Essays submitted within one week after the weekly deadline are eligible to receive partial, but not full, credit for that week. Essays submitted more than one week after the weekly deadline will receive no credit.

Weekly Threaded Discussions (Due each week by Sunday, 11 p.m. HST)

Along with each weekly essay question, I will also post a weekly discussion question for that week. Your responses should be posted in the “Weekly Discussion” section of the course website. Your comments must be relevant to the question and/or a thoughtful and pertinent response to a fellow student’s answer. A minimum of three posts per week are required, one as your own statement and two (or more) in response to other students’ statements/ comments.

Because an active “give and take” is essential to the threaded discussions, once the week is over, no further entries for that week will be accepted for credit.

Grading

- Weekly Essays 100 pts. (20 pts. ea.)
- Weekly Threaded Discussions 25 pts. (5 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.