

Prq

SYLLABUS

America Thru the Civil War  
September 16 - October 3

1998 (Interim)

Lecturer: Donald W. Wilson

Address: 1400 Pensacola St. #204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Home Phone: 531-6147

Text: Nash, Gary B., et-al, The American People, Brief Second Edition, Volume I to 1877.

Description: A survey course on American development from 1607 to approximately 1877. It emphasizes political, economic, religious, and social events which continue to influence American society.

Objectives: To provide students with an appreciation to the major influences and conflicts that combined to direct the course of the nation's historical development. These will include the impact of the original european colonization, and the various internal and external political/economic tensions (such as rural vs urban, industrial vs agrarian, expansionism, sectionalism, and slavery), that beginning with the nation's foundation, evolved, and are still operative in today's America. By doing so it is hoped that a realistic basis will be established for judging the past, and assessing the present.

Reading/Writing Assignments: The Lecture schedule lists the required reading from the text. Students are also responsible for two three page essay answers to the questions listed under the heading "Essay Topics".

Class Format: A combination of lectures and discussions. Students are encouraged to raise questions, or make comments at any time.

Grading: Grading will be based on a point system as follows:

Mid-term Exam.....	45 points	Letter Grade Scale:	200-180=A
Essays.....	60 points		179-160=B
2 Quizzes 15pts/ea	30 points		159-140=C
Final Exam.....	65 points		139-120=D
Total.....	200 points		119- 0=F

## Lecture Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Text Reference</u>
Sep 16	Introduction - Settlement - Colonial North America	Chap 1-2
17	Colonial Society	Chap 3-4
19	Path to Revolution - The American Revolution. QUIZ#1	Chap 5-6
21	Confederation to Constitution - The New Republic.	Chap 7-8 U.S. Constitution.
23	MID-TERM EXAMINATION Jeffersonian Democracy "fire bell in the night"	Chap 9
24	The Industrial North - The Cotton South.	Chap 10-11
26	Jacksonian Democracy - Westward Expansion. QUIZ#2	Chap 12-13
28	The Road to War	Chap 14
30	The Civil War - Reconstruction	Chap 15-16
Oct 3	FINAL EXAMINATION	

## Essay/Discussion Topics

### Date

Sep 16 What were the differences in motivations and processes between the colonization of the South and North American continents? In what way did the differences in the native societies effect the course of events.

What were the characteristics of the three regions of colonial North America? What influence did the circumstances of their settlement have in creating these circumstances?

Sep 17 Analyze the causes and results of the "struggles for mastery" which characterized life in the American colonies from 1675 to 1715.

During the eighteenth century, how did colonial Americans begin to diverge from Englishmen on questions regarding the proper extent and division of political power?

Analyze the causes and consequences of the Great Awakening. Was the Great Awakening a "conservative" or a "liberal" movement?

Sep 19 What influences operated to cause the American colonies to feel loyalty to England, and satisfied as members of the British colonial empire? Then, what overrode these influences to cause the seperation of the colonies from Great Britain?

Why did fighting in the American Revolution shift over time from the Northeast to the Middle Atlantic states to the South? Contrast the primary British and American war strategies from 1776 to 1781.

How were the weak and disunited states able to defeat Great Britain, the most powerful nation in the Atlantic world? What lessons might the Revolution have offered later Americans for the proper conduct of the Vietnam War?

What were the features of the peace treaty between the Americans and the British, that were significant to the future of the United States? What were the effects of the Revolution on American society?

Sep 21 What were the events and trends that occurred following the Revolution that led to the development of the Constitution? What assumptions did most of the members of the Constitutional convention share, and what were the disagreements? What comprimises did these agreements lead to?

What were the major problems faced by the new American government under George Washington, how did he deal with them, and what effect did Washington's example have on the stability and character of the American government?

Sep 23 What were the major events and issues of the Jefferson presidency? Did his election reflect a new direction in American political thinking in contrast to the Federalists?

What were the major factors that led the United States to declare war on England in 1812? Was the outcome beneficial to United States, did the battle of New Orleans have any significance in the peace negotiations.

Sep 24 What were the major aspects of the industrial revolution that America experienced in the early 19th century? What were the technological and organizational developments, and how did this "revolution" effect the problems of sectionalism, and slavery?

What were the causes and results of economic expansion in the South from 1820 to 1860. Was slavery a profitable institution? Explain why or why not.

Sep 26 The election of Andrew Jackson as president is considered by most American historians to have represented a new era in American politics, described as the triumph of the common man. What attitudes and policies did Jackson bring to the presidency that would support this opinion? What major issues demonstrated his and his followers points of view, and were they radically different from their predecessors?

Describe the westward expansion of Americans beginning in the 1840's. What were the motivations and major events, what were the conditions that the participants experienced? What role did "Manifest Destiny" play in the move to the West?

How did the twin issues of expansion and slavery combine to drive the sections apart in the 1830's and 1840's? Why did the situation become particularly acute following the war with Mexico in 1848? What attempts were made to solve the problems that arose?

Following the Compromise of 1850, a series of events led to the final decision of the Southern states to secede from the Union. Describe the course of these events, and how they combined to drive the South to secession, and to civil war.

Sep 30 Describe the major military and political events of the Civil War. How did they interact to influence its conduct, and the post war society?