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PM

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Course: History, Intro to United States History
Time: M-W-F, 11:00 – 11:50
Place: Henry Hall 221
Semester: Fall Day 2000

Instructor: Frank Bailey
Number: office: 735-488
Office Hours: M-W-F 9:00-10:00

America Before the Civil War

Texts: Nash, Jeffery, Howe, Davis, Fredrick, Winkler, *The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society, Volume I: To 1877*

Scope of the Course: This course will study the origins, development, achievements, and transformation of the United States, its people and their cultures from the “discovery” of the “new world,” through its settlement by Europe, an up to the Civil War. This course is a general study of the social, political, and economic development of the United States from a collection of small backwater fur trading post to an independent nation. Throughout this course we will focus on several themes that have defined America, its people and the consequent interactions of its ever growing and diverse population. These themes will provide coherence, context, and some clarity in our attempt to understand the history of this complex nation. In this endeavor we will focus on changing concepts concerning topics such as race relations, work ethic, land and the role cultural conflict played in founding this nation.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a better understanding of how different cultures that were already present and that arrived here in North America have approached the universal challenges of survival and prosperity
- Develop and comprehend how history is not simply things that happened in the past, but the **study** of a knowable past and there for greatly impacted by the perspectives and ideologies of the present
- Comprehend how history contributes to and defines the present
- Develop a better understanding of the forces that shaped, defined, gave birth to and challenged the United States of America
- Better develop your writing skills as a college level student

Readings: More than anything else, this course is designed around readings and discussions. You should come to each class meeting with the reading assignment completed and with a willingness to engage in a lively discussion that focuses on the themes and content of the reading.

Requirements: There are several requirements for this course. In addition to keeping up with the background readings in the text, you are required to read six short articles drawn from the fields of biography and social and cultural history; you are expected to write on four of the articles. The writing requirements for these readings consist of a 1 to 2 page

essay that addresses key thematic concerns or questions raised by the topics being examined. I will identify these concerns for you well in advance of the assignment's date. These essays are to be typed and double-spaced. There will also be two examinations, the midterm and the final. These examinations will focus on key concepts covered and shall not be cumulative, in that, material on the final will consist of topics covered after the midterm. In addition, each student is required to maintain a course binder in which all lecture notes, handouts, writing assignments and other materials relating to this course are kept. Periodically I will examine your notebooks.

Grading: Your examinations are worth 200 points each. The four writings are worth 25 points each for a total of 100 points. In all, the total number of points achievable is 500. The class grading goes as follows:

A = 500-450 C = 399-350
B = 449-400 D = 349-300

Any students who earn less than 300 points will receive and F for the course.

Please note that all written assignments must be handed in on time. Those not done so shall receive a 10-point deduction per day late. For any work not turned in there shall be a penalty of double the face value of the assignment.

Attendance: Students are expected to be on time and in attendance at all class sessions. For each class missed there shall be a ten-point penalty assessed.

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Class</u>
Week 1	Introductions
Aug 29-	Lecture: Three World Meet
Sept 1	Read: Chapter 1 & 2 pg.1-45
Week 2	Lecture: Colonizing a Continent
Sept 4-8	Read: Chapter 3 pg. 49-65 Handout
Week 3	Lecture: Mastering a New World
Sept 11-15	read: chapter 4 pg. 67-92
Week 4	Lecture: The Maturing of Colonial Society
Sept 18-22	read: chapter 5 pg. 95-112 Handout
Week 5	Lecture: Bursting the Colonial Bonds
Sept 25-29	Read: chapter 6 117-143
Week 6	Lecture: A People in Revolution
Oct 9-13	read: chapter 7 pg. 147-161

- Week 7 **Midterm**
Oct 16-20 Lecture: Consolidating the Revolution
 Read: chapter 8 pg. 163-176
 Handout
- Week 8
Oct 23-27 Lecture: Creating a Nation
 read: chapter 9 pg. 179-207
- Week 9
Oct 30-
Nov 3 Lecture: Society and Politics in the Early Republic
 Read: Chapter 10 pg. 213-233
 Handout
- Week 10
Nov 6-10 Lecture: Currents of Change
 read: chapter 11 pg. 237-256
- Week 11
Nov 13-17 Lecture: Slavery and the Old South
 read: chapter 12 pg. 259-279
 Handout
- Week 12
Nov 20-24 Lecture: Shaping America in the Antebellum Age
 Read: chapter 13 pg. 283 302
- Week 13
Nov 27-
Dec 1 Lecture: Moving West
 Read: chapter 14 pg. 305-323
 Handout
- Week 14
Dec 4-7 Lecture: The Union in Peril
 Read: chapter 15 pg. 325-345
- Week 15 Lecture: The Union Severed
 Review

Final Exam to be announced