

SYLLABUS

HI 20140

WE '00
Prey

America Thru The Civil War
February 15 - March 16

Lecturer: Donald W. Wilson
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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 a written book report of approximately four double spaced typewritten pages.

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.....50 points	Letter Grade Scale:	200-180=A
Writing Assignment 45 points		179-160=B
2 Quizzes 15pts/ea 30 points		159-140=C
Final Exam.....75 points		139-120=D
Total.....200 points		119- 0=F

Lecture Schedule

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

Essay/Discussion Topics

Class

Feb. 15:

What were the differences in motivations and processes between the colonization of the South and North American continents? What accounted for these differences?

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

Feb. 17:

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

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

Feb. 22:

During the 18th century, how did colonial Americans begin to diverge from Englishmen on questions regarding the proper extent and division of political power?

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 separation of the colonies from the Mother Country?

How were the weak and disunited states able to defeat Great Britain, the most powerful nation in the Atlantic world? Contrast the primary British and American war strategies from 1776 to 1781.

Feb. 24:

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

What were the events and trends that led to the development of the Constitution? What assumptions did most of the members of the convention share, what were the disagreements, and how were they compromised?

What problems were faced by the new American Government of George Washington? How did he deal with them, what effect did Washington's example have on future American presidents?

Feb. 29:

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?

Why did the United States declare war on England in 1812? Was the outcome beneficial to the United States? Did the Battle of New Orleans have any significance on the outcome, and/or the peace negotiations?

Mar. 2:

Describe the major aspects of the American industrial revolution of the early 19th century. What were the technological and organizational developments, how did this "revolution" affect the problems of sectionalism and slavery?

What were the causes and results of economic expansion in the South from 1820 to 1860? What was its effect on the slavery issue?

Mar. 7:

The election of Andrew Jackson as president is considered to have represented a new era in American politics, described as the triumph of the common man. What attitudes and policies did he bring to the presidency that supports this opinion? What issues demonstrated his points of view, and were they radically different from his predecessors?

Describe the westward expansion of America beginning in the 1840's. What were the motivations and major events, what conditions did the participants experience? Did the concept of "Manifest Destiny" play a role?

Mar. 9:

How did the twin issues of expansion and slavery combine to drive the sections apart in the 1830's and 40'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 a 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 civil war.

Mar. 14:

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