

WE '01
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CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
American History 301 (U) Early American History
Schofield Barracks; Jan 13 - Mar 17; SAT 0800 - 1210
Instructor: John du Toit / jmdutoit@hotmail.com

TEXT: Henretta and Nobles, Evolution and Revolution: American Society, 1600 - 1820, 1987.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an in depth survey of early U.S. history, from pre-Columbian Native Americans through the AMERICAN Revolution. We'll begin with continental drift 250 million years ago, and see successive waves of humans populate and depopulate the Americas. We'll follow their interactions and consider their ideas and the societies they create. Economic foundations, political organization, ideology, religion, technology, everyday life, and the global setting will all be seen to interact toward the creation of American society. The transformative experience of the Revolution will receive special attention. No prior coursework in history is required.

EVALUATION: Tests will have 50 fill in blank, multiple choice, and T/F questions, drawn from class lectures and the text. Tests must be completed within a time limit and must be done in pen. Extra time will not be provided for late arrivers on test days. Scores on three noncumulative exams will determine the final grade. These tests will count as 20%, 40%, and 40% of the final grade. The final grade will be based on a standard grading scale (90-100%=A, etc). Improving test scores may boost borderline final grades. Exams will be rescheduled only under unusual, pre-approved circumstances; the student must make timely arrangements with the instructor. All make-up exams are essay format. Tests will be weighted in the order they are completed. All three tests must be completed to pass the class. Extra credit work is available. Students must sign in every day. Attendance policies are described in the Chaminade general policy statement and on the first day of class. More than 7.5 hours of unexcused absence may result in failure of the course. And note: much class material is not in the text. The instructor will be available for individual consultation after class. No food or drink is permitted in this building's classrooms.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Chaminade's policies regarding academic honesty are explicit. No student may give or receive help from another during examinations or grading, may hand in or cause to be handed in another's work as his/her own, nor engage in plagiarism in any form. Knowledge of cheating without reporting it is equally improper and unfair to other students. Plagiarism is copying or quoting the written work of another without giving appropriate credit. Nor may students hand in for credit any work prepared outside of the test setting, except as agreed to by the instructor. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in a grade of "F" for the assignment or the course, as well as referral to the chain of command.

Jan 13: Course Description.

I. THE FORMATION OF COLONIAL SOCIETY, TO 1700. (Text Part I: ch.s 1-4)

Jan 13: America to 1500.

: 1500s: Exploration; initial colonization of Spanish America.

Jan 20: 1600s: Initial colonization and settling of British North America.

Jan 27: Four regions in British North America.

Feb 3: Colonial society as "frontier" societies; REVIEW FOR QUIZ.

Feb 10: QUIZ I (20% of final grade).

*Briefly describe the Eastern Woodlands Indians; why might the development of civilization in the Americas have been lagging behind that of Eurasia at 1500AD? Describe the initial colonization of North America: who's arriving, where, and why at this time? Describe and explain the differences and similarities among the 4 regions of British North America at 1700. Describe any one colony in detail: from its founding to 1700. Describe, with examples, what is meant by characterizing British North America at 1700 as a collection of frontier colonies.

II. EVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION (Text Part II: ch's 5-6)

Feb 10: Evolving colonial society.

Feb 17: American Revolution, phase I; REVIEW FOR QUIZ.

Feb 24: QUIZ II (40% of final grade).

*How might the colonial setting and experiences in the early 1700s have prepared the way for rebellion against England?

III. CREATION OF A NATION, to 1820s. (Text Part III: ch's 7-10)

Feb 24: American Revolution, phase II.

Mar 3: American Revolution, phase III.

Mar 10: Outsiders to the Revolution.

: Antebellum Society; REVIEW FOR QUIZ.

Mar 17: QUIZ III. (40% of final grade)

Summarize the three phases of the American Revolution. Periodize the War of Independence. How were the native Americans affected by colonial wars and American independence, and how did they respond? Did the Revolution transform American life, or was America simply "modernizing"?

***All make-up or extra credit due by March 17.