

History of the American People Before 1877
HIST 2003

Instructor: Mr. Jeremy Taylor
jbttaylor@uark.edu
Old Main 414

Location: Section 001-Walker 403 MWF 7:30-8:20 AM
Section 002-MAIN 421 MWF 8:30-9:20 AM

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 AM or by appointment

Course Description: A history of American life encompassing constitutional, political, social, and intellectual development from prior to European colonization to 1877.
(*University of Arkansas Undergraduate Catalog, 2008-2009, 357*)

Overview of Core Courses in History:

History is the study of the past. As an academic discipline, History embraces every aspect of the human experience, including warfare, political institutions, the economy, religious practice, technology, and artistic endeavor. History asks students to analyze empire and revolution, genocide and humanism, enslavement and liberation, sexuality and gender and to do so from the perspectives of social scientific and humanistic inquiry. There is no field more diverse than History and none more individualistic. History can be as long ago as the excavated texts and artifacts of ancient China or as recent as a mid twentieth-century newspaper produced in the American West.

Objectives of Core Courses in History:

By the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the following issues:

- The role played by diversity in shaping human experience
- The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, technology, and religion
- The challenges mounted by an increasing reliance on technology
- The changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world

Texts: Wiesner and Hartford *American Portraits V1* 3rd edition
(required)

Brinkley *Unfinished Nation V1* Concise edition (optional)

Attendance: Each student is responsible for their own education. To achieve success in this class, however, it is imperative that you come to class. A sign-in sheet will be passed around every class meeting, and I reserve the right to consider student's attendance records in final grade calculations. For example, if a student ends up with an 89.5% average and they have zero absences, I am more likely to round that grade up to a 90%. On the other hand, if the student has multiple absences the grade will remain an 89%. Furthermore, if you have 6 or more absences you cannot earn an A in the course.

Tardiness: Please come to class on time. It is rude and distracting to the instructor and other students if you enter class late. Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated.

Grading:	Exam 1	100 pts
	Exam 2	100 pts
	Exam 3	100 pts
	Final	150pts
	A	>405 pts
	B	360-404 pts
	C	315-359 pts
	D	270-314 pts
	F	<270 pts

Exams will consist primarily of material covered in lecture and the assigned readings. I will provide more details as the exams approach.

Make up exam policy: Make up exams will be given at the sole discretion of the instructor. All make up exams for the semester will be administered on December 7th. This will be the only time that make up exams will be offered. If you need to miss an exam, then plan on making it up on this day.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is the most important component of collegiate education. It is each student's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the University's Academic Honesty Policy (located on pgs. 35-37 of the 2008-09 catalog). Ignorance of the policy does not constitute innocence. All violations of the Academic Honesty Policy will be reported to the University for placement on the student's academic record. My best piece of advice is—Do Not Cheat.

Inclement Weather: If the University is open we will have class. If this changes, I will notify students by email.

**** I reserve the right to make changes to any section of the syllabus during the semester.**

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1	8/24	Syllabus and Introduction
	8/26	Africa and the Americas before discovery
	8/28	Europe before discovery
Week 2	8/31	Labor Day-No Class
	9/2	Early Contact by Spanish, French, and English
	9/4	New England Colonies
	Read:	Anne Hutchinson and Mary Rowlandson Wiesner, pgs. 18-49
Week 3	9/7	Labor Day-No Class
	9/9	Chesapeake colonies
	9/11	Down the Road to Independence
	Read:	William Penn and Benjamin Franklin Wiesner, pgs. 50-85
Week 4	9/14	Independence and The Revolution
	9/16	The Revolution contd and exam review
	9/18	EXAM 1
Week 5	9/21	Articles of Confederation and the Need for Change
	9/23	The Constitution
	9/25	The First President and Creating Precedence
	Read:	Tecumseh and Phyllis Wheatley Wiesner, pgs. 100-135
Week 6	9/28	Democracy Works-John Adam's Presidency
	9/30	Rise of Jefferson
	10/2	Society in the Early Republic
	Read:	John Marshall Wiesner, pgs. 136-152
Week 7	10/5	Aaron Burr- Better than Fiction
	10/7	War of 1812 and exam review
	10/9	EXAM 2
Week 8	10/12	Political Transformations
	10/14	Andrew Jackson-Man or Legend
	10/16	Jackson- Indian Removal and Bank Crisis
	Read:	Andrew Jackson and Sarah Bagley Wiesner, pgs. 153-181

Week 9	10/19	Northern Antebellum Culture
	10/21	Southern Antebellum Culture
	10/23	An Expanding Nation and Manifest Destiny
Week 10	10/26	The Mexican-American War
	10/28	The Slave Trade
	10/30	Slavery in the Americas
	Read:	Nat Turner Wiesner, pgs. 182-198
Week 11	11/2	The Crisis over the Mexican Cession
	11/4	Roots of Sectionalism
	11/6	Birth of the Republicans
	Read:	Harriet Beecher Stowe and John Brown Wiesner, pgs. 241-273
Week 12	11/9	A Nation on the Brink
	11/11	Election of 1860 and exam review
	11/13	Exam 3
Week 13	11/16	Secession and the Call to Arms
	11/18	Early War 1861-1863
	11/20	Life of Soldiers
	Read:	William T. Sherman Wiesner, pgs. 274-288
Week 15	11/23	End of the War
	11/25	Reading Day-No Class
	11/27	Thanksgiving Break-No Class
	Read:	Emily Lyles Harris and James T. Rapier Wiesner, pgs. 289-319
Week 16	11/30	Lincoln's Assassination and end of Reconciliation
	12/2	Johnson's Reconstruction
	12/4	Congressional Reconstruction
Week 17	12/7	Make-up Exams
	12/9	Dead Day
	12/11	Section 1 Final Exam 7:30 AM
	12/12	Section 2 Final Exam 7:30 AM