

**The University of Arkansas**  
**Department of History**  
**Fall 2009**  
**The History of the American People to 1877**

**I. Instructor's Information:**

Name: Dr. Calvin White, Jr.

Office Location: Old Main 509

Office Hours: MWF 12:30- 1:30 p.m. and by appointment

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**II. Course Description:**

This course will examine significant ideas, people and institutions in America history from the pre-colonial era to the nationalist period.

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 perspective of both 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 mass-produced newspapers from the twentieth-century 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

**Course Content:**

These chapters and sections will be covered during the semester.

- Making A New World. Origins, the Age of Exploration; the Atlantic World
- British Entry. Footholds; Chesapeake; New England; Middle Colonies; lower South
- English Colonies in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Life & Work; Religion; Government & Politics
- Deciding Where Loyalties Lie. Victory's problem; American Rights; Crisis; the Decision for Independence
- Recreating America. First Years of War; Stalemate to victory; Republican Expectation

- Competing Visions. What kind of Republic?; Confederation; Creating a new government; Competing Visions
- The Early Republic Adams Administration; Revolution of 1800; Republicanism
- Renewing Independence Troubling Currents; Crisis; the Second War
- Rise of a New Nation. Era of Good Feeling; Slave & Cotton; Transportation
- Growth and Consequences. Mechanization; reactions to Growth
- Jackson's America, the "New Man"; Jackson in Power; the Whig Alternative
- Manifest Destiny Exploration Westward; Manifest Destiny; Expansion & Sectional
- Sectional Conflict & Shattered Union. New Political Choices; Toward a House Divided; the Divided Nation; the Nation Dissolved
- Violent Solution: Civil War. The politics of War; From Bull Run to Antietam; Social Consequences; Total War
- Reconstruction. Presidential Reconstruction; the Legacy of Slavery; Congressional Reconstruction; the end of Reconstruction

### III. Required Readings:

Students should purchase all books at the start of the semester to avoid difficulty later. Any student who has trouble finding books must notify me immediately. Lack of a book is not a legitimate excuse for incomplete work.

#### Text:

*America: A Narrative History*, by George Tindall and David Shi, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Volume 1, ISBN# 978-0-393-92820-4

#### Grades:

There will be three exams (100 points each), lecture quizzes (10 points each), and a participation/attendance grade. The exams and quizzes can consist of a series of multiple choices; true and false, fill in the blanks, or short essay questions. All make up test will consists of all essay questions.

**The grading scale is a standard grading scale:** 100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59 and below is failing. Anyone caught cheating on an exam will at the very least receive a zero, and very possibly be dropped from the class. To calculate your final grade I will add the total number of points scored on all assignments and divide that number by the total number of points possible. I will not percentage anything; everything is weighted the same.

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an examination, you must contact me to schedule a make-up exam (that fits into my schedule, not yours). All students will have one week to make up the missed exam. Students will be given a zero after five days of missing an examination. This is summer school therefore you should not be missing exams.

#### **IV. Class Behavior:**

##### **Absence and Tardiness:**

If you are enrolled in this class then you are required to attend scheduled class meetings.

Attendance will be taken daily and you will be counted absent if you are not present for the lectures. If absence is unavoidable, it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed assignments and record all missed discussion notes from a fellow student.

Habitual tardiness is not only rude and unprofessional, but it can also have a negative influence on a student's grade. If a student is tardy or leaves during the middle of class, then he/she is still responsible for any missed material and should not ask the instructor to repeat information missed while tardy or temporarily out of the classroom. You are expected to be here in class on time. **Do not make a habit of coming into class late.** Since this is summer school, once a student misses his/her fourth absence their grade will be reduced to an F for the semester.

##### **Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cheating on a quiz or exam or plagiarism on an essay (taking credit for written work that is not your own) will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment. A second offense will result in an "F" for the course.

##### **Cell Phones and Pagers:**

Cell phones and pagers are not allowed in this classroom. If a cell phone rings you will be asked to leave class for the remainder of the day (*No excuses*). If it happens a second time you must have a conference with the instructor before you are allowed back into class. Additionally, you should not be using your phones to text.

##### **Sleeping and Newspapers:**

It is a known and accepted fact that we all get tired at some point in time, sleeping in class however, is not an accepted remedy. Napping in class is not only rude to the professor and all those assembled, it also reflects poorly upon the offending individual. Reading of newspapers in class is simply rude behavior and will not be tolerated. Infractions of either sort may result in the student being asked to leave the class and awarded an absence for the day.

##### **Discussion of Classroom Topics:**

Topics will be discussed from an objective historical point of view. While I welcome any questions, I will not engage in a classroom debate with students about any scheduled readings. Also, each student will be required to participate in class through discussion forums. It is a simple process, yet a crucial component of your grade. This forum is meant to make the student think critically about the week's topic. You will be graded according to the quality of an academic response. Take your time and think before you speak because your grade depends on it.

**Class Schedule for Required Readings and Assignments: (Schedule subject to changes and additions.)** The following outlines the completion dates for each reading assignment so that students are prepared to participate in class discussions and follow the course of the lectures.

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Week 1	August 24-28	<i>Introduction/Collision of Cultures</i>
Week 2	August 31-September 4	<i>England and Its Colonies</i>
Week 3	September 7 (Labor Day)-11	<i>Colonial Ways of Life</i>
Week 4	September 14-18	<i>The Imperial Perspective</i>
Week 5	September 21-25	<i>From Empire to Independence</i>
Week 6	September 28-October 2	<i>The American Revolution</i>
Week 7	October 5-9	<i>Shaping A Federal Union</i>
Week 8	October 12-16	<i>The Federalist Era</i>
Week 9	October 19-23	<i>The Early Republic</i>
Week 10	October 26-30	<i>Nationalism and Sectionalism</i>
Week 11	November 2-6	<i>The Jacksonian Impulse</i>
Week 12	November 9-13	<i>The Dynamic of Growth/Manifest Destiny</i>
Week 13	November 16-20	<i>The Old South/The Crisis of Union</i>
Week 14	November 23-27 [Wed. 25th-Fri. 27th = Fall Break/Thanksgiving]	
Week 15	November 30-December 4	<i>The War of the Union</i>
Week 16	December 7-11 [End of classes is Tues., 8th/Dead Day is Wed., 9th]	