

Each national history is but a thread out of a larger strand.
 Herbert Bolton, *American Historical Review*, 1933

This course argues that American history cannot be understood apart from a global context. Because it was founded in a time oceanic seafaring that connected all peoples, the United States was created at the beginning of global history, and should be understood in the larger context of Western imperial expansion and the creation of global capitalism.

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN:

- History is something we DO, not a list of dates or an artifact or a memory. There is no history without a historian. You will do history this semester by analyzing sources of the past.
- A broad knowledge of American history between the Columbian conquest and Civil War (c1492-1877) in the context of world events.
- The difference between primary and secondary sources, and how to read and write about them.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

- **READ:** Your learning will depend on your preparation before class and the quality of your interaction with your peers and the instructor during class meetings. You will learn to analyze historical evidence, and ask big questions about the past rather than simply to memorize things.
- **SHOW UP:** This is not primarily a lecture course. You will earn your grade based upon both what we do in class and what you do outside of class. Your final grade weighs attendance as heavily as each of the exams. [See below.]
- **WRITE:** Ten weekly assignments in and out of class; three exams. These will be posted to Blackboard or given out in class and completed there.

WHAT I WILL DO:

- **GRADE** you according to the scheme below. No late papers or makeup work will be accepted barring a written excuse from a physician.

Attendance and Participation	100 points
10 Weekly assignments (20 pts each)	200 points
Three exams (100 pts each)	300 points
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[A=540 points; B=480 points; C=420 points; D=390 points] **TOTAL 600 points**

- Count **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION** as a measure of your commitment to learning the material presented in the course. Attendance will be recorded for each class meeting; absences for religious observance should be approved during the 1st week of class.
- Enforce all university policies regarding **ACADEMIC HONESTY**. You are responsible for understanding and following these as laid out in the 2009-10 Catalog of Studies. Breaching these standards will bring severe penalties, and can result in an “F” for the course.
- Offer **ACCOMMODATIONS** for students registered with the Center for Educational Access. It is the student’s responsibility to request these.
- **WEATHER POLICY.** Class will be cancelled if Fayetteville Public Schools are closed.

REQUIRED BOOKS (available at the Union Bookstore).

- Tony Horwitz, *A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World*. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 2008.
- Gordon S. Wood, *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different*. New York: Penguin Books, 2006.
- Orville Vernon Burton, *The Age of Lincoln*. New York: Hill & Wang, 2007.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week One. August 24

How do we know what we know about the past?

READ: Horwitz, Prologue, pp. 1-7.

Pretest

PART I. THE OCEAN WORLD AND THE BEGINNINGS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Week Two. August 31

The Ocean World and the 'Otro Mundo'

READ: Horwitz, Chapter Five, pp. 117-133.

Week Three. September 7

De Soto Does Dixie

READ: Horwitz, Chapters Eight and Nine, pp. 199-262

Week Four. September 14

The Plantation Complex

READ: Horwitz, Chapters Three and Four, pp. 72-114.

Week Five. September 21

The British Invasion

READ: Horwitz, Chapters Twelve and Thirteen, pp. 326-390.

Week Six. September 28

Plantation and British, cont'd

No reading assignment

EXAM I, THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

PART II: THE 'GREAT WAR' AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Week Seven. October 5

The Great War: France vs. Britain, 1689-1815

READ: Wood, Introduction, pp. 12-28; Chapter Two, pp. 65-90

Week Eight. October 12

The American Revolution

READ: Wood, Chapters Three and Six, pp. 93-117; 175-202

Week Nine. October 19

A New Nation

READ: Wood, Chapters Four and Five, pp. 122-172

Week Ten. October 26

A Contagion of Revolutions: France, Haiti, and Latin America
READ: Wood, Chapter Seven, pp. 205-222

Week Eleven. November 2

Haiti, cont'd.
No reading assignment

EXAM II, THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

PART III: AMERICAN FREEDOM IN AN AGE OF NATION MAKING

Week Twelve. November 9

Antebellum America, Amistad, and the Ocean World
READ: Burton, Chapters One and Two, pp. 11-49

Week Thirteen. November 16

The Meaning of the Mexican War
READ: Burton, Chapters Three and Four, pp. 50-103

Week Fourteen. November 23

1848: Liberal Nationalism
READ: Burton, Chapters Five and Six, pp. 104-167

No class Thursday--Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen. November 30

The American Civil War
READ: Burton, Chapters Seven and Eight, pp. 168-211

Week Sixteen. December 7

Emancipation in the Western Hemisphere
READ: Burton, Chapters Nine and Ten, pp. 212-270

EXAM III, THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER, 3 P.M.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

You will write approximately 10 weekly assignments. Some of these will be written out of class; some in class. N.B. No makeup or late work will be accepted.

Assignments that are written outside of class must be flawlessly typed, double-spaced, in black ink on white paper in 12-point type. Handwritten assignments will not be graded.

EXAMS

You will write three exams. They will not be cumulative. The exams must be written in a blue book, which may be purchased from the University Bookstore.

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