

**History 2003: American Civilization, 1607-1877**  
**Fall 2009**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Michael Pierce  
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**Office Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 or by appointment  
I also check my email [mpierce@uark.edu](mailto:mpierce@uark.edu) several times a day.

**Overview and Objectives 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. By the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the following issues: role played by diversity in shaping the human experience; operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, technology, and religion; challenges mounted by an increasing reliance on technology; changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world.

**Course Description:**

History 2003 examines American Civilization from its inception until the end of Reconstruction. The course will concentrate on the ways in which Americans created economic, social, and political life and will be structured around six biographies—Jonathan Winthrop, Benjamin Franklin, George Robert Twelves Hewes, James Madison, Tecumseh, and Harriet Jacobs. The lives of these Americans will allow the class to examine the establishment of English colonies in North America, the religious impulses that infused much of the American past, the nature of the American Revolution, the structure of the United States Constitution, conflicts between European settlers and Native Americans, the institution of slavery, and the sectional crisis.

**Books:**

Robert Divine et al., *The American Story, Volume 1: To 1877* (ISBN: 0-321-18312-6)\*  
Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop* (0-321-04369-3)\*  
Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (0-486-29073-5)  
Jack Rakove, *James Madison and the Creation of the American Republic* (0-321-08797-6)\*  
R. David Edmunds, *Tecumseh and the Quest for Indian Leadership* (0-673-39336-4)\*  
Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (0-486-41931-2)

\*These books are part of a specially-priced bundle available from the University Bookstore.

Students should feel free to use any edition of these books, not just the latest. Additionally, used copies of the books by Morgan, Rakove, and Edmunds can sometimes be purchased on-line for as little as one dollar apiece.

Additionally students are required to read Alfred F. Young's "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution" *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ser., 38 (October 1981): 561-623. This is available online at

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1918907>

**Disclaimer:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. All changes will be announced in class.

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to be in class and prepared every morning. To ensure attendance and preparation, I will take attendance randomly during the quarter and give short quizzes. The dates of quizzes will not be announced in advance, and nothing short of a letter from a doctor or a university official who could make my life uncomfortable will excuse an absence. Absent students are responsible for all material and information they missed.

**Enrollment:**

Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

**Quizzes:**

There will be three quizzes. These quizzes are designed to ensure that students are reading assignments and keeping up with class material. Each quiz will only take about 15 minutes, and we will have class for the remainder of the period.

**Exams:**

There will be three take-home exams, of which each student is required to complete two. You will receive the question on Wednesday and the exam is due at the beginning of class on Friday. Late take-home exams will not be accepted.

Take-home exams are to be typed and free of grammatical errors.

**Final:**

The final will be comprehensive and focus on the subjects of the biographies that we have read. It is scheduled for **Saturday, December 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m.**

**Grade Grievances:**

If a student is unhappy with a grade and wants the grade to be reconsidered, he/she is required to hand in a one-page paper detailing the reasons why the student considers the assignment to be

misgraded along with the graded assignment. You must also wait twenty-four hours after an assignment is returned before talking to the instructor about it. Grievances must be submitted no later than two class periods after the assignment was returned to the class.

**Further Notes:**

Students with disabilities and those for whom English is a second language should inform the instructor.

Do not arrive late to class. Students who are more than three minutes late are not to enter the classroom.

Turn off all cell phones before class.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with, and abide by, the university's policies on academic honesty. Students who try to pass off other people's words or ideas as their own will be found out and failed.

**Schedule of Assignments:**

Week One: Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 1

- August 24—Introduction
- August 26—People's of the Americas
- August 28—Age of Exploration

Week Two:

- August 31—Spain in the New World
- September 2—France in the New World
- September 4—England in the New World

Week Three: Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 2

- September 7—Labor Day (no class)
- September 9—Jamestown
- September 11—Quiz #1

Week Four: Morgan, *Puritan Dilemma*

- September 14—Slavery in Virginia
- September 16—Discussion, *Puritan Dilemma*
- September 17—Development of New England

Week Five: *Autobiography of Ben Franklin*; Divine, *The American Story*, Chapters 3-4

- September 21—Glorious Revolution and Empire
- September 23—Great Awakening; Take-Home Exam #1 Handed Out
- September 25—Discussion, *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*; Take-Home Exam #1 Due

Week Six: Divine, *The American Story*, Chapters 5

- September 28—French and Indian War
- September 30—Imperial Crisis
- October 2—Imperial Crisis

Week Seven: Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 6; Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840)"

- October 5—Discussion, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840)"
- October 7—The Articles of Confederation and State Constitutions

October 9—The Constitutional Convention

Week Eight—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 7; Rakove, *James Madison and the Creation of the American Republic*, 1-177

October 12—The New Constitution

October 14—First Party System; Take Home Exam #2 Handed Out

October 16—First Party System; Take Home Exam #2 Due; Discussion, Rakove, *James Madison*

Week Nine—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 8; Rakove, *James Madison*, remainder

October 19—Louisiana Purchase

October 21—Jefferson and Madison

October 23—Quiz #2

Week Ten—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapters 9, 12; Edmunds, *Tecumseh and the Quest for Indian Leadership*

October 26—Industrialism

October 28—Discussion, Edmunds, *Tecumseh and the Quest for Indian Leadership*

October 30—Second Great Awakening

Week Eleven—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 10

November 2—Second Party System

November 4—King Cotton

November 6—Indian Removal

Week Twelve—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 11; Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

November 9—Slavery

November 11—Abolitionism/Free Soilism; Take-Home Exam #3 Handed Out

November 13—Discussion, Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life . . .*; Take-Home Exam #3 due

Week Thirteen—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapters 13-14

November 16—Sectional Crisis

November 18—Sectional Crisis

November 20—Sectional Crisis

Week Fourteen—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 15

November 23—Quiz #3

November 25—Thanksgiving Break

November 27—Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen—Divine, *The American Story*, Chapter 16

November 30—Civil War

December 2—Civil War

December 4—Reconstruction

Week Sixteen—

December 7—Reconstruction

December 9—Dead Day

Final: **Saturday, December 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m.**