

**Fall 2009**  
**The University of Arkansas**  
**Department of History**  
**HIST 2003**  
**History of the American People before 1876**  
**MWF 12:30-1:20pm; SCIE 418**

**Instructor:** Ms. Sarah E. Simers

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**Office:** Old Main 510

**Office Hours:** MW 2:30- 4:30pm, and by appointment.

**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 Description:**

This course will cover the first half of American history, from pre-Columbian civilizations to the end of Reconstruction. Within this course, we will explore various topics, including but not limited to:

- the Columbian Exchange
- early Anglo-American society
- the Great Awakenings
- the American Revolution
- Slavery and Sectionalism
- Reform Movements
- the American Civil War and Reconstruction

**Required Text:** ed. Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. vol. 1.

**Optional Text:** Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. vol 1

**Grading:** There will be two reading quizzes and three tests given over the course of the semester. The quizzes will be short answer, will be based on the *Voices of Freedom* readings, and are worth 50 points each. The test material—which may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, or essay questions—will come from the lecture notes and the assigned readings.

**YOU MUST BRING A CLEAN BLUE BOOK AND A SCANTRON TO EACH TEST.** The first and second tests are worth 100 points each, and the final test is worth 200 points. There are 500 total points possible in the class.

<b>Reading Quizzes: 2 @ 50 points each</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Test 1</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Test 2</b>	<b>100 points</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>200 points</b>
<b><i>Total Points</i></b>	<b><i>500 points</i></b>

***Grading Scale***

***450-500 A***

***400-449 B***

***350-399 C***

***300-349 D***

***0- 299 F***

**Attendance:** I will take roll every class period, but attendance is up to you. If you are late, please enter quietly in order to not disturb others. **Those students who miss three classes or less will have ten bonus points added to their final grade. Students who are habitually tardy will not receive bonus points.** You may only make up one test or one reading quiz on make-up exam day, December 7<sup>th</sup> *if you have provided a written excuse for your absence.* I will accept such excuses at my discretion. Any student who will might miss multiple exams due to university sanctioned activities, such as band or athletics, needs to make individual arrangements with me.

**Electronics Policy:** Please turn your cell phones off or set them to silent. If I see or hear your cell phone, I will dismiss you from class that day and you will be counted as absent. **If you have your cell phone out during a test or a quiz, I will assume you are cheating, and will give you a failing grade for the quiz/exam.** Text messaging or listening to your I-pod in class are also grounds for dismissal from class. Laptops are acceptable for taking notes, but **if any student abuses the laptop privilege by using the Internet or playing games, then laptops will be banned from the entire class.**

**Classroom Etiquette:** Sleeping in class and reading newspapers are also grounds for dismissal from class.

**Academic Honesty:** The University of Arkansas strives to be a center of academic excellence. As part of our Statement of Ethics, the University strives to preserve academic honor and integrity by repudiating all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and is subject to a disciplinary response. **Students who are caught cheating or committing plagiarism in this class will be given a failing grade for the quiz/exam,** and may be subject to dismissal or further discipline.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** The University's inclement weather policy can be found on-line. If the University is closed, there will be no class.

Week One: The New World

*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 1: Readings 2-6, pages 6-24

Week Two: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Colonies

*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 2: Readings 8-13, pages 30-48

Week Three, Monday, September 7: NO CLASS LABOR DAY

Week Three: British Colonies, 1660-1750

*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 3: Readings 14-20, pages 49-69

**Reading Quiz 1; September 11th; 50 points**

Week Four: the Age of Enlightenment and the Americas

*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 4: Readings 21-22, pages 70-77; Readings 24-25, pages 81-89

Week Five: the French-Indian War and Discontent in the Americas  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 5: Readings 27-32, pages 90-110

Week Six: The American Revolution  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 6: Readings 33-40, pages 111-129  
**Test #1 October 2nd; 100 points**

Week Seven: Creating a New Nation  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 7: Readings 41-44, pages 132-146

Week Eight: the Federalist Era  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 8: Readings 45-51, pages 147-170

Week Nine: the Market Revolution  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 9: Readings 52-57, pages 171-192  
**Reading Quiz 2; October 21st; 50 points**

Week Ten: Jacksonian America  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 10: Readings 58-63, pages 193-212

Week Eleven: Manifest Destiny  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 11: Readings 64-66, 68- 70, pages 213-222, 225-236

Week Twelve: Antebellum Reform Movements  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 12: Readings 71-77, pages 237-264  
**Test #2 November 13<sup>th</sup>; 100 points**

Week Thirteen: Sectionalism and the Road to Civil War  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 13: Readings 78-84, pages 265-290  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 14: Readings 85-91, pages 291-312

Week Fourteen: the American Civil War  
No assigned readings for this week. No class on Wednesday, Nov. 25th and Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Week Fifteen: the American Civil War and Reconstruction  
*Voices of Freedom* Chapter 15: Readings 92-95, 97-98, pages 313-327, 332-341

**Monday, December 7: MAKE-UP EXAM DAY**  
**Wednesday December 9: Dead Day, no class**

**12:30 CLASS FINAL December 11, Friday at 7:30-9:30am**

*I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time and all changes will be announced in class or by e-mail and are the responsibility of the student.*