

NOTE: This course may not be taken for credit by students who have already taken Hy 203, who have received transfer credit for a U.S. History survey from another university, or who have received AP credit for American history.

DR. KOHL **HY 205 HONORS AMERICAN CIVILIZATION TO 1865** **FALL 2003**

Note:

The instructor considers this syllabus to be an implied contract with his students. By taking this course the student accepts the terms of the contract. Every student should read through the syllabus carefully at the outset of the course and ask questions if clarification is needed on any point. Keep this syllabus handy and refer to it often during the course of the semester.

Course Description:

This course takes a comprehensive look at American history from its beginnings to the end of the Civil War, giving special emphasis to the events, people, and ideas that have made America a distinctive civilization. This course is the first college-level course in American history and is designed to lay a foundation for the further study of American civilization in history or any related discipline. Students will be asked to acquire factual information, but the mere memorization of facts is less important than the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of those historical facts.

Classroom Civility:

A good learning environment requires that we treat each other with respect and consideration. Talking, eating, reading the newspaper, and doing work for other classes while in Hy 205 are not acceptable behaviors. Students are expected to be on time and to stay for the entire class period. Late entrances and early departures distract both the instructor and other students. If a student must leave early for some legitimate reason, please inform the instructor before class and sit near the door so that you may exit quietly and not draw attention to yourself. Instructors will make a similar effort to start class promptly and to end class on time so that students will be able to travel to their next class.

Required Reading:

1. Alan Taylor, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America*
2. Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*
3. Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
4. Lawrence Frederick Kohl, *The Politics of Individualism*
5. William Lee Miller, *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography*

Attendance:

Attendance is required at all classes. ***Students will be held responsible for all material presented and all announcements made during regularly scheduled class time, whether they attend or not. Assignments missed because of unexcused absences cannot be made up.*** Absences are excused only for unavoidable absence due to serious circumstances and require written documentation confirming those circumstances. This documentation must be turned in within one week of the student returning to class.

Essays:

There will be five formal essays written for the course, one on each of the books that we will read. Instructions on doing these papers will be given in class.

Class Participation:

Class participation is essential to the course. Grades for participation will be based on attendance, quizzes, short writing assignments, and the instructor's estimate of the contributions of students to class discussions.

Grading:

Each of the essays written for the course will be worth 15% of the student's grade for the semester. The remaining 25% of the student's grade will be determined by class participation (described above).

Academic Misconduct Policy:

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute acts of academic misconduct. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Disability Access:

To request disability accommodations, please contact Disability Services (348-4285). After initial arrangements are made with Disability Services, please contact the instructor at the number given below.

Tentative Class and Reading Schedule:

Aug. 20 Introduction to the Course

25 Carl Becker, "Everyman His Own Historian,"
(Obtain from www.jstor.org at UA Library)
27 Taylor, x-xvii, 1-49

Sept. 1 **Labor Day Holiday**

3 Taylor, 50-113

8 Taylor, 117-186

10 Taylor, 187-244

15 Taylor, 245-337

17 Taylor, 338-395

22 Taylor, 396-477

24 Wood, 1-56

29 Wood, 57-92

Oct. 1 Wood, 95-168

6 Wood, 169-225
8 Wood, 229-305

13 Wood, 305-369
15 Tocqueville, 26-72

20 Tocqueville, 189-209
22 Tocqueville, 209-274

27 Tocqueville, 101-138, 289-317
29 Kohl, 1-62

Nov. 3 Kohl, 63-99
5 Kohl, 100-144

10 Kohl, 145-185
12 Kohl, 186-229

17 Miller, 1-91
19 Miller, 92-163

24 Miller, 164-251
26 Miller, 252-324

Dec. 1 Miller, 325-405
3 Miller, 406-456

Final papers will be due during exam period

Instructor's Office Hours:

Dr. Lawrence Kohl
206 ten Hoor (Phone 348-1852)
(Email: LKOHL@tenhoor.as.ua.edu)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1-2pm, or by appointment