

History 203

American Civilization to 1865
M, W, F, 2-2:50 pm, ten Hour 125

Fall 2003

Prof. Gregory Dorr
Office: 208 ten Hour Hall
Office Hours: M,W, F, 1-1:50; 2:50-3:45, and by appt.
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GTAs: 352-A ten Hour
Mr. Matthew Down
Mr. Stephen McCullough
Ms. Charity Rakestraw

Books: The following six (6) books are to be purchased (and read) for this course.

Divine, et. al., The American Story vol. 1 (text); **Hyser and Arndt**, Voices of the American Past vol. 1 (text); **Kolchin**, American Slavery; **Neey**, Last Best Hope of Earth; **Ulrich**, Good Wives; **Wallace**, Long, Bitter Trail

Goals of the Course: This course is designed to introduce students to the major social, political, economic, and cultural events that shaped America from the age of European contact until the end of the Civil War. Students should appreciate that the story of U.S. history is NOT simply the chronicle of “progress” or “advance,” but is instead a tale of intended and unintended consequences; benefits in one area are often linked to costs in another. This is “warts and all history,” not simple triumphalism. As with any survey, some topics receive more attention than others. Nevertheless, the combination of lectures and reading assignments seeks to balance students' exposure to the major themes of American history. Students will read scholarly interpretations analyzing significant periods and issues in American history, as well as primary documents written by individuals who lived through the events the course considers. These materials, in conjunction with the lectures and the textbook, should provide students interested in pursuing history as a major with a substantial foundation for further, more specific study in the various sub-fields of American history. Other students should gain a basic understanding of the American past that will allow them to evaluate contemporary American society from a more critical perspective.

Requirements and Expectations: Students are required to attend **ALL** classes, to fulfill **ALL** assignments and examinations, and to participate actively during in-class discussions. Students are responsible for finishing **ALL** assigned readings and demonstrating their comprehension of those readings during discussions and in written assignments. Examinations will gauge students' ability to synthesize information from the readings and lectures; the papers and discussions will allow students to explore specific issues in depth.

Attendance – Students are permitted 4 lecture and 2 discussion absences for any reason. After that, the student's final grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a grade per lecture absence. **Missing more than 7 lectures or 2 discussions, for whatever reason, will result in failure for gross neglect.** It is the student's responsibility to ensure that her or his attendance has been duly registered each lecture or discussion section.

Discussion – Students should learn to express their thoughts in an intelligent fashion when speaking to a group. Failure to participate, attempts to dominate, or consistently irrelevant contributions to discussion will result in a poor discussion grade. Regular participation that advances the conversation, either by illuminating a relevant point or building on or challenging a classmate's ideas, will result in a strong discussion grade.

Assignments – READING QUIZZES: Students are responsible for **ALL** assigned reading. (A suggested schedule appears below.) Assignments for each week should be completed by that week's discussion section, when there will be a quiz and lively discussion of the readings. There are **NO** make-ups for these quizzes.

EXAMS: Students must take one **midterm** examination (50 minutes, closed book, short-answer, short-essay format) in class on **10/6** and a **final** examination on **12/9**. PAPERS: Students will write a 3-page paper due on **9/15**, and a 5-page paper due on **11/19**. Both essays are to be handed in at the beginning of lecture. **All assignments must be completed for a passing final grade.**

Late Assignment/Make-Up Examination Policy – Papers submitted after the start of class will be docked one full letter grade (an A becomes a B) per day (or fraction thereof) late. Missed quizzes/examinations will receive a zero. The only exceptions to these rules are when students have documented extenuating circumstances (physician's note, etc.). Students must notify the professor, and receive the professor's permission, **at least 24 hours prior to the examination or paper deadline** to avoid being penalized. Any make-up examination will differ materially from the regular examination.

A Note on Plagiarism and Cheating – All students are bound by the University of Alabama's regulations regarding academic conduct and honor. Plagiarism, defined as "taking and passing off as one's own the ideas, writings, or work of another," will not be tolerated. All student work must be original and unaided; any ideas or quotations borrowed from anyone else must be properly documented (by footnote in papers, by attribution in examinations). Students may NOT submit work completed for another course in fulfillment of any assignment in this course. Students who fail to follow these guidelines will receive a provisional grade of zero and be referred for further disciplinary action. Final punishment will be decided by the Dean. The same penalty applies to those who cheat on examinations. See page 23 of the University of Alabama Undergraduate Catalog for a further discussion of the university's Code of Academic Conduct and Academic Honor Code.

Learning Disabilities/Extracurricular conflicts – To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 348-4285. After initial arrangements are made with that office, contact your professor. If you are a member of an athletic team or other student organization, it is your responsibility to provide the professor with a schedule indicating possible conflicts **well before** those conflicts occur. Participation in sports or other extra-curriculars **does not** excuse the student from any course requirements.

Grading: Grades will be determined on the following basis: Attendance/Discussion/Quizzes 15%; Paper 1, 10%; Paper 2, 20%; Midterm Examination, 20%; Final Examination, 35%. Students who wish to dispute a grade must contact their Teaching Assistant, then meet with the professor. The professor reserves the right to **raise, lower, or leave a grade unchanged** as a result of this conference. **All assignments must be completed for a passing final grade.**

General Syllabus of Lectures and Assignments

Week 1: 8/20 Introduction: Why Care the Past?

Reading: Read this Syllabus CAREFULLY and in its ENTIRETY; Divine, Preface.

Week 2: 8/25 Background to Settlement

Reading: Ulrich, Preface-86.

8/27 European Expansion and Contrasting Patterns of Settlement

Reading:; Divine, Ch. 1; Hyser, doc's 1-3. Last day to ADD courses.

Week 3: 9/1 **NO CLASS—Labor Day**

Reading: Ulrich, 87-164.

9/3 The Chesapeake in the 17th Century

Reading: Divine, Ch. 2; Hyser, doc's 4-6.

Week 4: 9/8 The Puritan Experiment

Reading: Ulrich, 165-243.

9/10 The Transformation of New England, 1650-1720

Reading: Divine, Ch. 3; Hyser doc's 8-14 (review Ulrich for discussion).

****First Paper Due MONDAY 9/15****

Week 5: 9/15 American or English?: 18th Century Attitudes

****First Paper Due at Beginning of Class****

Reading: Hyser, doc's 15, 17, 19, 21.

9/17 The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening

Reading:.. Kolchin, 3-62; Divine, Ch. 4.

- Week 6: 9/22 Strained Empires: America and the Imperial Crisis**
Reading:, Divine, Ch. 5 and Appendix, A-3throughA-5; Hyser, doc's 22-29.
9/24 Revolutionary Ideology
Reading: Kolchin, 63-92; Hyser, 30-36.
- Week 7: 9/29 The Impact of Revolution**
Reading: Divine, Ch. 6; Hyser doc's 37-40.
(freshmen mid-term progress reports due 10/1)
10/1 Debating the Constitution: Revolution Fulfilled or Betrayed
Reading: Divine, Appendix A-6throughA-16; Hyser, doc's 41-45.
- Week 8: 10/6 MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
10/8 Triumphant Federalists
Reading: NO READING. NO DISCUSSION SECTIONS.
- Week 9: 10/13 The Federalist Demise**
Reading: Divine, Ch. 7; Hyser, doc's 46-50.
10/15 The Jeffersonian Challenge
Reading: Divine, Ch. 8; Hyser, doc's 51-57.
- Week 10: 10/20 Social and Economic Change 1790-1840**
Reading: Divine, Ch. 9; Hyser, doc's 58-62.
10/22 The Failure of National Republicanism
Reading: Divine, Ch. 10; Hyser, doc's 69-76.
- Week 11: 10/27 Jacksonian Democracy**
Reading: Wallace, 1-72.
(Last Day to Drop Class with Grade of "W" is Wed. 10/29)
10/29 The Second Party System
Reading: Wallace, 73-120; Hyser, doc's 63-68.
- Week 12: 11/3 Reform and Abolitionism**
Reading: Divine, Ch. 11; Hyser, 77-83.
11/5 Northern Society, 1840-1860
Reading:. Kolchin, 93-169.
- Week 13: 11/10 The Old South**
Reading: Divine, Ch. 13; Kolchin, 169-199; Hyser, doc's 90-99.
11/12 Manifest Destiny and Slavery Extension
Reading: Divine, Ch. 12; Hyser, doc's 84-89.
- Week 14: 11/17 The Coming Storm: Causes of the Civil War**
Reading: Neely, Preface-58; Hyser, doc's 100-106.
11/19 The Great Compromise and Its Failure
Reading: Divine, Ch. 14; Kolchin, 200-237.
****Second Paper Due at Beginning of Class****
- Week 15: 11/24 The Political Crisis of the 1850s**
Reading: Neely, 59-156.
11/26 **No Class—HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
Reading: Opportunity to Catch Up/Review
- Week 16: 12/1 Southern Nationalism and Secession**
Reading: Neely, 157-194.
12/3 Why the North Won, Why the South Lost
Reading: Divine, Ch. 15; Hyser, 115-121.
- FINAL EXAMINATION: Tuesday, 12/9, 11:30 am-2:00 pm, 125 ten Hour.**