

History 2010G

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1877

Eastern Illinois University
Fall Semester, 2013

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2681 Coleman Hall
Office Hours: M-Th 10:30-12, 1-2;
T-Th 2-3, and by arrangement

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REQUIRED TEXTS

Nancy A. Hewitt and Steven F. Lawson, *Exploring American Histories: a Brief Survey with Sources*, Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013

Other readings may be assigned as the semester progresses; if so, they will be placed on reserve at Booth Library or handed out in class. I reserve the right to change any part of this syllabus if I deem it necessary. Don't worry: I will give you notice of any such changes.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AND TENTATIVE TOPICS

Date	Topic	Due
Week 1 August 19-23	Introduction English Context and European Empires	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 1
Week 2 August 26-30	European Settlements	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 2
Week 3 Monday, September 2-6	Monday: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Seventeenth-Century America	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 3
Week 4 Monday, September 9-13	Eighteenth-Century America	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 4
Week 5 Monday, September 16-20	Road to Revolution	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 5
Week 6 Monday, September 23-27	Revolutionary America	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 6 FIRST DOCUMENT EXERCISE DUE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Week 7 Monday, September 30- October 4	Crisis and Constitution	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 7
Week 8 Monday, October 7-11	Wednesday: MID-TERM EXAMINATION Friday: FALL BREAK	NO QUIZ THIS WEEK
Week 9 Monday, October 14-18	Growing Pains	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 8
Week 10 Monday, October 21-25	The Rise of Democracy	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 9
Week 11 Monday, October 28-November 1	Southern Expansion	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> , Chapter 10
Week 12 Monday, November 4-8	Northern Identity	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> , Chapter 11
Week 13 Monday, November 11-15	Prelude to War	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> Chapter 12 SECOND DOCUMENT EXERCISE DUE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Week 14 Monday, November 18-22	War	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> , Chapter 13
Monday, November 25-29	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 16 Monday, December 2-6	Reconstruction	<i>Exploring American Histories</i> , Chapter 14

QUIZZES

There will be a short-answer identification quiz given at the beginning of class each Friday, beginning on August 30. It will cover material assigned and lectures given since the previous week's quiz. The ID topics will comprise the bank from which the ID sections of the examinations will be drawn. There will be no quiz during the week of the mid-term examination.

EXAMINATIONS

The Mid-Term examination will have two essay questions and no fewer than four short-answer (one paragraph) identification questions.

The Final Examination will be somewhat longer than the Mid-Term examination. It will have at least one question based on assignments, discussions, and lectures of the entire semester, and at least one question based on the work assigned since the second hour examination. It will also include identification questions. The Final Examination will be held on Wednesday, December 11, from 2:45-4:45 pm.

For all examinations (but not quizzes), please bring at least one examination booklet to the History Department office by the day before the examination is to be given. Write your name, my name, and the class number (HIS 2010G) on the front cover of the booklet and give it to the secretary. Examination booklets are available for purchase (at a cost of less than \$0.25) from the University bookstore.

DOCUMENT EXERCISES

Twice during the semester, you will turn in a document-based paper (typed, double-spaced).

PAPER I - an analysis of one document (500 words),

PAPER II – an analysis of one document (different from the document analyzed in your first paper) in comparison to a second document representing a conflicting perspective (750-1000 words).

You must get my prior approval of the documents you will analyze. You may use documents contained in *Exploring American Histories*, documents from outside sources, or a combination.

In preparing the papers, consider the following:

1. Who wrote the document? For what purpose? What kind of document is it?
2. What does the document tell you about the time period (people, ideas, and events)?
3. What does the document not tell you?
4. Use examples from the document to support your statements.
5. **BE PRECISE**, not verbose. The best response includes an introduction, supporting evidence, and a conclusion, and presents the material in logical order.

The points earned are based on the following criteria:

1. Thesis well defined,
2. paper well-structured and organized,
3. clear introduction and conclusion,
4. clear arguments,
5. effective examples/good documentation/good use of specific detail,
6. good logic,
7. engaging style/well-written with no grammar or punctuation errors and no passive voice,
8. obvious depth of understanding of topic.

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are listed at the top of the first page of this syllabus. You are welcome to come by. I am also available for consultation by email. Please do not assume that you cannot meet with me if my office hours are inconvenient; we can find a time to meet.

HOW TO REACH ME

Email is the best way to get in touch with me when I am not on campus. While I do have voicemail, I do not check it very often.

GRADES

Grades for this course are determined as follows:

Final Exam	35%	A =	90-100
Mid-Term Exam	25%	B =	80-89
Quizzes	15%	C =	70-79
Document Exercises	20%	D =	60-69
Class Participation	5%	F =	0-59
<hr/> Total	100%		

CLASS PARTICIPATION

I recognize that some of you are most at home in classes where you can remain shy, mute, and stuck invisibly behind someone larger than you are. Don't worry; participating in class discussion is fairly easy if you have done the reading beforehand, especially if you have thought about what you have read. You should be prepared to discuss all the readings for the week. If you participate in class (ask questions, answer questions, raise interesting points, nod sagely at silly statements I make, tell a really good joke, *et cetera*) it will help your final grade.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not absolutely required, but is strongly encouraged. I take attendance every day. I am not going to "deduct points" for non-attendance, but you will not serve your cause by being absent. Remember that a portion of your grade is determined by class participation; attendance is an integral part of that.

LATE WORK

A word of warning: I do not accept late work without prior arrangement. If you are having trouble with an assignment, talk to me before it is due. Do not just assume that I will not give you an extension.

READING FOR LECTURES

You will note that I have listed the reading for each week. I *strongly* advise you to get that reading done before the first class of the week meets. The lectures will be more understandable, the discussions more pleasant, and the instructor more jovial if you do. Please attend all lectures and take detailed notes. They and the readings will be your essential source of information for the exams.

DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability of which I should be aware, please inform me during the first week of class. If you do have a documented disability, or think that you might, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.eiu.edu/~disabltly/> for further information.

MISCELLANY

If you have a question, ask it. Questions are "stupid" only if they remain unasked.