

AMH 2010
History of the United States to 1877
Spring 2017
MWF 10:40-11:30AM (Period 4)
Turlington 2336

Matthew Saionz
mksaionz@ufl.edu

Office Hours: M 11:30-12:30, W 9:30-10:30 in Keene-Flint 9 and by appointment
Access our Canvas site at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Course Description:

This course considers the history of the United States from indigenous-European contact through Reconstruction (1877). Major themes and issues include colonization, the interaction of Native American, African, and European peoples in North America, slavery, the creation of the United States, and sectionalism. We will explore change over time as well as themes that may run through the duration of the period under consideration.

Course Objectives:

1. In discussion and lecture, the student should be able to effectively identify and analyze historical problems.
2. In discussion and lecture, the student should be able to succinctly, intelligently, and in written and verbal format articulate these analyses.
3. On evaluations (i.e. quizzes and tests), the student should be able to recall the contexts of these analyses.

These objectives are designed with real-life skills in mind. Whether or not your future career involves history, identifying a problem, making an argument, and expressing your ideas to your peers in a coherent manner are all involved in every corner of the professional world. The sooner you can learn to hone your abilities now in the classroom, the better prepared you will be once you graduate. In this sense, the course objectives are oriented toward pragmatic use.

Grade Breakdown:

Out of 100 Points:

Final Exam---30
Midterm Exam---20
Paper---20
Quizzes---20
Participation---10

Exams:

Quizzes (20 points): Over the course of the semester, there will be **six** short quizzes that take place on Mondays. Beyond knowing that they will happen on Mondays, they will be **unannounced**. Each quiz is worth four points. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Each quiz will have one identification question (1 points) and three questions of multiple choice

or fill in the blank (1 point each). The questions will be based on lectures, readings, and discussions.

Midterm (20 points): The midterm will consist of five identification questions (1 point each) and one essay question (15 points). Lectures, readings, and discussions are all fair game.

Our midterm exam is Friday, February 24.

Final (30 points): The final will consist of three identification questions (2 points each) and two essay questions (12 points each). The IDs and one essay will be on material since the midterm and the other essay will be cumulative. Again, lectures, readings, and discussions are all fair game. **Our final exam is Thursday, April 27, 3:00-5:00 PM.**

Paper (20 points): This will be a 3-5 page critical analysis of Alfred Young's *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*. This will not be a summary, but a critical reflection of the book's themes and arguments. You will not be required to consult outside sources. A paper prompt/guide will be available to you early on in the semester. **The paper is due Monday, March 27, on Canvas.**

Participation (10 points): This grade will be based on the totality of the student's engagement throughout the semester. To me, participation entails three key components: attending, preparation, and speaking. More on the first in a bit, but being prepared means having read the relevant material before both lectures and discussions and, when appropriate, bringing the readings with you. In other words, look ready and engaged! Lastly, I expect you to speak and be ready to contribute in class, particularly during the discussions. For many, it is difficult to speak, but do your best. This goes toward fulfilling one of the class objectives and, in the vast majority of professions, conveying ideas to your peers, if only for a moment, is an important thing to be comfortable with. Now, on attendance...

Attendance: Attendance is not required, per say; however, as you can see from the structure of the course, it would be rather difficult to do well without showing up. Quizzes and discussions will be held on different days, and questions on the quizzes, midterm, and final will be drawn from material discussed each day of class. Finally, and obviously, it is also hard to participate if you are not there to do so. Therefore, to give yourself the best opportunity to succeed, it would be behoove you to attend regularly.

Discussions: These will be on Fridays. Discussions are designed to fulfill the stated course objectives. Although discussion sessions have a formal effect on your grade, these will be rather informal class meetings at which we think about and work through the readings for that week together. Most importantly, these are your best opportunities to participate. Moreover, this is not a one-and-done deal: question and comment as often as you want. ***Don't be afraid to speak up.*** We're all in the same boat and, for a lot of us, this will be new content.

Late Policy: Make-ups for quizzes and exams will not be available, except for excused medical absences (signed by authorized medical personnel) or attendance at official

university or professional functions (aka NOT sporting events). Unless your particular emergency does not permit it, quizzes and tests must be made up within **ONE WEEK** of the original dates. A similar policy holds for papers as well. Late papers will be accepted but with a significant late penalty applied. For obvious reasons, discussions *cannot* be made up.

Laptop/Cell Phone Policy: I understand that many students choose (and rightfully so) to take notes on laptops, but I know that students also bring their computers to surf online and chat. If I find that the latter becomes the norm, we will have to implement some policies to limit what students can or cannot do on their laptops in-class (i.e. asking that students disconnect from the Internet). To ensure that the instructor and your fellow students get the respect and attention that they deserve, please use the laptops strictly for taking notes. Cell phones, on the other hand, have no place in the confines of the classroom. Put them on silent mode and stash them away until class is over. I know it's hard, but you'll survive without them for 50 minutes.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to taking exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course, and understand that plagiarists will be caught. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. All plagiarism offenses will be reported on a Faculty Adjudication Form and forwarded to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. You may get more information on UF's Judicial Affairs process at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/>. In short, do not test these waters; it's simply not worth it.

Required Reading:

Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp*. Available online for free at <http://www.americanyawp.com>. (Referred to as "**Text**" below)

James West Davidson and Mark Hamilton Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, Volume 1. Sixth Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Alfred F. Young. *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution*. Boston: Beacon, 1999.

Schedule (Subject to modification):

Week 1, Jan. 4-6: Introductions and First Contacts
Text-Chapter 1, "The New World"

Week 2, Jan. 9-13: Colonization and Conflict
Text-Chapter 2, "Colliding Cultures"
Discussion 1, After the Fact, Chapter 1, "Contact"

Week 3, Jan. 18-20: The American Colonies
Text-Chapter 3, "British North America"
Discussion 2, After the Fact, Chapter 2, "Serving Time in Virginia"

Week 4, Jan. 23-27: Life in the Colonies
Text-Chapter 4, "Colonial Society"
Discussion 3, After the Fact, Chapter 3, "The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem"

Week 5, Jan. 30-Feb. 3: The Imperial Crisis and Independence
Text-Chapter 5, "The American Revolution"
Discussion 4, After the Fact, Chapter 4, "Declaring Independence"

Week 6, Feb. 6-10: The Burdens of Independence
Text-Chapter 6, "A New Nation"
Discussion 5, Part 1 of *Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, pp. vii-84.

Week 7, Feb. 13-17: The Republic Threatened, or the Era of Good Feelings?
Text-Chapter 7, "The Early Republic"

Week 8, Feb. 20-24: Building a Nation
Text-Chapter 8, "The Market Revolution"
MIDTERM---Friday, February 24

Week 9, Feb. 27-Mar. 3: Jacksonian Democracy for Whom?
Text-Chapter 9, "Democracy in America"
Discussion 6, After the Fact, Chapter 5, "Material Witness"

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10, Mar. 13-17: Making Sense of a Changing Nation
Text-Chapter 10, "Religion and Reform"
Discussion 7, Part 2 of *Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, pp. 85-194.

Week 11, Mar. 20-24: Slavery and King Cotton
Text-Chapter 11, "The Cotton Revolution"
Discussion 8, After the Fact, Chapter 6, "Jackson's Frontier—and Turner's"

Week 12, Mar. 27-31: The Problems of an Expanding Nation
Text-Chapter 12, "Manifest Destiny"

PAPER DUE Monday, March 27, on Canvas

NO CLASS---Friday, March 31

Week 13, Apr. 3-7: Compromise No More

Text-Chapter 13, "The Sectional Crisis"

Discussion 9, After the Fact, Chapter 7, "The Madness of John Brown"

Week 14, Apr. 10-14: A Nation Torn Asunder

Text-Chapter 14, "Civil War"

Discussion 10, After the Fact, Chapter 8, "The View from the Bottom Rail"

Week 15, Apr. 17-19: Reconstructing a Nation

Text-Chapter 15, "Reconstruction"

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 3:00-5:00 PM