Instructor: Timothy Fritz

Email: tdfritz@ufl.edu (Best way to contact me)
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 – 1:30, Flint 009
Section Website: http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/fritz1g19

Textbooks

US: A Narrative History, Volume 1, w/ 1 Semester Connect History Plus Access Card, 6th Edition

Overview

Our understanding of early American history is essential to how we situate ourselves in today’s society. The complex origins of American life demonstrate an amazing diversity of ideas and beliefs. This class will cover topics such as the slave trade, ethnic relations, political struggles, and the arguments over the formation of an American identity. Through in-class lectures, multimedia, the textbook, and document based readings, this class will equip you to understand the historical themes that shape our lives today, in addition to teaching you how to form your own opinions based on the facts. The breadth of this course is challenging for the usual sixteen week semester, so it is important that you keep up with both class lectures and reading assignments.

Attendance

Class attendance is an important component of your learning experience. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 75 pages per week. Everyone is allowed three absences regardless of the reason; no excuse or physician’s note is needed (except for a missed exam). Each subsequent unexcused absence, however, will result in a drop of half a letter grade in the final average for the term (students who are forced to miss more classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor). You are expected to be actively involved in the class. Please show up ready to contribute to our debates and discussions. Students requesting classroom accommodations for disability issues must first register with the Dean of Students. That office will provide documentation to the student who then must provide that documentation to me. I am more than willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure an optimal learning environment for all students. Students with more than six unexcused absences will fail the course automatically.
Course Requirements and Grading

The assignments for this course are fairly straightforward. There will be a midterm exam, final exam, a five page essay (specific instructions to be discussed later) on the book *Kingdom of Matthias*, a weekly reading summary and LearnSmart modules. Other evaluations of the course material may be offered for extra credit. Each week, you will complete a one page summary of the assigned readings from one of our two readers. These summaries are your chance to relate the contents of the reading to the topics of our class discussions for the week. These will be due each Thursday. LearnSmart modules are completed online on the course “Connect” website and will be graded by completion. These should be completed by class time each Thursday as well. The material in the textbook is important to understanding the lectures and participation in class. Completing these LearnSmart modules, weekly summaries, and participating in class, together count for 30% of your overall grade. These modules are intended to help you understand the material. The questions are adaptable and they cannot be completed without reading the information prior, so the sooner you read, the better you will perform and the sooner you will get credit for the assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay on <em>Kingdom of Matthias</em></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (December 11, 2012 from 5-7:30 pm)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (LearnSmart, Reading Summaries, Class Discussions. 10% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Conduct

We now live in a technological society, linked by social networks, real time news updates, weather, sports scores and the like, however, we only meet for an hour and a half at the most, at 10:40 in the morning, and few of these issues will be pressing at such an hour. Out of respect for your fellow students, please silence all mobile devices prior to the start of class and remove them from the desk/table to reduce distractions. Tardiness is also a distraction. Rather than interrupt class to harp on the issue, I will just write here that it is very important to be on time. I know that many of you commute by RTS, as do I, but please plan your trips so you will not be late, even if there is some disruption in bus service.

Be aware of the University’s policy on plagiarism. It can be found at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask. Students must conform to UF's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be viewed at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php. All plagiarism will be reported on a Faculty Adjudication Form and forwarded to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.
The class schedule is intended to be read as follows:

**US** = US: A Narrative History  
**RAP** = Reading America's Past  
**SS** = The Slave Ship

- **The Current Overall Topic for this portion of the class**
  - The Current Class week – **Textbook** Weekly Reading Assignment
    - Lesson Number – Date of the Class

### Class Schedule

- **Complicated Contacts**
  - **Week 1** – **US** Chapter 1: The First Civilizations of North America, **SS** Chapter 1 and 2
    - Lesson 1 – August 28th
    - Lesson 2 – August 30th
  - **Week 2** – **US** Chapter 2: Old Worlds and New Worlds, **SS** Chapter 3 and 4
    - Lesson 3 – September 4th
    - Lesson 4 – September 6th
  - **Week 3** – **US** Chapter 3: Colonization and Conflict in the South, **SS** Chapter 5 and 6
    - Lesson 5 – September 11th
    - Lesson 6 – September 13th
  - **Week 4** – **US** Chapter 4: Colonization and Conflict in the North, **SS** Chapter 7 and 8
    - Lesson 7 – September 18th
    - Lesson 8 – September 20th - Movie – “We Shall Remain”
  - **Week 5** – **US** Chapter 5: The Mosaic of Eighteenth Century, **SS** Chapter 9 and 10
    - Lesson 9 – September 25th
    - Lesson 10 – September 27th

- **The Creation of the American People**
  - **Week 6** – **US** Chapter 6: Imperial Triumph and Imperial Crisis, **RAP** Chapter 6
    - Lesson 11 – October 2nd
    - Lesson 12 – October 4th
  - **Week 7** – **US** Chapter 7: The American People and the American Revolution, **RAP** Chapter 7
    - Lesson 13 – October 9th
    - Lesson 14 – October 11th
  - **Week 8** – **US** Chapter 8: Crisis and Constitution, **RAP** Chapter 8
    - Lesson 15 – October 16th – MIDTERM EXAM
    - Lesson 16 – October 18th
  - **Week 9** – **US** Chapter 9: The Early Republic, **RAP** Chapter 9
    - Lesson 17 – October 23rd
    - Lesson 18 – October 25th
The Expansion of American Purpose
- Week 10 – US Chapter 10: The Opening of America, RAP Chapter 10
  - Lesson 19 – October 30th
  - Lesson 20 – November 1st - NO CLASS
- Week 11 – US Chapter 11: The Rise of Democracy, RAP Chapter 11
  - Lesson 21 – November 6th
  - Lesson 22 – November 8th
- Week 12 – US Chapter 12: Afire with Faith
  - Lesson 23 – November 13th
  - Lesson 24 – November 15th

The Crisis of American Conscience
- Week 13 – US Chapter 13: The Old South, RAP Chapter 13
  - Lesson 25 – November 20th - PAPER DUE
  - Lesson 26 – THANKSGIVING
- Week 14 – US Chapter 14: Western Expansion and the Rise of the Slavery Issue, RAP Chapter 14
  - Lesson 27 – November 27th
  - Lesson 28 – November 29th
- Week 15 – US Chapter 15: The Broken Union, RAP Chapter 15
  - Lesson 29 – December 4th
  - December 6th – READING DAY
- December 11th - FINAL EXAM (5-7:30 pm)