

AMH 2010: United States to 1877

T/R 10:40-11:30; CSE E121

Dr. Laura Porter
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Office: Keene-Flint 215
Office Hours: T/R 9:00-10:00 a.m., *or by appointment*

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Mr. Casey Farnsworth, cfarnswo@ufl.edu
Section 2473 (Period 4, FLI 113)
Section 3153 (Period 5, FLI 113)

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Section 2876 (Period 4, FLI 115)
Section 3125 (Period 5, FLI 121)

Course Description: This course introduces students to the major events and themes of American history from the pre-Columbian era through Reconstruction. It covers developments such as European colonization of North America, the founding of the United States, territorial expansion, economic change, political conflict, social patterns, religion, slavery and the Civil War. Lectures, assigned readings, and written and oral participation will help students place these events and patterns in historical context while also raising bigger questions, particularly about the different meanings of “freedom” and the lives of ordinary people in America’s past.

Objectives: by the end of this course, students should:

1. Understand how American politics, culture and society changed over time.
2. Understand history as an act of interpretation and argument based on primary sources.
3. Speak more intelligently and write more clearly about the themes of this course.

Requirements:

Papers, 40% (20% each): You will write **two** papers, four pages each, in response to prompts related to themes in the first two assigned books, respectively. These assignments will require you to interpret and properly cite both primary and secondary sources to support a thesis. More information will be provided on the assignment handouts, distributed two weeks before each paper deadline.

Midterm (20%) and Final (25%): Exams will consist of short-answer identifications and essays. You will receive a study guide in advance with a list of terms and questions drawn from the lectures and assigned readings. You must take notes and complete the readings in order to do well on exams.

Participation (15%): You will earn participation points through your regular attendance and thoughtful comments during discussion sections. To ensure that you keep up with the assigned readings, there will be at least two short reading quizzes, one on Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative* and one on Dew’s *Apostles of Disunion*. Additional pop quizzes may be administered at the discretion of your TA.

Readings:

Required:

- 1) John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story From Early America*, Vintage Books, 1994, ISBN: 9780679759614
- 2) Charles Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*, ISBN: 081392104X
- 3) Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Dover Thrift Editions)*, ISBN: 0486284999

- 4) Eric Foner, ed., *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, ISBN: 9780393922912
5) Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution*, ISBN: 0046442054058

Recommended:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, vol. 1, ISBN: 9780393920338. **Or any other recent textbook.**

Extension and Late Paper Policy: In fairness to other students who abide by course deadlines, paper extensions will not be granted except in extreme cases, and require documentation. Late papers will be **docked a full letter grade for each day it is overdue.**

Attendance Policy: I expect students to attend class regularly except in cases of illness, approved extracurricular activities, and emergencies. You are responsible for locating notes and making up all work in the case of a missed class. Habitual absence, particularly from discussion sections, will be noted and will negatively affect your final grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Electronic Devices: Recent studies have shown that college students retain less information when they use laptops instead of pen and paper, and that open laptops are disruptive to nearby students. When you surf the web or text during class, you undermine your own ability to learn the day's material; it is the same as being physically absent. I encourage you to use pen and paper to take notes, and I reserve the right to ban laptops if they become too disruptive over the course of the semester. Cell phones must be put away and silenced during class. Thank you for your cooperation in reducing classroom distractions.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities request accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Instructor Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Academic Integrity: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

Schedule of Classes:

Week 1: Course Introduction; Contact

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 2, 3, 5; Demos, Chs. 1-2

Week 2: Colonies: Experiments, Expectations, Realities

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 7, 8, 10-12, 17; Demos, Chs. 3-5

Week 3: North American Colonies in the Atlantic World

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 4, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22; Demos, Chs. 6-8

Week 4: American Society and Culture Transformed

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 16, 18, 20, 24, 25; Demos, Ch. 9-Epilogue

Paper 1 due Friday, 1/29 in TA section

Week 5: Empire in Crisis

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 26-30; Young, 1-45

Week 6: Revolution

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 31-37; Young, 46-78

Week 7: Forging a National Republic

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 39-41; 43; 46-49; Young, 79-120

Week 8: Defining the Nation

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 50, 51; Young, 121-142

Thurs. 2/25—**MIDTERM EXAM**

Fri.—No TA sections

2/27 - 3/6: **Spring Break**

Week 9: Migration and the Market Revolution

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 53-57; Young, 143-179

Week 10: American Democracy

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 60-64; Young, 180-207

Paper 2 due Friday, 3/18 in TA section

Week 11: Religion and Reform

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 58, 72-78; Douglass, Preface-p. 34 (Ch. 9)

Week 12: Slavery and the Rise of the South

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 66-71; Douglass, p. 34-76

Reading quiz

Week 13: Expansion, Slavery, and America's Future

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 79-85; Dew, 1-36

Week 14: Division and the Civil War

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 86-93; Dew, 37-81

Reading quiz

Week 15: Reconstruction

Read: Voices of Freedom, sources 94-100

Apr. 21-22: Reading days

FINAL EXAM: Fri., Apr. 29th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.