

**AMH 3421- 8SN9 21466-Florida History from Contact to the Civil War**  
**Fall 2025**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Period (10:40-11:30 AM) and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Periods (10:40 AM - 12:50 PM)**

**Dr. Steven Noll**

Office Hours: M and Wed 10-12 in Keene-Flint 217 and by Appointment either in person or by Zoom.

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E-Mail- **nolls@ufl.edu** **This is the best way to get in touch with me as I check my e-mail more than once a day and will reply promptly.**

Before we discuss the nuts and bolts of the class, I need to talk about how this class will be taught this semester. I hope to engage you through this course with empowerment, agency, community, and care. As a group (professor, grad student grader, and undergrad students), we need to think about meaningful activities beyond the screen that extend the lessons of the course, building in ways students can be co-teachers as well as co-learners, actively contributing to their own education and empowerment, connecting students across the barriers of courses, institutions, and locations. We need to think about what we all can offer one another--curiosity, imagination, knowledge, power--as antidotes to the present disruption, as tools towards helping us not only survive but thrive a bit as we navigate these times. I understand that this learning experience will not be the same as a face to face one. We will experience challenges from technology and interaction that may seem daunting. The key to this is communication- If you have questions, concerns, issues, or problems. PLEASE let me know and we can try to alleviate them as quickly as possible.

This course covers the history of Florida from before European contact to the start of the Civil War. Beginning with the geological formation of Florida, our study will move through the pre-colonial era of native inhabitants, the explorations and settlements of the Spanish and French, the period of British occupation, the reestablishment and end of Spanish rule, and finally the development of a U.S. territory and state, when political boundaries gave Florida its current legally constituted shape.

Surveying the political, economic, social, cultural, and ecological developments of early Florida enlarges our knowledge of early American history more generally. Early Florida history illustrates the geopolitical struggles of the early modern Atlantic World, when European colonial powers jockeyed in position to establish a foothold in the Americas. At the same time, Florida was the meeting place of multiple cultures from 3 continents- Europe, Africa, and North America.

It is important that you keep up on the assigned readings, as they provide a basis for your knowledge. They supplement, rather than duplicate, class lectures and discussions. Your grade for this course will be determined in the following manner-

Final Blog assignment-	20%
Midterm-	20%
2 Quizzes-	20 % (each will be worth 10%)
2 Book Reviews	10% (each with be worth 5%)
Biography assignment	10%
Primary Source assignment	10%
Readings	10%

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale. There may be extra credit available

	A	93-100	A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	68-69	D	66-67	D-	64-65
F	<64				

These grading policies tie to UF general grading policies which can be found at- <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

All assignments will be graded, commented on, and available for you to see as soon as possible. The midterm which will be turned in October 16 at 11:59 PM will be graded, commented on, and available for you to see by October 23. If there are problems with this schedule on my end, I will let you know immediately.

The midterm exam will be given on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> on Canvas to be turned in by 11:59 PM that night. It will be composed of essay questions and short IDs. The final blog assignment will be turned in on the scheduled day of the class exam, Thursday, December 11, through canvas by 11:59 PM of that date. There will be no final exam given. The 2 quizzes will consist of multiple choice & ID questions- the dates are listed in the syllabus. You will be given information on the other two assignments and the final paper in the first two weeks of the semester.

I encourage questions and class discussions. Please do not hesitate to ask both factual and interpretive questions. If you have specific questions on the subject matter or on grading, please e-mail me or come see me during office hours. Though no specific percentage of your grade will be determined by class participation, I will consider it if you are on the borderline between two grades.

**“This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please see .” (The direct link is [https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/.\)](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/.))**

**These include**

- **Attendance and make-up policies**

- **Disability Resource Center information**
- **Assigning grade points**
- **Gator Evals**
- **Honesty policy**
- **In-class recording**
- **Academic and wellness resources**

### **Books and Syllabus**

The 3 books for this course will be available on-line & at the UF Bookstore. If you have any problems in buying the books, please let me know as soon as possible.

The books are:

1. Florida: A Short History. Michael Gannon (University Press of Florida, 2003).  
**Florida** in syllabus
2. Black Society in Spanish Florida. Jane Landers (University of Illinois Press, 1999)
3. The Maroons of Prospect Bluff and their Quest for Freedom in the Atlantic World.  
Nathanile Millett (University Press of Florida, 2013.)

There will also be required course reserve readings on-line from the Florida Historical Quarterly & edited books on Florida history. These will be listed in the syllabus as **FHQ** & available through the UF library's web page at

<https://login.ufl.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword>

Once you create an account, you can access the readings for this course. This may seem difficult, but it is actually easy & it certainly saves you the expense of purchasing a course pack of readings. There are 11 required readings from this reserve system. Book readings are to be finished by the end of the week they are assigned. Each week there is an assignment from the course reserve list, you are to hand in a one page synopsis of the assigned. You may take ONE pass from this assignment (there are 11 articles- you need to hand in 10 assignments- but you need to READ ALL the pieces). These 10 assignments are worth 10 % of your grade. Grading on the assignment is simple- you will either get a 1, a .5, or a 0. All I am looking for here is that you do the reading and tell me about it. The assignments will be graded with comments before the next scheduled class.

You can also access these reading through the Course Reserves link in the left side menu of our Canvas class home page. HOWEVER, that link does not work currently in Chrome & the UF IT gurus are trying to fix that. Therefore, if you want to access the articles through Canvas, you must use Firefox as your browser- Sorry!

### **Weekly Syllabus & Readings-**

It is important that you keep up on the readings, as they will provide the base knowledge for class lectures and discussions.

### **Week One Intro- August 21**

### **Week Two August 25-29- Beginnings**

Lecture & Discussion: Course introduction

Lecture & Discussion: Florida's natural environment

Read- **Florida- xi-3**

Week Three- **September 1-5** - When the Old World was the Only World (Maybe)

Guest Lecture- September 4- Dr. Ken Sassaman

Video- <https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/television/episode/4> Windover Dig

Video- <https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/television/episode/24> Canoe

Archaeology

Video- <https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/television/episode/16> Pre-Columbian Contact

Read- FHQ- **The Historical Archaeology of Sixteenth-Century La Florida**  
Kathleen A. Deagan

Week Four- **September 8-12** -The Meeting of Two Worlds

Lecture & Discussion: French and Spanish explorations

Lecture & Discussion: Early Settlements

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRdpEB9Lcmk> Indigenous Peoples

Video- <https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/television/episode/11> Luna Expedition

Read- **Florida- 3-17**

Read – FHQ- **"That Demonic Game": The Campaign to Stop Indian Pelota Playing in Spanish Florida, 1675-1684** Amy Bushnell

Week Five- **September 15-19**-The First Spanish Foothold

Lecture & Discussion: The role of the Spanish missions

Lecture & Discussion: Spanish Settlement in St. Augustine

Guest Lecture- September 18- Dr. Susan Parker

**Quiz One- Thursday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**

Read- FHQ- **Colonialism on the Spanish Florida Frontier: Mission San Luis, 1656-1704** Bonnie G. McEwan

Week Six- **September 22-26**- Imperial Rivalries in Florida

Lecture & Discussion: Spanish, French, and English

Lecture & Discussion: The British Occupation

Guest Lecture- September 25- Dr. Jessica Harland-Jacobs

Short Video- <https://www.pbs.org/video/andrew-turnbull-most-reviled-man-colonial-florida-9kj5oq/?continuousplayautoplay=true> Andrew Turnbull

Read- **Florida- 18-24**

Read- FHQ- **In My Mother's House: Dowry Property and Female Inheritance Patterns in Spanish Florida** Susan Richbourg Parker

Week Seven- September 29-October 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish Period

Lecture & Discussion: Establishing a new province

Lecture & Discussion: Land grants, economy, and the Anglo population

Guest Lecture- October 2- Dr. Jim Cusick

Read- **Florida**- 24-27

Read- *Black Society in Spanish Florida*- Jane Landers- 1-135

Week Eight- October 6-10- Black Life in Spanish Florida

Lecture & Discussion: Free blacks and black women

Guest Lecture- October 9- Dr. Jane Landers

Lecture & Discussion: Enslaved blacks

Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYybsYkJu9M> Fort Mose

Read- FHQ- **Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose: A Free Black Town in Spanish Colonial Florida** Jane Landers

Read- *Black Society in Spanish Florida*- Jane Landers-136-253

**Book Review of *Black Society in Spanish Florida* Due- Thursday, October 9 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**

Week Nine- October 13-17 Contemplating Florida Landscapes: First-Person Observations

Lecture & Discussion: William Bartram and John James Audubon in Florida: Envisioning Paradise

Video- <https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/television/episode/15> Bartram & Audubon

No class on Thursday October 16- midterm

**Midterm Exam- Thursday, October 16th- to be turned in through canvas by 11:59 PM**

Week Ten- October 20-24- From Atlantic World Province to U.S. Territory

Lecture & Discussion: U.S. acquisition and designs

Lecture & Discussion: Territorial politics

Guest Lecture- October 23 Dr. Mike Denham

Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyRIbzKSs-w> Free Black Settlements

Read- **Florida**- 27-32

Read- FHQ- **The Radicalism of the First Seminole War and its Consequences** Nathaniel Millett

Read- *the Maroons of Prospect Bluff*- Nathaniel Millett- 1-126

Week Eleven- October 27-October 31 Florida's New Indians

Lecture & Discussion: Seminoles and Miccosukees  
Guest Lecture- October 30- Dr. Andrew Frank  
Lecture & Discussion: The African-Indian matrix  
Podcast- <https://myfloridahistory.org/sites/myfloridahistory.org/files/florida-frontiers-radio-show/FFProgram037.mp3> Excavation of a Black Seminole Village  
start at 22:00

Read- FHQ- **"Looking For Angola": An Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Search for a Nineteenth Century Florida Maroon Community and its Caribbean Connections** Rosalyn Howard

Read- *The Maroons of Prospect Bluff*- Nathaniel Millett- 127-261

**Book Review of *The Maroons of Prospect Bluff* Due- Thursday, October 30 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**

**Week Twelve- November 3-7- The Longest War Ever**

Lecture & Discussion: The Seminole wars

Lecture & Discussion: Red, white, and black

Guest Lecture- November 6- Dr. Larry Rivers

Library class- November 6- more on this as the semester progresses

Read- **Florida**-32-35

Read- FHQ- **"The Indians Are Scattering, I Fear": Mobility and Power in the Second Seminole War** Christine A. Rizzi

**Primary Source Assignment Due- Thursday, November 6 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**

**Week Thirteen- November 10-14- The Ascendancy of Middle Florida and statehood**

Lecture & Discussion: Creating a Deep South landscape—Life and Labor

Lecture & Discussion: Statehood

**NO CLASS ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11- VETERANS DAY**

Read- **Florida**-36-40

Read- FHQ- **"Some Prefer the Seminoles": Violence and Disorder among Soldiers and Settlers in the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842** James M. Denham

**Week Fourteen- November 17-21- Florida in Black and White**

Lecture & Discussion: Life and labor in antebellum Florida

Guest Lecture- November 20- Dr. Michele Navakas

Podcast- <https://myfloridahistory.org/sites/myfloridahistory.org/files/florida-frontiers-radio-show/ffprogram201.mp3> The Trial of Jonathan Walker  
start at 16:20

Read- FHQ- **"A Class of People Neither Freemen nor Slaves": From Spanish to American Race Relations in Florida, 1821-1861** Daniel L. Schafer

**Obituary/Biography Assignment Due- Thursday November 20 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**

**There will be no classes the week of November 24-28- Happy Thanksgiving**

**Week Fifteen- December 1-3 Towards the Civil War**

Lecture & Discussion: Joining in disunion

Podcast- <https://myfloridahistory.org/sites/myfloridahistory.org/files/florida-frontiers-radio-show/FFProgram012.mp3> The Last Slave Ships on Key West

Start at 19:30

**Read- Florida-40-46**

Read- FHQ- **Runaway Slave Advertisements in Antebellum Florida: A Retrospective** Matthew J. Clavin

**Quiz 2- Tuesday December 2 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**  
**Last Day of Class- Tuesday- December 2**

**Final Blog Due-Thursday, 12/11/2025 turned in through Canvas by 11:59 PM**