History 109
American History to Reconstruction
Fall 2012
21505, 21506, 21507, 21508, 21509, 21510, 21511, 21512, 21513, 21514, 21515, 21516, 21517, 21518

Class Days: MWF
Class Times: 10-10:50 (sections W 11-11:50 or F 10-10:50)
Class Location: AL 201

Professor: Edward J. Blum
Contact Information: eblum@mail.sdsu.edu
Office Hours Days: MW
Office Hours Times (and by appointment): 11:00-1
Office Hours Location: AL 525

Course Overview

United States history from pre-colonial societies to Reconstruction. Contact of cultures, patterns of settlement, contests over racial, ethnic, religious, class, gender, regional, and national identities and institutions. Satisfies the American Institutions requirement in American history and United States Constitution.

Beginning with the encounters between Native Americans and European explorers, this course extends to the aftermath of the American Civil War. It will consider the landing of European settlers, the transformation of Native American societies, the enslavement, exploitation, and creativity of African captives and their descendents, the rise of the women’s rights movement, several wars, two or three revolutions, and maybe even the origins of baseball. We will look at the faltering progress of democracy, the frustrations of free government, the settling of the West, the building of an industrial nation, and of course the Great Rebellion (also known as the Civil War, the War Between the States, or the Confederate Revolution). Throughout the course, we will pay special attention to figures who have been often ignored as important historical characters.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand principal debates of historians on American colonization, the origins of the American Revolution, the rise of American industry, and the origins of the Civil War.
- Students will understand historical relationships between the age of European exploration and colonizing of North America, economic and sectional change, and slavery and the Civil War.
- Students will recognize diversity of cultures and groups in the shaping of the American past.
- Students will analyze primary and secondary sources in American history.
- Students will argue in writing and speaking as professional historians do.

Enrollment Information

- No prerequisites

Course Materials

Please provide information about the materials for the course including, but not limited to:
- Required Materials (including all acceptable text editions)
  - Kevin Schultz, Hist: Volume 1 (2011)
Course Structure and Conduct

Week 1: Introduction

August 27: Syllabus and Overview

August 29: Old Worlds Collide

Discussion: “Getting to Know You”

- (check blog every day; there will be posts, information, and ideas there; material there will be used for quizzes and will often have clear hints for quiz material)

Week 2: The Age of Encounter

September 3: NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

September 5: Confusion, Conflict, and Contact

Discussion:

- Hist, chapter 1

Week 3: Colonial Outposts

September 10: Colonial Outposts

September 12: The English in America

Discussion

- Major Problems, chapter 1
- Hist, chapter 2

Week 4: Colonial Development

September 17: Growth and Movement

September 19: Expansion (America, The Story of Us, Season 1, Episode 1)

Discussion:

- Major Problems, chapter 2
• *Hist*, chapter 3

**Week 5: Toward Independence**

September 24: An Empire of Troubles

September 26: Colonial Unity

Discussion:

• *Major Problems*, chapter 3
  • *Hist*, chapter 4

**Week 6: The War for Independence**

October 1: The Revolutionary War

October 3: The Revolutionary War

Discussion:

• Essay #1 Due in Discussion
  • *Major Problems*, chapter 4
  • *Hist*, chapters 5-6 (note that 2 chapters are listed here!!!)

**Week 7: The New Nation**

October 8: Creating a Government

October 10: Re-creating a Government

Discussion

• *Major Problems*, chapter 5
  • *Hist*, chapter 7

**Week 8: The Early Republic**

October 15: Washington and the Federalists

October 17: The Federalists Falter

• *Major Problems*, chapter 6
  • *Hist*, chapter 8

**Week 9: Republican Reign**

October 22: Thomas Jefferson and the Republicans
October 24: Expansion and Power (America, *The Story of Us*, Season 1, Episode 3)

Discussion

- *Major Problems*, chapter 7
- *Hist*, chapter 9

**Week 10: Antebellum America**

October 29: The Rise of Andrew Jackson

October 31: Westward Movement

Discussion

- *Major Problems*, chapter 8
- *Hist*, chapter 10

**Week 11: Antebellum America**

November 5: Westward Migration

November 7: The Problems of the West

Discussion:

- Essay #2 Due in Discussion
- *Major Problems*, chapter 9
- *Hist*, chapter 11-12

**Week 12: Toward Disunion**

November 12: NO CLASS – VETERAN'S DAY

November 14: Slavery in the West (Ken Burns, *The Civil War*)

Discussion

- *Major Problems*, chapters 11-12 (note that we skipped chapter 10 and that we’re doing two chapters here!!!)
- *Hist*, chapter 13-14

**Week 13: The Civil War and Reconstruction**

November 19: The Civil War Begins

November 21: The Civil War Continues
No discussion this week ... but still have reading

- *Major Problems*, chapters 13-14 (note that we’re doing two chapters here)
- *Hist*, chapter 15

**Week 14: The Civil War and Reconstruction**

November 26: The Civil War Ends

November 28: Reconstruction Begins

Discussion

- *Major Problems*, chapter 13
- *Hist*, chapter 16

**Week 15: Reconstruction**

December 3: Reconstruction Continues

December 5: Reconstruction Ends

Discussion

- *Major Problems*, chapter 15

**Essay #3** Due: Monday, December 10

**Course Assessment and Grading**

Grade Breakdown:

Your grade will be based upon three areas: quizzes, discussion, and essays. Failing to turn in one of the essays or missing more than half of the reading quizzes will result in an automatic failure of the class.

- Your discussion grade will be assessed by two factors: 1) attendance at section; 2) participation at discussion.
- The quizzes will be based upon the course reading and lectures (many hints for quiz material will be in blog reading).
- Your essays will consist of learning how to put together a history paper – with appropriate footnotes, a thesis/argument, clear prose, and thoughtful analysis.
- For extra credit, you may take advantage of one of these two events. Attend one of Professor Blum’s talks on his new book (Tuesday, September 25 at San Diego State University and/or Wednesday, October 10 at downtown public library). Obtain a copy of the book and write a 2-3 page paper in which you select one primary document from *Major Problems* and analyze it with regard to themes within *The Color of Christ*. You can receive anywhere from 0 to 5 total points toward your final grade for this.
Quizzes: 15%

Discussion: 15%

Essay 1: 20% (due week of October 8 in section)

Essay 2: 25% (due week of November 5 in section)

Essay 3: 25% (due December 10 to your TA office)

Extra Credit: 0-5 points toward your final grade

Other Course Policies

Plagiarism:

ACHTUNG! WARNING!! Monstrous, Evil, Lethal Criminal Acts

If you're sick of this institution, one of the best ways OUT of it is to cheat or plagiarize in my class. Any work you claim as your own that comes from another person or lacks what I consider adequate acknowledgment of their contribution is cheating. Copying another person's paper -- copying off their test -- is cheating, too. Crib sheets are cheating, when used during an examination. Anyone caught will RUE THE DAY. He or she will get a zero on the work, an F in the course, and I will do all I can to have them expelled or suspended from this university. I've done it before. I'll do it again.

For SDSU’s policies on cheating, see <http://infotutor.sdsu.edu/plagiarism/index.cfm>