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HSTA 101H.00: American History I

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American History I

HSTA 101/103—Fall 2014

Lecture: M/W/F 10:10-11:00; Discussion Sections: T/R

Room: Urey Lecture Hall (ULH) 101

Professor Kyle G. Volk

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Office Hours: F 11:10am-12:30pm and by appointment

TAs: Tim Ballard (tim.ballard@umontana.edu); Chelsea Chamberlain (chelsea.chamberlain@umontana.edu); April Gemeinhardt (april.gemeinhardt@umconnect.umt.edu); Jared Norwood (william.norwood@umontana.edu); Rob Rutherford (robert.rutherford@umontana.edu); James Vaughn (james.vaughn@umconnect.umt.edu); Randall Williams (randall1.williams@umconnect.umt.edu)

Course Description: This introductory course surveys the history of the United States from the opening of the Atlantic World to the post-Civil War era (pre-1492 to 1877). It is designed to provide students with a firm grounding in early American history with which to base future study. Topics include conquest, colonization, and cultural exchange; imperial crisis, the American Revolution, and the American constitution; political economy and the market revolution; religion and reform; slavery, sectionalism, and Civil War; emancipation and the problem of freedom. Introducing students to what it means to “think historically” and fostering the development of critical thinking skills through the interpretation and discussion of primary and secondary sources are key course goals.

Required texts (available for purchase at the UM Bookstore):

- Edward Ayers, et. al., *American Passages*, Vol. 1 [Compact 4th Ed.] (2010) – Course Textbook
- Randy J. Sparks, *The Two Princes of Calabar* (Harvard, 2004)
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* [1776]
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* [1845]

Other course readings are available on the course’s MOODLE site. Please print and bring these documents to your discussion sections. Print out all of the documents early in the semester to avoid any technical problems later on. Course site: moodle.umt.edu/course/view.php?id=5901

Learning Outcomes:

- An overview of the general narrative, major themes, and questions in early American history
- Enhancement of critical reading, historical thinking, and analytical writing skills

Keys to Success:

- 1.) Faithfully attend all lectures and your discussion section. Know your teaching assistant’s name.
- 2.) Diligently take notes (while reading; and during lectures and discussion).
- 3.) Participate actively, intelligently, and respectfully in discussion sections. This means both talking with *and* listening to your classmates. Neither dominate nor disappear from discussions.
- 4.) Carefully prepare for class. Complete assigned readings and take time to think critically about each text in its specifics, in its entirety, and as it relates to lectures and other readings.
- 5.) Thoughtfully consider (and write answers to) the discussion questions posted on the MOODLE site before attending your discussion section.
- 6.) Extensively prepare for the 3 exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance & Decorum:

- 1.) Missing lecture will be at your own peril but be advised that the one day you miss may cover a significant portion of the exam. Again, diligent note taking is imperative to your success.
- 2.) It should go without saying that respectful and courteous behavior (to your classmates, teaching assistants, and the instructor) is required at all times. Be sure to turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices that might distract you and others. Laptop computers and other such electronic devices are not permitted in either the lecture hall or discussion sections. Please

see the instructor should you have special needs. Please do not send text messages or carry on conversations with others in class. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior in either lecture or discussion will be reflected in your grade.

- 3.) Missing discussion sections will adversely affect your Quiz/Participation Grade. (see below)
- 4.) Come to your discussion section with the readings in hard copy. Failure to do so will adversely affect your grade.

2. Graded Assignments:

- A.) Reading Quizzes (10%) – The TAs will administer simple quizzes at the beginning of discussion sections to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading. Materials will be drawn from both the textbook and the other readings. Students can use any separate notes they have taken for these quizzes but cannot refer to the original text.
- B.) Discussion Participation (10%)
- C.) 2 In-Class Mid-Terms (20% first exam; 25% second exam)
- D.) Final Exam (35% of final grade)

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students must practice academic honesty. It should go without saying that all the work you do in this course should be your own. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade in this course. The academic dean will also be notified and offenses could result in expulsion. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code: www.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php. If you have questions, ask the instructor or your teaching assistant BEFORE turning in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities will receive reasonable modifications. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice and to be prepared to provide verification of disability from Disability Services for Students. Please speak with me after class or during my office hours to discuss the details. For more information, visit www.umt.edu/dss.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

➤ Section I: The Opening of the Atlantic World

WEEK 1 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 1 (read now)

M (8/25) – Introductions & Overview

W (8/27) – The Old “New World” & the Exploratory Impulse

F (8/29) – The Columbian Exchange & Biological Conquest

T/R Discussion Reading (Image available on MOODLE site):
Amerigo Vespucci et l’Amerique (1589)

WEEK 2 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 2 (read by Tuesday)

M (9/1) – No Lecture – Labor Day

W (9/3) – English Colonization & the Starving Time

F (9/5) – Puritan Conquest, Puritan Piracy

T/R Discussion Reading (All available on MOODLE site):
Richard Hakluyt, “Discourse on Western Planting” (1584)
Roger Williams, *A Key into the Language* (1643)
Mary Rowlandson, *Captivity of Rowlandson* (1682)

WEEK 3 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 3 (read by Monday)

M (9/8) – Tobacco, Rebellion, & the American Paradox

W (9/10) – The Slave Trade & New World Slavery

F (9/12) – Fur Trade & the Commercialization of Native America

T/R Discussion Reading – Sparks, *Two Princes of Calabar*, 1-89.



WEEK 4 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 4 (read by Monday)

M (9/15) – Uniting the British Empire
 W (9/17) – The Enlightened Atlantic
 F (9/19) – Empires in Conflict

T/R Discussion Reading – Sparks, *Two Princes of Calabar*, 90-147.

WEEK 5—EXAM WEEK

M (9/22) – No Lecture–Study Day – TAs hold office hours, 10am-12
 W (9/24) – No Lecture–Study Day – TAs hold office hours, 10am-12
F (9/26) – In-Class Mid-Term Exam I

T/R Discussion Section: Map Exam & Friday Exam Preparation

➤ **Section II: Revolutionary America****WEEK 6 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 5 (by Monday)**

M (9/29) – Imperial Crisis & the Origins of Revolution
 W (10/1) – Beyond the Ideas: Social Roots of Revolution
 F (10/3) – *Mary Silliman's War*, Pt. 1

T/R Discussion Reading – Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

WEEK 7 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 6 (by Monday)

M (10/6) – *Mary Silliman's War*, Pt. 2
 W (10/8) – Creating the American Republics
 F (10/10) – The Contagion of Liberty

T/R Discussion Reading (Available on the MOODLE site):
 Petitions by African Americans in New England
 Abigail and John Adams, Letters on Women's Rights
Mary Silliman's War (We will also discuss the movie)

* **Extra Credit:** Attend the Swanberg Lecture on Military History on Thursday, October 9th

WEEK 8 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 7 (read by Monday)

M (10/13) – “The Critical Period” & the Origins of the Constitution
 W (10/15) – Making Sense of the Constitution
 F (10/17) – American State, American Empire

T/R Discussion Reading (Available on the MOODLE site):
 James Madison, “Vices of the Political System” (1787); James Madison, *Federalist 10*
 Mercy Otis Warren, *Observations on the Constitution* (1788)

WEEK 9 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 8 (read by Monday)

M (10/20) – Politics & Dissent in the Early Republic
 W (10/22) – Jeffersonian Empire of Liberty
 F (10/24) – Crisis and Rebirth of the Republic

T/R Discussion Reading (Available on the MOODLE site):
 Documents in “Securing the Republic, 1790-1815”

WEEK 10—EXAM WEEK

M (10/27) – No Lecture–Study Day – TAs hold office hours, 10am-12
 W (10/29) – No Lecture–Study Day – TAs hold office hours, 10am-12
F (10/31) – In-Class Mid-Term Exam II

T/R Discussion Section – Chronology Exam / Friday Exam Prep.

➤ **Section III: A House Dividing****WEEK 11 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chaps. 9 & 10 (read by Monday)**

M (11/3) – Making Sense of the “Market Revolution”
 W (11/5) – America's First Age of Reform
 F (11/7) – The Rise of American Democracy

T/R – **No Discussion Sections This Week** – Election Day

** Begin Reading Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* [Book]

WEEK 12 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 11 (read by Monday)

M (11/10) – Radical Abolitionists
 W (11/12) – The Slave Market
 F (11/14) – The Proslavery Argument

T/R – **No Discussion Sections This Week** – Veterans Day

** Continue Reading Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* [Book]

WEEK 13 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chs. 12 & 13 (read by Monday)

M (11/17) – Manifest Destiny & the Impending Crisis
 W (11/19) – Crisis of the 1850s
 F (11/21) – Secession Crisis

T/R Discussion Reading – *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

WEEK 14 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chs. 14 & 15 (by Monday)

M (11/24) – The Transformation of the Civil War
 W (11/26) – No Class – Thanksgiving
 F (11/28) – No Class – Thanksgiving

T/R – **No Discussion Sections This Week** – Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 15 – Textbook Reading: Ayers, Chapter 16 (by Monday)

M (12/1) – Casualties of War
 W (12/3) – The World the War Made, Pt. 1
 F (12/5) – The World the War Made, Pt. 2

T/R Discussion Reading (Available on the MOODLE site):
Slavery & Freedom: Selections, 1-17

FINALS WEEK – Final Exam – Thursday, 12/11, 8-10AM