

HIST 2111
UNITED STATES HISTORY I (TO 1865)
SPRING SEMESTER 2016

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild

Office: TLC 3103 (Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, noon-1:55, 4:55-5:25, 6:55-7:25, or by appointment)

Office telephone: (678) 839-6508 (messages only)

E-mail address: mhild@westga.edu (Send e-mails directly to this address; do not use Course Den to send e-mails.)

Required books:

George Brown Tindall and David Emory Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 9th ed., Vol. 1
ISBN 978-0-393-91266-1

Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, eds., *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*, second edition ISBN 0-312-41599-0

Course description and learning outcome:

This course will utilize lectures, reading assignments, and occasionally films to examine the social, political, and economic history of the United States prior to 1865. Topics will include colonial settlement, the American Revolution and the Constitution, antebellum expansion, slavery and the southern plantation economy, the forced resettlement of Native Americans, and sectional conflict and the Civil War. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of American history from this era.

Exams, assignments, and grading:

--There will be three multiple choice examinations in this course, including a non-comprehensive final exam. Each exam will consist of fifty questions, and each exam will constitute one fourth (25%) of the course grade. **Students must purchase a long-form (100 question) green and white Scantron sheet at the UWG bookstore or at the concession stand on the first floor of the TLC building and bring that form to class on the date of each exam along with a # 2 pencil.** Makeup exams will only be given to students who provide documentation verifying a valid excuse (illness, car accident, court summons, death in the family). Makeup exams will be written rather than multiple choice.

--There will also be an open-book, written exam on *The Cherokee Removal* which will be administered in class on Wednesday, April 13. This exam will count for one fourth (25%) of the course grade.

--During a class period before each exam, a documentary video will be shown pertaining to some topic(s) in United States history relevant to the era being covered by that exam. Any student who writes an acceptable paper of about 600 words (typed and double-spaced) summarizing that documentary in his or her own words will receive up to five bonus points on that exam. The paper must be turned in (in typed and printed form, not electronically) no later than the beginning of the class period on the date of that exam. These three papers will be the only

opportunities for extra credit in this course. There are no “make-ups” for the extra credit opportunities.

--Each student’s course grade will be determined according to the following scale, with no exceptions:

A=89.50 or above

B=79.50-89.49

C=69.50-79.49

D=59.50-69.49

F=less than 59.50

Classroom etiquette:

All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class.

For information regarding accommodations for disabilities, UWG e-mail policy, credit hour policy, and the honor code, please see this link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and exam dates:

The chapters and page numbers listed below refer to the textbook (*America: A Narrative History*).

Week 1 (Jan. 11 & 13) Monday--Course introduction; Wednesday--Whose “New World” and Why: Native Americans, Europeans, and Colonial Conquest
Reading assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (Jan. 20)
Topic: Growth and Conflict in the Colonies
Reading assignment: Chapter 3

Week 3 (January 25 & 27)
Topics: British Mercantilism and the Seeds of Colonial Dissent; From the French and Indian War to the American Revolution
Reading assignment: Chapter 4

Week 4 (Feb. 1 & 3)
Topic: The American Revolution
Reading assignment: Chapter 5

Week 5 (Feb. 8 & 10)
Topic: The Creation of a Nation, 1781-1788
Reading assignment: Chapter 6

Week 6 (Feb. 15 & 17)

Exam # 1, Monday, February 15 (covers material from weeks 1 through 5)

Wednesday: The Bill of Rights and the Turbulent 1790s (Read chapter 7.)

Week 7 (Feb. 22 & 24)

Topic: From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812

Reading assignment: Chapter 8

Week 8 (Feb. 29 & March 2)

Topic: The So-Called “Era of Good Feelings”

Reading assignment: Chapter 10

Week 9 (March 7 & 9)

Topic: The Age of Jackson

Reading assignment: Chapter 11

Week 10 (March 14-18) SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (March 21 & 23)

Topic: Antebellum Agriculture, Industry, and Technology

Reading assignment: Chapter 9

Exam # 2, Wednesday, March 23 (covers material from weeks six through eleven)

Week 12 (March 28; class will not be held on March 30 due to honors day ceremonies)

Topics: The Second Great Awakening, Antebellum Reform Movements, and Manifest Destiny

Reading assignment: Chapter 13 plus pp. 423-444

Week 13 (April 4 & 6)

Topics: The Mexican War; the Old South and the “Slavery Question”

Reading assignment: Chapter 12 plus pp. 445-461

Week 14 (April 11 & 13)

Monday: From the Compromise of 1850 to the Election of 1860 (or, the Path to the Civil War)

Reading assignment: pp. 461-491

Wednesday, April 13: Exam on *The Cherokee Removal*

Week 15 (April 18 & 20)

Topic: The Civil War (or War Between the States, 1861-1865)

Reading assignment: Chapter 16

Final exam:

HIST 2111/05 (the 2:00 class) Monday, April 25, 2:00

HIST 2111/09 (the 5:30 class) Monday, April 25, 5:00

You must take the final exam with your own class section (section switching not allowed).