

HIST 2111
UNITED STATES HISTORY I (TO 1865)
FALL SEMESTER 2017

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild

Office: TLC 3103 (Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-1:55, 4:50-5:20, 6:50-7:20, 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:

David Shi & George Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 10th ed., Vol. 1
ISBN-13: 978-0393265972

Sean Wilentz, *Andrew Jackson* ISBN 978-0-8050-6925-9

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 biography of Andrew Jackson which will be administered in class on Thursday, November 16. 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, as well as other general information about classroom policies, please see this link:

https://www.westga.edu/academics/assets/docs/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 (August 10) Course introduction

Week 2 (August 15 & 17) Topic: Whose “New World” and Why: Native Americans, Europeans, and Colonial Conquest

Reading assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 (August 22 & 24)

Topic: Growth and Conflict in the Colonies

Reading assignment: Chapter 3

Week 4 (August 29 & 31)

Topics: British Mercantilism and the Seeds of Colonial Dissent; From the French and Indian War to the American Revolution

Reading assignment: Chapter 4

Week 5 (September 5 & 7)

Topic: The American Revolution

Reading assignment: Chapter 5

Week 6 (September 12 & 14)

Topic: The Creation of a Nation, 1781-1788

Reading assignment: pages 198-219 (stop when you get to the section titled “The Federalist Era”)

Week 7 (September 19 & 21)

Exam # 1, Tuesday, September 19 (covers material from weeks 1 through 5)

Thursday: The Bill of Rights and the Turbulent 1790s (Read pages 219-243.)

Week 8 (September 26 & 28)

Topic: From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812

Reading assignment: Chapter 7

Week 9 (October 3)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 9

Week 10 (October 10 & 12)

Topic: The Age of Jackson

Reading assignment: Chapter 10

Week 11 (October 17 & 19)

Topic: Antebellum Agriculture, Industry, and Technology

Reading assignment: Chapter 8

Exam # 2, Thursday, October 19 (covers material from weeks 7 through 11)

Week 12 (October 24 & 26)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 12 plus pp. 464-487

Week 13 (October 31 & November 2)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 11 plus pp. 488-493

Week 14 (November 7 & 9)

Tuesday: From the Compromise of 1850 to the Election of 1860 (or, the Path to the Civil War), part 1

Reading assignment: Chapter 14

Thursday: CLASS CANCELED

Week 15 (November 14 & 16)

Topic: From the Compromise of 1850 to the Election of 1860, part 2

Thursday, November 16: Exam on Andrew Jackson biography

November 20-24 Thanksgiving break

Week 16 (November 28 & 30)

Topic: The Civil War

Reading assignment: Chapter 15 plus pages 579-586 (stop when you get to the section titled "Johnson's Plan")

Final exam:

HIST 2111/02 (the 2:00 class) Tuesday, December 5, 2:00

HIST 2111/03 (the 3:30 class) Thursday, December 7, 2:00

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