

History 2111: American History to 1865
Fall 2017 100% Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
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Phone: 678-839-6032 (email preferred)

Office Hours

Please see the CourseDen for the daily schedule as it changes each week.

Course Objectives

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. This class puts less emphasis on dates and figures and more focus on change over time, the cause and effects of those changes, and specifically why those changes took place. Topics include but are not restricted to colonization, expansion, warfare, slavery and the slave trade, emancipation, immigration, gender, industrialization, and the changing role of the United States in foreign affairs. In order to examine American History from a well-rounded point of view, much of this class will take an Atlantic perspective in order to fully understand the peoples, events, and cultures that influenced and impacted this part of America's past.

This course is a 100% online course using CourseDen and your computer as the delivery medium. You are not required to attend class face to face. The midterm and final exams will both be taken online, and there will be no proctored exams for this course.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of American history.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to think historically through their understanding of the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of United States history; comprehension of causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; or awareness of the social significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events and study.
- Students will also demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, or political development of the people and institutions of the United States.

Special Note

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:

https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

This link contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Course Readings: There is no specific textbook for this course. That means you don't have to buy a book! Everything you need to read, I have provided for you. You're welcome.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

COMPUTER ACCESS

It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access, preferably a home computer with broadband Internet access. This course can be completed using public computers at UWG or other public access areas. However, be aware that using public computers may create a hardship. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

You should be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor (changing font, spell check)
- using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary
- navigating the Internet

Online Help

- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

UWG|Online HelpDesk (M-F 8-5pm) Phone: 678-839-6248

Their Email: online@westga.edu

24/7 HelpDesk <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The course will be evaluated on a 10-pt scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59-0.

Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, reading, writing, analytical and critical thinking skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. There will be no extra credit offered in this class, so don't ask. Grade calculations are as follows:

- Exams 60%
- Historical Figure Facebook Page Project 10%
- Quizzes 10%
- Class Participation 20%

Exams

You will have **two essay exams** over the course of the term, with each exam constituting 30% of your final grade or a total of 60% combined. Late exams or exams submitted outside of the Exam Dropbox will not be accepted. If you miss an exam for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. Failure to turn in that make-up exam within one week's time of it being scheduled will result in a 0. If you come to me at the end of the semester and have not made up an exam and request a make-up for a previously missed exam, the answer will be NO. More info on these exams will be given as we get closer to each exam.

Historical Figures Facebook Page Project

You create a Facebook page about the historical figure of your choice for a total of 10% of your final grade. Please see the Historical Figure Facebook Page Project Module in CourseDen for more information on what is required of this project, as well as how it will be graded. Late and/or emailed assignments will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse.

Class Participation

There are a total of **6 unit discussions** based on that unit's course material, with each discussion receiving a separate grade that will be applied towards your class participation grade. Grades received for your **mandatory introduction** and **student contract quiz** will also be counted towards your class participation grade. Each Online Unit Discussion will be graded on a 25 point scale. Late posts will not be counted towards your unit discussion grades. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

Unit Quizzes

Each unit has a 20 question quiz based on that unit's materials. Each quiz is timed and will be counted as a combined 10% of your final grade. Late Unit Quizzes that exceed the time allotted or are taken after the Unit Quiz deadline will receive a grade of 0.

Extra Credit Student Assessment Quizzes

There are **2 student assessment quizzes** that will be administered this semester. **These are not graded quizzes.** Instead, these are in-house assessment quizzes that the Department of History is administering in order to assess what you learn over the course of the semester.

- ❖ Students who take the first Student Assessment Quiz will receive 5 extra credit points on their Midterm Exam.
- ❖ Students who take the second Student Assessment Quiz will receive 5 extra credit points on their Final Exam.

A Note about Submitting Assignments to CourseDen

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All submitted assignments must be submitted in MS word format. Papers should be double-spaced and be written in size 12 Times New Roman font, black text, with 1" margins. Parenthetical references of (pg) are required for all paraphrased or directly quoted information. The usage of any source outside of CourseDen is not allowed.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS LATE OR OUTSIDE COURSE DEN: Late assignments submitted after the scheduled deadline or outside of the Assignments Dropbox will not be accepted unless you have a properly documented excuse. **Late assignments submitted without proper documentation will receive a 0. Please note that this rule is written in stone.**

THE RETURN OF GRADED WORK: Assignment grades will be posted within a week of the due date. Discussion grades will be posted within one week of the date of the discussion's end.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit offered in this class outside of that stated on the syllabus or by the professor.

IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

It is **your responsibility** to see that your assignments have posted to CourseDen properly. Please check to make sure that your assignment was uploaded correctly and appears in the appropriate Assignment Dropbox. **It is your responsibility to confirm that your assignments have been submitted properly to the Assignment Dropbox.**

In the event that you are having computer/wifi difficulties, please find an alternative source. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.** You are submitting items over the Internet, and sometimes the Internet Gods get angry and withhold access. There are many things that can go wrong in the path between your computer and CourseDen. Technical problems related to computer connections or equipment cannot be used as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate online. **It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online.** Please be aware of alternate Internet connections and computers available through college computer labs, college Learning Resource Centers (libraries), the public library, and any friends, relatives, or neighbors and access them if my personal computer equipment is not working.

A Note about Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words. This includes paraphrasing, which may not be taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin**, and plagiarizers will automatically fail the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action. Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. **In short, don't do it.** See CourseDen for details on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Content Module.

Tentative Course Outline

August 9-27: Unit 1 – Conquest and Settlement

- ❖ Mandatory Participation Deadline. Introduction and Student Contract Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, August 16. **Failure to participate by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.**
- ❖ Student Assessment Quiz 1 due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, August 16. Students who take this quiz will receive 5 points extra credit on their Midterm Exam.
- ❖ Unit 1 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, August 27
- ❖ Unit 1 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, August 27

August 28-September 13: Unit 2 – The American Revolution

- ❖ Unit 2 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, September 13
- ❖ Unit 2 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, September 13

September 14-30: Unit 3 – Nationalism and Sectionalism

- ❖ Unit 3 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, September 30
- ❖ Unit 3 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, September 30

October 1-4: Midterms

- ❖ Midterms due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, October 4

October 5-6: Fall Break

October 9-25: Unit 4 – Westward Expansion and the 1850s

- ❖ Unit 4 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, October 25
- ❖ Unit 4 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, October 25

October 26-November 8: Unit 5 – Antebellum Slavery

- ❖ Unit 5 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, November 8
- ❖ Unit 5 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, November 8
- ❖ Historical Figure Facebook Page due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, November 8

November 9-29: Unit 6 – Civil War and Reconstruction

- ❖ Thanksgiving Break: November 20-24
- ❖ Unit 6 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, November 29
- ❖ Unit 6 Quiz due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, November 29
- ❖ Student Assessment Quiz 2 due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, November 29. Students who take this quiz will receive 5 points extra credit on their Final Exam.

November 30-December 5: Final Exams

- ❖ Final Exam due by 11:59 PM EST, Tuesday, December 5
- ❖ Grades will be submitted to the Registrar by 12 Noon, Monday, December 11