

# History 2111: Honors American History to 1865

## Spring 2018 Hybrid Course

### T/TH 5:30P-6:45P Boyd 206

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos  
Office: TLC 3208  
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Phone: 678-839-6032 (email preferred)

#### Office Hours

- In TLC 3208: 3P-5P Thursdays
- ONLINE: 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 is a hybrid course.**

50% of this course will take place online using CourseDen, with your computer as the main delivery system. It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer 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).

#### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be expected to:

- Identify and explain the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of US history.
- Interpret primary and/or secondary sources.
- Examine topics and issues from diverse perspectives.
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Demonstrate superior oral and written communication skills.

#### Course Readings

- Alex Myers, *Revolutionary* (Simon & Schuster) ISBN: 145166334X
- Octavia Butler, *Kindred* (Beacon) ISBN: 0807083690
- Supplemental Readings: See Individual Units in CourseDen for details.

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](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 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 at [cvasconc@westga.edu](mailto:cvasconc@westga.edu) or in Courseden. Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

**UWG|Online HelpDesk** (M-F 8-5pm) \*Phone: 678-839-6248 \*Email: [online@westga.edu](mailto: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 35%
- Book Papers 20%
- Historical Figures Facebook Project 10%
- Instagram Project 10%
- Online Class Participation 15%
- In Class Participation 10%

### Exams

You will have **two essay exams** over the course of the term, with each exam constituting 20% of your overall grade or a total of 40% combined. Late exams or exams submitted outside of the Exam Assignment Dropboxes will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse. If you miss an exam for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. More info on these exams will be given as we get closer to each one.

### Book Papers

Rather than write a more traditional book reviews of the two books assigned for this class, you will instead write **two separate 5-page review papers** on each of these books that follows a certain list of questions provided by me in the Class Projects and Assignments Module. Each paper constitutes 10% of your overall grade or a total of 20% combined. Late papers or papers submitted outside of the Assignment Dropbox will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse. If you miss a paper for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for an extended deadline.

### Historical Figures Facebook Page Project

For this project, you will **create a Facebook page about the historical figure of your choice** for a total of 10% of your overall grade. Please see the Class Projects and Assignments Module in CourseDen for more information on what is required of this project, when it is due, where it should be submitted, and how it will be graded. Late and/or emailed assignments will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse. If you miss this assignment deadline, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for an extension.

### Instagram Project

For this project, you are tasked with creating an Instagram Account specifically for this assignment and uploading a total of **8 photos, 1 per unit, that you feel are representative of the theme of that unit**. The photos can be photos that you yourself have taken, or they can be images of things that you have found online (with photo credit given). The photos, which are to be linked or posted in the Discussion Forum labeled Instagram Project, are due at the end of each unit and comprise a collective 10% of your overall grade. Late and/or emailed photos will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse. Please see the Class Projects and Assignments Module in CourseDen for more information on what is required of this project, as well as how it will be graded. If you miss a photo deadline, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for an extension.

### Class Participation

Although this is a hybrid class, we will meet each Thursday in Boyd where each student is expected to participate actively on a daily basis. Class participation is not attendance, but actual participation in the class discussion of the day. Therefore, even if you come to class everyday, but don't say a word, at most, you will be given a 70 for your class participation grade. Any class participation must stay on topic, unless it relates directly to the subject at

hand. Comments to the contrary will be classified as disruptive, and you will be asked to refrain from making comments such as these in the future. If it continues, you will be asked to leave class.

As this is a hybrid class, class participation for this course will have two formats: In-Class and Online. I do not take attendance, so be advised that in-class participation is measured by participation in class discussion and not by your silent presence in class each week.

In-Class participation is 10% of your grade and will be graded as follows:

- 100: Substantial comments every class, outstanding participation
- 90: Participate regularly in the class discussion, but not every class meeting
- 85: Participate occasionally, with worthwhile insight and good questions
- 80: Commented once or twice over the course of the semester
- 70: no comments made

Online Discussions are 10% of your grade as well, and 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 in CourseDen for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

### 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 COURSEDEN:** 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.

### 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.

#### Federal Privacy Laws and Grades

I cannot discuss grades or course progress with any student via email or over the phone. It must be in person. Furthermore, I cannot discuss grades or your progress in the course with your parents at all. If you would like to discuss any of your exam grades, your overall grade, or your progress in the course, it must be in person and I am happy to do so at any time. Just make an appointment and we'll talk.

#### Other Class Rules:

- No Tobacco Products of any kind, eCigarettes, or vapes
- Cell phones on vibrate and/or silent only. If it rings in class, I reserve the right to answer it! Be considerate and present in class...keep texting to a minimum.
- Be on time and stay for the entire class. If you need to leave early or come late, please let me know ahead of time. It's rude to do otherwise.

# Course Outline

## Unit 1 – January 8-19: Conquest and Settlement

### In-class Meeting Days:

- Tuesday, January 9
- Thursday, January 18

### Unit Deadlines:

- Mandatory Participation Deadline by 12P, Friday, January 12. See Unit 1 for details.
- Unit 1 Discussion due by **9:59 PM EST**, Friday, January 19
- Unit 1 Instagram Photo due by **9:59 PM EST**, Friday, January 19

## Unit 2 – January 20-31: Early American Slavery

### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, January 25

### Unit Deadlines:

- Unit 2 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, January 31
- Unit 2 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, January 31

## Unit 3 – February 1-15: The American Revolution

### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, February 1
- Thursday, February 8
- Thursday, February 15 (discuss *Revolutionary*)

### Unit Deadlines:

- Unit 3 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, February 15
- Unit 3 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, February 15
- *Revolutionary* essay due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, February 18

## Unit 4 – February 16-March 1: Nationalism and Sectionalism

### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, February 22
- Thursday, March 1

### Unit Deadlines:

- Unit 4 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, March 1
- Unit 4 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, March 1

Midterms – March 2-5 Midterms due by 11:59 PM EST, Monday, March 5

### **Unit 5 – March 5-14: Westward Expansion**

#### **In-class Meeting Days:**

→ **Thursday, March 8**

#### **Unit Deadlines:**

- Unit 5 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, March 14
- Unit 5 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, March 14

### **Unit 6 – March 15-30: Antebellum Slavery**

#### **In-class Meeting Days:**

→ **Thursday, March 15**

→ **Thursday March 29 (discuss *Kindred*)**

#### **Unit Deadlines:**

- Spring Break: March 19-23
- Unit 6 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, April 1
- Unit 6 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, April 1
- *Kindred* Essay due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, April 1

### **Unit 7 – April 2-14: The 1850s**

#### **In-class Meeting Days:**

→ **Thursday, April 5**

→ **Thursday April 12**

#### **Unit Deadlines:**

- Unit 7 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, April 14
- Unit 7 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, April 14

### **Unit 8 – April 15-27: Civil War and Reconstruction**

#### **In-class Meeting Days:**

→ **Thursday, April 19**

→ **Thursday April 26**

#### **Unit Deadlines:**

- Unit 8 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, April 27
- Unit 8 Instagram Photo due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, April 27
- Historical Figure Facebook Page due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, April 27

### **Other Deadlines:**

Final Exam Due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, May 2