

**HIST 2111**  
**UNITED STATES HISTORY I (TO 1865)**  
**FALL SEMESTER 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild

Office: TLC 3103 (Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:45-3:25, 4:55-5:25, 6:50-7:05 P.M.)

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

Required books:

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

Theda Perdue, ed., *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., ISBN 978-1-04902-7

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 20 percent 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 Thursday, November 21. This exam will count for 30 percent of the course grade.

--There will also be a short, written quiz on Thursday, September 5, to assess students' level of engagement with and understanding of course material covered during the first three weeks. This quiz will count for 10 percent of the course grade.

--During a class period before each multiple choice 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 no less than 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](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and test dates:

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

Week 1 (August 15) Course introduction

Week 2 (August 20 & 22) Topic: Whose “New World” and Why: Native Americans, Europeans, and Colonial Conquest

Reading assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 (August 27 & 29)

Topic: Growth and Conflict in the Colonies

Reading assignment: Chapter 3

Week 4 (September 3 & 5)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 4

**Quiz on Thursday, September 5**

Week 5 (September 10 & 12)

Topic: The American Revolution

Reading assignment: Chapter 5

Week 6 (September 17 & 19)

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 24 & 26)

**Exam # 1, Tuesday, September 24 (covers material from weeks 1 through 5)**

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

Week 8 (October 1; no class on October 3 due to fall break)

Topic: From the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812

Reading assignment: Chapter 7

Week 9 (October 8 & 10)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 9

Week 10 (October 15 & 17)

Topic: The Age of Jackson

Reading assignment: Chapter 10

Week 11 (October 22 & 24)

Topic: Antebellum Agriculture, Industry, and Technology

Reading assignment: Chapter 8

**Exam # 2, Thursday, October 24 (covers material from weeks 7 through 11)**

Week 12 (October 29 & 31)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 12 plus pp. 464-487

Week 13 (November 5 & 7)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 11 plus pp. 488-493

Week 14 (November 12 & 14)

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

Reading assignment: Chapter 14

Week 15 (November 19 & 21)

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

**Thursday, November 21: Exam on *The Cherokee Removal***

November 25-29 Thanksgiving break

Week 16 (December 3 & 5)

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:**

**3:30-4:45 class .....Thursday, Dec. 12, 2:00-4:00 pm**

**5:30-6:45 class .....Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:00-7:00 pm**

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