

California State University, Sacramento
2021 Summer Program
HIS 105 Introduction to American History

Course Outline

Course Code: HIS 105

Instructor: Brandon C. Downing

Home Institution: Marietta College

Office Hours: by appointment

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Credit: 3

Course Objectives:

An introduction to the history of what is now the United States from early encounters between Native Americans and Europeans in the sixteenth century to the end of the Reconstruction. As a class, we will examine the most important topics that are central to the understanding of early American History. This course will critically analyze how New England fisherman, Philadelphia merchants, and Carolinian planters formed a cohesive national identity, often in conflict with Others – Native Americans, African slaves, and competing imperialistic peoples of other European empires.

Format:

This course will utilize both primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the dynamics of change over time, generate a historical argument, apply historical knowledge and analysis to contribute to contemporary social dialogue, and to understand that the ethics and practice of history means recognizing and building on other scholars' work, peer review, and citation. For most weeks, there will be lectures and a video that you will have to take notes, a primary source that requires a short, written paper based on two questions, an academic article to read in preparation for a discussion, and a quiz taken at the end of each week to test your mastery over the material. There will be a final paper based on race, class, and gender due at the end of the session. I will utilize other media and experiential-learning exercises when and where it is appropriate.

Course Policies:

1. **Attendance:** It is virtually impossible for you to excel in higher education without regard to regular classroom attendance. Attendance will be kept by the TA. If regular attendance becomes a problem, you can expect it to adversely affect your final grade at the end of the course. Moreover, it is expected that you arrive in the classroom on time and prepared for class.
2. **Respect:** It should go without saying that all use of cell phones, computers, or any other electronic devices not directly related to the lecture or assignment for that particular class will not be tolerated. Be

respectful by either not bringing them to class or turning them off during the entire class period. The same goes for food. All views and values are to be respected without interruption during the class. Although we may have different opinions, the classroom is a place where we should recognize that these differences are an asset rather than an impediment.

3. **Academic Integrity:** Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be your own. The direct and unattributed use of another's efforts, however, is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Ask me if you are unsure of any potential violation to this policy. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will receive a disciplinary penalty of a zero on that particular assignment. I reserve the right to amend this policy based on the extent of the dishonesty.

4. **Coursework:** You will be graded on attendance, participation, class discussions, quizzes, primary source papers, and a final paper. All work is to be completed on time without exception. Quizzes and discussions cannot be made-up unless a valid excuse is presented and documented.

Course Requirements:

Attendance	10
Participation	40
Discussions	100
Quizzes	100
Primary Source Papers	80
Final Paper	70
TOTAL	400

Grade Grade Points

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7

Grade Descriptions:

Attendance (10 Points): Attendance is kept by the TA during every class for a total of 10 points for the session. Missing more than three classes will result in an automatic zero score. A score lower than 8 points automatically denies any make up work or extra credit unless approved documentation is presented.

Participation (40 Points): Participation is graded during each class and evaluated on an overall weekly basis. You should do your best to reply to general questions asked throughout the lecture, when discussing the primary sources, and after watching videos. If you use your cell phone, sleep, talk during the lecture, or use any electronic device not associated with the course content for that day, you should expect it to negatively impact your overall participation score.

Discussions (100 Points): There are four discussions at the end of each week based on academic articles listed under the required reading. It is expected that you read the entire article and come to class prepared to discuss it with your classmates. Each discussion is worth 25 points. If you do not participate during the discussion, you will receive a score of zero for that class. In order to gain points, you should attempt to answer, raise questions, counterargue, or add to the dialogue three or four times during the discussion to maximize your score.

Quizzes (100 Points): There are four quizzes administered during the session. Each quiz is worth 25 points. A variety of methods will be used to evaluate your understanding of the course material: multiple choice, matching, map identification, short answer, and essay are possible for each quiz.

Primary Source Papers (80 Points): There is a primary source each week and all will be available to you prior to the start of the session. You will be required to write a response paper based on two questions provided in a thoughtful, coherent narrative [double-spaced, 1” inch margins, and 12” Times New Roman font]. I will provide you with an assessment rubric and examples of what is expected for you to receive the full 20 points for each paper.

Final Paper Project (70 Points): A 4-5 page final paper [double-spaced, 1” inch margins, and 12” Times New Roman font] is required at the end of the four-week session. The paper is based on race [“Indians and Invaders” and “Slavery’s Converging Ground”], class [“Rebel against Rebel”], and gender [“Forgetting the Women”] and is worth 70 points. More instructions regarding the paper will be covered in class.

Required Reading:

William Cronon, “Indians and Invaders” in *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (Hill and Wang, 1983).

Gregory E. O'Malley, “Slavery's Converging Ground: Charleston's Slave Trade as the Black Heart of the Lowcountry,” *The William and Mary Quarterly* 74, 2 (April 2017): 271-302.

Woody Holton, “‘Rebel against Rebel’: Enslaved Virginians and the Coming of the American Revolution,” *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 105, 2 (Spring 1997): 157-192.

Frances M. Clarke, “Forgetting the Women” *Journal of Women's History* 23, 2 (2011): 64-86.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1: EARLY AMERICA

TUES:	Introductions/Syllabus
	Primary Source Exercise

WED:	Native America
	Primary Document: Columbus, “Letter to the Sovereigns”
THUR:	Spanish and French Invasion
	Video: <i>Jamestown Dead Secrets</i>
FRI:	Quiz I
	Discussion 1: Cronon, “Indians and Invaders”

WEEK 2: COLONIAL AMERICA

MON:	Chesapeake Colonies
	Primary Document: Bacon, “Bacon’s Manifesto”
TUES:	New England Colonies
	Mid-Atlantic Colonies
WED:	Southern Colonies
	Video: <i>The Black Atlantic, 1500-1800</i>
THUR:	The Seven Years’ War
	American Leviathan
FRI:	Quiz II
	Discussion 2: O’Malley, “Slavery’s Converging Ground”

WEEK 3: REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA

MON:	Origins of the American War for Independence
	Primary Document: Adams, “About the Boston Massacre”
TUES:	Americans Declare Independence
	The Revolutionary War –North (Part I)
WED:	Video: <i>The American Revolution – South (Part II)</i>
	The Confederation Years
THUR:	1800 Revolution
	Trans-Appalachian Expansion and the War of 1812
FRI:	QUIZ III
	Discussion 3: Holton, “Rebel against Rebel”

WEEK 4: CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION

MON:	Manifest Destiny and Sectionalism
	Primary Document: O’ Sullivan, “Manifest Destiny”
TUES:	Eve of Destruction
	A House Divided
WED:	King Cotton
	Video: <i>The Age of Slavery</i>
THUR:	American Civil War
	Reconstruction
FRI:	Quiz IV
	Discussion 4: Clarke, “Forgetting the Women”