



Shih Chien University

STP Program (Dec 22-Jan 16)

HIS 110 American History I

Course Outline

Course Code: HIS 110

Instructor: Susan Hinely, JD, PhD

Home Institution: State University of New York at Stony Brook

Office Hours: TBA

Email: susan.hinely@stonybrook.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours:

The course comprises a total of 144 instructional hours, consisting of 50 hours of lectures, 30 hours of professor office hours, 20 hours of TA-led discussion sessions, 10 hours of review sessions, and 34 hours of supplementary classes.

Prerequisites: N/A

Course Description

This course offers a broad survey of United States history from the pre-colonial era through the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Central themes include the dispossession and displacement of Indigenous Peoples by European and Euro-American settlers, the development and limitations of democratic institutions, and the origins and lasting consequences of slavery in the United States. Over the semester, students will also be introduced to the methods and practices of historical inquiry—what historians study, how they construct interpretations, and why historical narratives change over time.

Academic Inquiry: Shih Chien University
Disclaimer: Course schedule is subject to change.



Course materials will include a general survey text, a scholarly monograph, and selected primary source documents. Through these readings and related assignments, students will:

- Develop knowledge of significant events and historical processes in U.S. history up to 1877.
- Explore how histories are shaped by perspectives of race, class, gender, and power.
- Gain insight into the historian's craft by analyzing primary sources, engaging with historiographical debates, and writing interpretive essays supported by evidence.
- Strengthen critical thinking skills by evaluating arguments, questioning assumptions, and reconsidering widely held narratives about the American past.

Course Textbook

- Jill Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States* (W. W. Norton, 2018).
- Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello* (W. W. Norton, 2009).
- Additional primary source materials will be provided by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Examinations: A midterm and a cumulative final examination will be administered. Both exams will include essay and short-answer components, as well as an oral consultation with the instructor. Written portions must be submitted in Word (.doc/.docx) format so the instructor can provide direct comments; PDF submissions will not be accepted.

Homework, Exercises, and Quizzes: Occasional quizzes and written assignments will be given throughout the term. These must also be submitted in Word document format. Students may be asked to discuss their work with the instructor to confirm the independence and originality of their submissions.

Discussion Participation: Active attendance and participation are expected during weekly discussion sessions. Students should come prepared to engage thoughtfully with the lectures and assigned readings. Attendance will be recorded.



Evaluation:

Discussion Participation	10%
Quizzes and Exercises	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Grading System (1 ~ 100):

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Course Schedule:

Week One

Session 1: Course Introduction; Pre-Columbian North America

Reading: Lepore (JL), xii–xx; 3–25

Session 2: The Columbian Exchange

Reading: JL 25–45; Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

Session 3: Pre-Columbian Europe; Early European Expansion

Reading: JL 45–65

Session 4: European Colonization Continued; West Africa Before Contact; The Atlantic Slave Trade; Early Claims to Liberty

Reading: JL 65–71; Duarte Lopez, *A Report on the Kingdom of Kongo*

Session 5: The Language of Liberty; The Great War for Empire; Colonial Resistance

Reading: JL 73–91

Session 6: The War for Independence

Reading: JL 91–108; Phillis Wheatley, *To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth*



Session 7: The Constitution of the United States I

Reading: JL 109–119

Week Two

Session 8: The Constitution II; Introduction to the Hemings Family

Reading: JL 119–131; Gordon-Reed (GR) 11–13, 37–52, 668–671

Session 9: The Constitution III

Reading: JL 131–142

Session 10: Gender, Race, and the Ideal of Domesticity

Reading: GR 91–102

Session 11: Separate Spheres and Slavery

Reading: GR 153–156, 241–248, 264–275, 360–375

Session 12: *The Hemingses of Monticello* I

Reading: GR 397–413, 455–463, 540–544, 651–662

Session 13: *The Hemingses of Monticello* II

Reading: (Instructor will assign specific pages or review prior readings)

Session 14: The Global Contagion of Liberty

Reading: JL 142–149

Week Three

Session 15: One Nation, Two Parties; The Marshall Court

Reading: JL 150–168

Session 16: Western Expansion; Religion in a Secular Republic

*Reading: JL 168–188; Red Jacket, *Testimonial in Defense of Native Religions* (1805)*

Session 17: Western Expansion, Presidential Politics, and Slavery

Reading: JL 188–231

Session 18: Midterm Review

Midterm Examination

Session 19: Abolition, Salvation, and Emancipation

Reading: JL 232–238

Session 20: Abolition and Women's Rights

Reading: (Assigned by instructor)

Session 21: Slave Resistance, Technology, and Manifest Destiny

Reading: JL 238–247



Week Four:

Session 22: Texas and 1848. JL: 247-258.

Session 23: The Rending of the Republic. JL: 258-271. Sojourner Truth, *Speech to the Women's Convention*, 1851.

Session 24: The Face of Battle I. JL: 271-296.

Session 25: The Face of Battle II. JL: 296-307.

Session 26: The New Constitution and Reconstruction. JL: 307-330. U.S. Constitution, Amendments 13, 14, 15.

Session 27: 1876 and the End of Reconstruction. JL: 330-339.

Session 28: Final Exam Review.

Final Exam

Academic Integrity and Class Policies

- Students are expected to complete all course work with honesty and integrity. Submitting work produced by another person or by an AI system as one's own is a violation of academic standards. Any use of material not created by the student must be properly cited.
- Violations of academic integrity will result in serious consequences, which may include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or dismissal from the program.
- Exercises, quizzes, and examinations must be submitted by the stated deadlines to receive full credit.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, watch lecture recordings attentively, take thorough notes, and rely exclusively on course materials when preparing responses to assignments and exams.

Online Learning Policy

Active and consistent engagement is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to view all recorded lectures while taking notes, complete all assigned readings, submit required assignments and examinations, and participate fully in scheduled synchronous discussion sessions. Attendance will be recorded during discussion meetings. Students may be asked to participate in an oral consultation with the instructor to verify the independence and originality of submitted exams, papers, and exercises.