

American History I

HIS 111-01; Fall 2008
Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:00am-9:50am; ARH 120

Michael Guenther

Dept. of History
Mears 316; 269-9816
guenthmb@grinnell.edu
Office Hours: M, W: 10:00-11:50am.

Course Overview

This course offers a survey of American History prior to 1877, focusing on developments in politics, culture, economics, social relations, and ideology in the diverse areas that became the United States . Together we will explore how and why historical change took place from the period of pre-contact through Reconstruction. We will also consider why diverse historians have constructed such different portrayals of early America society and its evolution. So as the semester progresses, you should be thinking critically about what forces or factors caused change in the past as well as the reasons why historians, themselves, have changed their interpretations over time.

One of our main tasks in this class will be to learn to analyze how power was gained, held, distributed, and contested throughout early American history. Some of the key questions we will be exploring include: What forms of power existed in society, and how were they maintained? How did new groups and individuals gain access to power? How did people contest their exclusions from power? What were the consequences of being in or out of power? How and why did power relations change over time?

Throughout the semester, we will examine such historical questions by analyzing a wide variety of primary documents and scholarly accounts. The design of the course—from the reading and written assignments to the discussion format—are intended to foster the critical skills and methods that are the foundation of historical analysis. Students will learn how to evaluate historical arguments about the past, to identify the methods and assumptions that inform such arguments, to critically analyze historical sources, to articulate and debate their insights, and to construct their own meaningful interpretations of the past.

Required Texts

All required books are available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore. A copy of each text (except the Documents Set) is also on two-hour reserve at Burling Library.

John Mack Faragher, et. al, *Out of Many: A History of the American People*, 5th ed., Vol. 1 (2006).

Faragher, et. al., *Out of Many Documents Set*, 4th ed. (2003).

Victoria Brown and Timothy J. Shannon, *Going to the Source*, 1st ed., Vol. 1 (2004).

Daniel Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (2001).

Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America* (1994).

Course Requirements

Class Participation & Attendance (25% of Total Grade)

Class discussion provides our main opportunity to examine and debate the complexities of American History. It is crucial, therefore, that students come to each class fully prepared to participate and discuss the topics at hand. This involves not only completing the assigned readings prior to class, but also taking some time to think through the particular issues and questions that emerge from each text. Since class participation will count for 25% of your grade, please make a serious effort to engage the readings and contribute your thoughts, perspectives, and questions during each class.

Any unexcused absences from class will be taken into account when computing your participation grade at the end of the semester. Please contact me if a college-sponsored activity or a medical/personal issue prevents you from attending class, and have the relevant office (Health Services or Student Affairs) do the same.

Two short papers, September 15 & October 6 (20% of Total Grade)

These short papers (2-3 pages in length) will require you to engage critically with primary sources, analyzing these documents in light of the larger historical issues and themes of the course. I will post the assignments on Pioneer Web about 10 days before each deadline. All papers must be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point font with consistent citations. Additional paper guidelines will be discussed in class.

Five page paper, November 14 (20% of Total Grade)

This longer paper will allow you to engage with a historical issue in greater depth. You will be evaluated on your ability to construct a persuasive and well-organized argument that incorporates the appropriate evidence and interpretive points. I will post the topic on Pioneer Web two weeks before the deadline. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point font with consistent citations. Additional paper guidelines will be discussed in class.

Midterm exam, October 13 (15% of Total Grade)

The midterm exam will be comprised of both historical identifications and short essays. Students will be allowed to bring in one double-sided sheet of notes to assist them during the exam.

Final exam, December 18 (20% of Total Grade)

The final exam will consist of historical identifications, short answer questions, and an essay. The final exam will not be cumulative. Rather, it will cover the material and issues that we discuss after the midterm exam. Students will be allowed to bring in one double-sided sheet of notes to assist them during the exam.

Late assignments:

Late papers will receive a deduction of 1/3 of a letter grade per day. Exceptions will be made for legitimate medical or personal issues, but you should seek an extension as early as possible. Students who miss an exam will only be allowed to take a make-up exam if they provide the appropriate documentation from Health Services or Student Affairs.

Disabilities

If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support & Advising, Joyce Stern, whose office is located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).

Grades

Your cumulative grade for the course will be calculated according to the following formula:

Short Paper #1	10%
Short Paper #2	10%
Five Page Paper	20%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Class participation	25%

Significant improvement over the course of the semester will be taken into account when assigning your final grade.

Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

Week 1

Fri (Aug. 29): Introduction & Discussion of Syllabus
No Reading Due

Week 2 Power and the Clash of Cultures

Mon (Sept. 1): **Indigenous Cultures and Communities**
Reading Due: Out of Many (OOM) Ch. 1; Documents Set, #1.1-#1.4, #1.6-#1.7

Wed (Sept. 3): **Contact or Conquest?**
Reading Due: Richter, Facing East, pp. 1-68

Fri (Sept. 5): **Patterns of Colonization**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 2; Documents Set, #2.3, #2.5, & #2.7;
Hakluyt, "Inducements to Voyage" (Blackboard)

Week 3 Comparing Power Structures in Seventeenth-Century America

Mon (Sept. 8): **The Emergence of Creole Societies**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 3; Documents Set, #3.4-#3.6, #3.9;
Winthrop, "Reasons for the Plantation in New England"
(Blackboard)

Wed (Sept. 10): **Passenger Lists: The Demographics of Colonization**
Reading Due: Going to the Source (GTS), pp. ix-xiii, Ch. 2.

Fri (Sept. 12): **Living with Others: Native American/Colonial Relations**
Reading Due: Richter, Facing East, Ch. 3. Documents Set, #3.3 & #3.10;
"Bacon's Rebellion Documents" (Blackboard)

Week 4 Imperial Bonds: Life & Labor in the Eighteenth-Century British Empire

Mon (Sept. 15): **Slavery & Empire**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 4 & pp. 113-114; Documents Set, #4.2-#4.8;
Mittelberger, "Passage of Indentured Servants" (Blackboard)
(Short paper due in class)

Wed (Sept. 17): **Adjusting to an Imperial World**
Reading Due: OOM, pp.116-136; Richter, Facing East, Ch. 5

Fri (Sept. 19): **Colonial Runaways**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 3; Documents Set, #5.3, #5.4, #5.6; Washington, "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior" (Blackboard)

Week 5 *Crisis, Conflict, and the Formation of New Identities*

- Mon (Sept. 22): **Reason & Revival: Cultural Transformations in Anglo-America**
Reading Due: OOM, pp. 136-143; Documents Set, #5.7; “Great Awakening Documents” (Blackboard); Hamilton, “Itinerarium” (Blackboard)
- Wed (Sept. 24): **The French and Indian War**
Reading Due: OOM, pp. 148-154; GTS, Ch. 4
- Fri (Sept. 26): **The Politics of Identity & Exclusion**
Reading Due: Richter, Facing East, pp. 189-216; Breen, “Ideology and Nationalism” (Blackboard)

Week 6 *A World Turned Upside Down: The American Revolution*

- Mon (Sept. 29): **Assessing the Origins & Nature of the American Revolution**
Reading Due: OOM, pp. 154-174; Documents Set, #6.1-#6.9
- Wed (Oct. 1): **Political Culture & Popular Participation**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 5; *Newspaper Assignment*
- Fri (Oct. 3): **The Struggle for Independence**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 7; Richter, Facing East, pp. 216-33; Documents Set, #7.1- #7.5

Week 7 *Republican Experiments*

- Mon (Oct. 6): **Creating the Constitution**
Reading Due: OOM, pp. 208-216; Documents Set, #7.7-#7.9, #8.1, & #8.2; U.S. Constitution (Appendix: A-3 through A-8)
(Short paper due in class)
- Wed (Oct. 8): **Assessing Political Debates**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 7
- Fri (Oct. 10): **Politics and Society in the Early Republic**
Reading Due: OOM, pp. 216-233; Documents Set, #8.4-#8.8;

Week 8 *Equality & Citizenship in the New Nation*

- Mon (Oct. 13): **Mid-Term Exam**
- Wed (Oct. 15): **The Question of Female Citizenship**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 6; Kerber, “The Revolution and Women’s Rights” (Blackboard)

Fri (Oct. 17): **The Question of Slavery**
Reading Due: Jefferson, “Notes on the State of Virginia” (Blackboard)

Fall Break (October 18-26)

Week 9 Commerce & Warfare: The Rising Power of the Republic

Mon (Oct. 27): **The Expanding Republic**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 9; Documents Set, #9.1, #9.2, #9.6, #12.1

Wed (Oct. 29): **The Crucible of War**
Reading Due: Watts, “The Republic Reborn” (Blackboard)
Documents Set, #9.3-#9.5, #9.8

Fri (Oct. 31): **Putting Nature to Work**
Lecture (No Reading Due)

Week 10 Democracy and Power

Mon (Nov. 3): **The Growth of Democracy?**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 11; Documents Set, #10.1, #10.2, #10.8

Wed (Nov. 5): **Indian Removal**
Reading Due: Richter, Facing East, pp. 223- Epilogue; Documents Set, #10.3-
#10.5; “Removal Documents” (Blackboard)

Fri (Nov. 7): **George Catlin’s West**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 10; OOM, pp. 28-29

Week 11 Social and Economic Power

Mon (Nov. 10): **The Political Economy of the North**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 12; Documents Set, #12.2-#12.7

Wed (Nov. 12): **The Political Economy of Slavery**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 10; Documents Set, #11.2-#11.9

Fri (Nov. 14): **Assessing “King Cotton”**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 9
(5 page paper due in class)

Week 12 *Prophets of Reform: The Power of Piety in Antebellum America*

Mon (Nov. 17): **The Second Great Awakening and the Roots of Reform**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 13; Documents Set, #10.8, #12.8, #13.3, #13.6-#13.9

Wed (Nov. 19): **Feminizing the Word: Gender and Evangelical Culture**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 11; Johnson & Wilentz, Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 3-47

Fri (Nov. 21): **The World of Robert Matthews**
Reading Due: Johnson & Wilentz, Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 49-90

Week 13 *Messianic Visions*

Mon (Nov. 24): **The Rise and Fall of Matthias' Kingdom**
Reading Due: Johnson & Wilentz, Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 91-179

Wed (Nov. 26): **Manifest Destiny and Continental Expansion**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 14; Documents Set, #14.3, #14.5-#14.7; #14.9

Thanksgiving Recess (November 27-30)

Week 14 *A Nation Divided*

Mon (Dec. 1): **The Crisis of the 1850s**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 15; Documents Set, #15.1-#15.7

Wed (Dec. 3): **The Scope and Meaning of the Civil War**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 16; Documents Set, #16.1-#16.6, #16.8;
"Why they Fought," (Blackboard)

Fri (Dec. 5): **Visualizing the War**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 13; Documents Set, #16.7

Week 15 *The Promises and Perils of Reconstruction*

Mon (Dec. 8): **Reconstructing the South**
Reading Due: OOM, Ch. 17; Documents Set, #17.2-#17.8, #17.11

Wed (Dec. 10): **The Politics of Terror**
Reading Due: GTS, Ch. 14; OOM, pp. 510-511; Documents Set, #17.9, #17.10

Friday (Dec. 12): **Assessing Reconstruction from a Comparative Perspective**
Reading Due: Hahn, "Postemancipation Societies," (Blackboard)

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16th (9:00am)