

History 105: American History I

Section 001 Spring 2013

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an introductory survey of early U.S. history. We will begin with the age of exploration and then examine the diversity of colonial life as it developed in British America. The middle section of the course focuses on colonial unrest, the American Revolution, and the growth of the new United States. We will finish by exploring America's expansion west, the crises this created between the sections, and the momentous impact of the Civil War on American society.

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the diversity of geography and cultures in North America.
- Observe documents and art and use it to describe the development of North America.
- Gain experience with primary sources and their analysis in historical research.
- Understand the effects of inter-group and trans-Atlantic contacts through time.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Divine, Robert A., Breen, T.H., Frerickson, George M., Williams, R. Hal, Gross, Ariela J., Brands, H.W., Roberts, Randy. *America: Past and Present*. Brief 8th Ed. Combined Vol. Boston: Pearson, 2011.
- There will be additional materials on Blackboard.
- You will also be accessing study plans, podcasts, primary documents, and other items via a link to the publisher's web site that can be accessed through our class page.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Quizzes (100pts) There are 13 reading quizzes on Blackboard. The lowest **three** quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. These quizzes will become available at 8:00 am a week before they are due and will close at midnight on the day it is due. You will have 2 attempts of 30 minutes each to complete each quiz. The highest score is sent to the grade book. There will be **no** make-ups.

Papers (80pts) You will be writing two short essays this semester (3 to 5 pages in length). These will be found in the Assignment folder and will be due by midnight, unless otherwise indicated (**September 20 and November 8**). Each essay will be worth 40 points. The essays must be submitted in E-Campus directly or as an attachment. Specific instructions will be forthcoming. An essay is a formal paper and must conform to proper standards of academic writing, (i.e.: typed, double-spaced, twelve point font, 1" margins, etc). I am a stickler for good writing. You will be graded on your writing as well as your ideas. Please support your arguments with specific examples from the readings, lectures, and podcasts. All papers must be fully documented. Failure to cite sources constitutes plagiarism and will result in a "zero" on the assignment. No late papers will be accepted. By all means, students may turn in papers early but any paper not turned in by midnight will result in a zero on the assignment.

Discussion Boards (130pts) We will be discussing podcasts and other topics on the class discussion boards. Please read the hand out on the discussion board in the Additional Resources folder. You must put up an initial post and at least one response to another student's post to receive full credit for each discussion board topic. If you only post an initial response to the question or topic, you will only receive 80 percent of the points. If we have a discussion board, please make sure that you have read the week's reading assignments and documents and viewed the podcasts so that you will be ready to post your initial response to the discussion board on days marked "DB" on the class schedule. DBs are due by midnight on the day it is due.

Exams (200pts) There will be two exams. The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams will consist of multiple choice, identifications, and essay questions. The tests are NOT open book. The exams are like the quizzes as you will post your text answers into text boxes embedded within the exam page. You may compose your answers in a word-processor (Word or Word Perfect) and then copy-paste the answer into the text box. Exams will become available at 8:00 am on the day they are due and will remain open till midnight of that day (**October 4 and December 6**). You have one session of three hours. If you are unable to turn in an exam for a legitimate reason please email me BEFORE midnight when the exam is due. Even if I do not email you back immediately, I will have a record of the problem. A student who misses an exam without an excuse will receive a zero.

Study Guides 2 Exam study guides are posted as PDFs in the Study Guide Folder. These are not graded but will prepare you for the two exams and assist in answering questions on the discussion boards.

GRADE SCALE

A 100-90, B 89-80, C 79-70, D 69-60, F 59-0

CLASS COMMUNICATION

Please log into the class site daily, even if there is not anything due that day. I frequently send out announcements in regards to class assignments. Sometimes, I send out information that clarifies or answers questions that students send that I think might be helpful for everyone to know. Also, be sure to check your email. All email must come through Blackboard email, NOT Live. I will check my email each weekday evening. Thus, you can expect a response to your questions after noon. Please send me any questions that you have as soon as possible. I will frequently send additional information and instructions to the class, either as announcements or emails.

BLACKBOARD

Understanding Blackboard will be extremely important to your success in this class. This syllabus will always be available on Blackboard, therefore you should always be aware of what is on the syllabus. You should check Blackboard daily for updates on class questions and ALL email correspondence. Blackboard is NOT the same as your mix account. Grades will be posted on Blackboard when possible and appropriate. Please email me if you have any further questions about Blackboard. Through Blackboard, you will be able to view study guides, podcasts, maps, worksheets, and additional documents. You will need to utilize all the available resources on Blackboard to study for the exams and papers.

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of Bluefield State College regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me *before* the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

FAIRNESS

Bluefield State is committed to social justice. I concur with this commitment and will strive to maintain a positive learning environment based on open communication and mutual respect and non-discrimination. I will appreciate and consider suggestions on extending and enhancing such an environment. As the instructor I maintain the ability to alter the schedule and assignments to best manage the course materials and student needs.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Am = America! Chapters, **PP** = Powerpoint, **RQ** = Reading Quiz, **DB** = Discussion Boards

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
	New World Encounters (Am 1) PP1			DB1	RQ1
2	August 26	August 27	August 28	August 29	August 30
	English in 17 th century (Am 2) PP2			DB2	RQ2
3	September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5	September 6
	No Classes	Colonial Society (Am 3) PP3		DB3	RQ3
4	September 9	September 10	September 11	September 12	September 13
	18 th century Empire (Am 4) PP4			DB4	RQ4
5	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20
	Revolution (Am 5) PP5			DB5	RQ5, Paper 1
6	September 23	September 24	September 25	September 26	September 27
	Early Republic (Am 6) PP6			DB6	RQ6
7	September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4
	Federalism and Anti-Federalism (Am 7) PP7				Exam 1
8	October 7	October 8	October 9	October 10	October 11
	Jeffersonian Pres. (Am 8) PP8			DB7	RQ7
9	October 14	October 15	October 16	October 17	October 18
	War hawks and 1812 (Am 9) PP9			DB8	RQ8
10	October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25
	Jacksonian Democracy (Am 10) PP10			DB9	RQ9
11	October 28	October 29	October 30	October 31	November 1
	Slavery (Am 11) PP11			DB10	RQ10
12	November 4	November 5	November 6	November 7	November 8
	Mid-Nineteenth century Social Change (Am 12) PP12			DB11	RQ11, Paper 2
13	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14	November 15
	Mexican American War (Am 13) PP13			DB12	RQ12
14	November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21	November 22
	Sectional Crisis (Am 14) PP14			DB13	RQ13
	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29
Thanksgiving Break					
15	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	Dec. 6 Last Day
	Civil War (Am 15) PP15				Exam 2