

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

HIS 103: United States History to 1865

Course Credits: 3

Semester: Fall 2014 (#02)

Prerequisites: None

Dr. Jennifer M. Black

Course Description:

A survey of significant political, economic, social, and intellectual themes in the development of the United States from Colonial times until 1865.

Introduction: America in Pictures

Our modern society emphasizes visual information over other forms—in street signs, billboards, television, film, advertisements, books and magazines, and other places, individuals are forced to rely upon their own interpretation of visual evidence to understand society and culture. This course examines visual culture from the sixteenth century forward as a window to understanding historical events, places, and people. Through America's images, we can understand American history—both the problems and promises of society as it developed from a colony in the British Empire to one of the world's industrial and post-industrial super powers.

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this course will gain a thorough understanding of American history from the sixteenth century through the American Civil War, including the political, economic, social, and cultural issues that plagued America's first descendants and had a lasting impact on her development through the mid-nineteenth century. Students will encounter various topics each week through lectures, readings, and primary sources—including both images and documents. Engaging with these materials, students will develop critical thinking skills to find their own truths in American history: learning to navigate between contemporary voices, visual representations, and historians' interpretations of the past. By the end of the semester, students will have developed their analytical writing skills to craft their own understanding about the American past.

Course Disciplinary Objectives:

- Identify major events in local, national, and international history
- Identify different historic perspectives between historians in particular historical contexts
- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- Develop an argument that evaluates evidence within a specific historical context

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

Course Goals

- ❖ HIS 103 contributes to the following University goals for undergraduate education:
3. Consider ethical issues and values and make reasoned judgments about them.
 5. Respect and understand cultural differences.
 7. Communicate and interact effectively.

- ❖ HIS 103 contributes to the following goals of the Core Curriculum:
1. Develop effective communication skills including oral, written and/or artistic presentations.
 2. Develop and enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills.
 5. Develop an awareness of ethical issues across disciplines.
 6. Develop an awareness of and appreciation for global interdependence and diversity.

*These goals will be assessed through exams, quizzes, and class participation.

Required Texts

Jennifer D. Keene, Saul Cornell, and Edward T. O'Donnell, *Visions of America: A History of the United States*, 2nd ed., vol.1 to 1877 (Pearson, 2013). ISBN: 9780205092673

Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, 4th ed., vol. 1 (Norton, 2013). ISBN: 978-0-393-92291-0

*Additional articles on reserve in the library and available on Blackboard.

Course Assignments & Evaluation

There are three examinations and six quizzes in this course. Each of these will involve image and / or document analysis and demonstration of your understanding of the course material and objectives. The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class Participation and Quizzes (30%)
- Exam 1 (20%)
- Exam 2 (20%)
- Final Exam (30%)

Participation / Quizzes: In this course you will be graded on your active participation in class discussions. This gives you a chance to verbally demonstrate your understanding of the course material, and includes raising your hand to ask or answer questions during lecture. You will also have an opportunity to earn points for participation through a series of pop quizzes given at the beginning of lecture throughout the semester. Of the six quizzes given, I will drop the lowest two scores (i.e. only four of the six scores will count towards your grade). This leaves room for two absences without penalty to your participation grade. These quizzes will be unannounced and there will be no make-ups. They will be brief and will cover material most recently discussed in the previous week's lectures and readings.

Exams may include a combination of short answer, matching, multiple choice, and essay questions. Study guides will be distributed one week prior to the exam. Make-up exams will not be permitted except in emergency situations, to be determined at my discretion.

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

Grading Scale for Course Grades:

A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	F = 64% and below
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	
B+= 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 65-69%	

**NOTE: It is your responsibility to understand the guidelines for this course. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me as soon as possible. Failure to address such issues connotes your implicit acceptance and agreement with these guidelines. I reserve the right to adjust the syllabus, if necessary.*

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 25-29): Introduction; Beginnings and Empires

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 1 "People in Motion" p1-33

Foner: documents 2 (Morton)

*NO CLASS September 1, 2014 (Labor Day)

Week 2 (Sept 3, 5): Jamestown, New England, and Early Colonial Life

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 2 "Models of Settlement" p34-63

Foner: documents 3, 4 (Las Casas, Pueblo Revolt)

Week 3 (Sept 8-12): Race and Gender in the Colonies

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 3 "Growth, Slavery, and Conflict" p64-95

Carol F. Karlsen, "The Economic Basis of Witchcraft," in Linda Kerber & Jane De Hart, *Women's America* 4th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 50-64. **Available on Blackboard.**

Foner: documents 21 (Equiano on Slavery)

Week 4 (Sept 15-19): Towards Revolution: Taxes and Protests

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 4 "Revolutionary America" p96-127

Foner: documents 31 (Paine, *Common Sense*;))

Chalmers, *Plain Truth* **Available on Blackboard.**

Week 5 (Sept 22-26): Republicanism for All? Liberty & Equality Revisited

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

Reading: Foner: documents 35, 37, 43, 47 (Rush, Petition of slaves to MA
Legislature, Jefferson, Murray)

Linda K. Kerber, "The Republican Mother," in Kerber & De Hart,
Women's America, 89-95. **Available on Blackboard.**

*FIRST MID-TERM IN CLASS, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2014

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

Week 6 (Sept 29-Oct 3): Shaping a New Nation

Reading: *Visions*, chapters 5-6 “Creating a Workable Government” p128-155 and “The New Republic” p156-187

US Constitution and the Bill of Rights (see book appendix)

Week 7 (Oct 6, 8): The Promises and Problems of the Early Republic

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 7 “Jeffersonian America” p188-219

Foner: documents 59 (*The Monroe Doctrine*)

*NO CLASS October 10 (Fall Break)

Week 8 (Oct 13-17): Jacksonian Democracy & the “Common Man”

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 8 “Democrats and Whigs” p220-251

Foner: documents 63 (Appeal of the Cherokee Nation)

Week 9 (Oct 20-24): The Market Revolution—A New Economy

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 9 “Workers, Farmers, and Slaves” p252-281

Foner: documents 53 (Lowell Factory Worker)

Week 10 (Oct 27-31): Reform and the Middle Class

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 10 “Revivalism, Reform, etc.” p282-315

Foner: documents 76, 78 (Beecher, *Declaration of Sentiments*)

Fitzhugh, Proslavery argument **Available on Blackboard.**

*SECOND MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS, MONDAY NOVEMBER 3.

Week 11 (Nov 5, 7): Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 11 “To Overspread the Continent” p316-339

Foner: documents 55, 62, 79 (Chief Shartarish, Women in the Westward Movement, O'Sullivan)

*WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE: Nov. 10th —Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Misericordia University
Department of History and Government

Week 12 (Nov 10-14): Sectional Conflict, Towards War

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 12 “Slavery and Sectionalism” p340-373

Foner: documents 65, 82, 84 (Douglass, Seward, Lincoln- Douglas Debates)

Week 13 (Nov 17-21): Emancipation, Towards Reconstruction

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 13 “The Civil War” p374-403

Foner: documents 89 (Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address)

The Emancipation Proclamation (On Blackboard):

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/transcript.html

Week 14 (Nov 24): Reconstruction’s End: America Triumphant?

Reading: *Visions*, chapter 14 “Now That We Are Free” p404-437

*NO CLASS November 26 & 28 (Thanksgiving Recess)

Week 15 (Dec 1-5): The Centennial Celebration & the Memory of the Civil War

Reading: Foner: documents 97, 99 (A Sharecropping Contract, Douglass,)

W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935), chapter 17.
Available on library reserve & Blackboard.

Week 16 (Dec 8) Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM (Date TBA—Refer to posted Final Exam Schedule)