

U.S. History to 1865

Professor Jalynn Padilla
History 143-02
Fall 2009

L&L 100F
963-1455

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Office Hours: Tuesday at 1:00, Thursday at 10:00, and by appointment

Course Description

This course is a survey of American history from the colonial era to the Civil War. Our focus will be on social and cultural history, the stories of everyday life, but we will also examine those people who changed the course of history with political, economic, and social power.

Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will improve their ability to:

- Organize and present ideas clearly in writing and speaking.
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
- Critically analyze primary sources to recognize their usefulness and their limitations in historical interpretation.
- Recognize the significance of key trends, ideas, and people in U.S. history.
- Think “historically” by making connections between the past and contemporary events and problems.

Assigned Readings

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation, Volume I: To 1877*

Wheeler & Becker, *Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence, Volume I: To 1877*

Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave*

Evaluation

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Short Essays: 15%

Twelve Years Paper: 15%

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Midterm and Final Exams: will include identification terms and one long essay. Your lecture notes will help you to construct your essays as well as to find the significance of the ID terms. You can use *The Unfinished Nation* to fill in details not covered in lecture. You will need to provide a blue book for the exam (available for free at the bookstore or at Jerrol's).

Writing Assignments:

You will write TWO 1-2 page essays based on chapters in *Discovering the American Past*. On selected weeks, I will provide the discussion questions that you will use to write your papers. If you choose to write more than two essays, I will keep the two top scores for your final grade.

You will also write ONE 3-4 page paper on *Twelve Years a Slave*. This is a long book, so make sure you pay attention to the course outline so you have plenty of time to construct, write, and edit your paper. I will provide further instructions in class.

Participation and attendance are integral parts of the learning experience in this course. You will acquire credit for participation by completing short in-class writing assignments and unannounced quizzes, talking about readings in scheduled discussions, and being prompt and attentive every day.

Academic dishonesty—which includes cheating, plagiarism, and any use of the work of others—will not be tolerated in this course.

Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from the Disability Support Services Office as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171 immediately.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 9/23-9/25 Old Worlds Collide
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 1
- 9/28-10/2 Early English Colonies: VA and MA
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 2
- 9/29 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 1
“First Encounters: The Confrontation Between Cortes and Montezuma”
- 10/5-10/9 Colonial Life
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 3
- 10/6 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 2
“The Threat of Anne Hutchinson”
Paper Due
- 10/12-10/16 Breaking British Ties
The Age of Revolution
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 4-5
- 10/13 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 4
“What Really Happened in the Boston Massacre? The Trial of Thomas Preston”
Paper Due
- 10/ 19 MIDTERM EXAM**
- 10/21-10/23 No Class
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 6
Twelve Years a Slave, 1-99
- 10/26-10/30 Designing a Nation
Jeffersonian Era
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 7-8
Twelve Years a Slave, 100-199
- 10/27 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 5
“The First American Party System: The Philadelphia Congressional Election of 1794”

- 11/2-11/6 The Age of the Common Man
 The Market Revolution
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 9-10
Twelve Years a Slave, 200-299
- 11/3 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 6
 “Land, Growth, and Justice: The Removal of the Cherokees”
 Paper Due
- 11/9-11/13 Slavery and the Old South
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 11
Twelve Years a Slave, 300-321
- 11/10 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 7
 “Away From Home: The Working Girls of Lowell”
 Paper Due
- 11/11 Veteran’s Day Holiday
- 11/16-11/20 The Northern Reform Impulse
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 12
- 11/17 *Twelve Years a Slave: Discussion and Papers Due***
- 11/23-24 Manifest Destiny and the Impending Crisis
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 13
- 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/30-12/4 Civil War
Unfinished Nation, Chapter 14
- 12/1 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 10
 “No More Pint o’ Salt for Me: The Port Royal Experiment,
 1861-1865”

FINAL EXAM: December 8, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

“American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful,
 and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.”

--James Baldwin