

HIST 1483-010: American History, 1492-1865

Spring 2017

Monday/Wednesday, 12:30-1:20, Nielsen Hall 170

Professor Matthew Krue

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Course Description

This course explores the development of American culture, society, and politics from the first contact between Native Americans and Europeans to the end of the U.S. Civil War. We will emphasize the diverse experiences of the many kinds of Americans, and the different meanings that they attached to the events in their lives.

One of our major goals is to gain a better understanding of these different perspectives and how they were crafted through cultural exchange and political struggle. Therefore, we will not only study what happened in the past, but also investigate the ways that historians have interpreted that past. To do so, we will pay close attention to questions of sources, evidence, and method of interpretation. In other words, this course will do more than provide you with a broad overview of early American history—it will ask you to become a historian yourself.

By the end of the course you will put your knowledge and skills to work in an original research paper. Along the way, you will learn how to read and analyze primary and secondary sources, construct historical arguments that demonstrate critical thinking, and explain the major points of transformation in American history.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade will be based on two writing assignments (a Document-based Paper and a Research Paper), two in-class examinations, a final examination, lecture attendance, and discussion section participation. Here is the point breakdown:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Document-based Paper	100 points	Feb. 13
First Exam	100 points	Feb. 20
Annotated Bibliography	25 points	Mar. 29/30/31
Second Exam	150 points	Apr. 3
Introduction and Thesis	25 points	Apr. 12/13/14
Research Paper	200 points	Apr. 24
Final Exam	200 points	May 9
Discussion Section Participation	150 points	
Lecture Attendance	50 points	

The following shows the corresponding point totals and final grades:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A range	900-1000	90% or above
B range	800-899	80-89%
C range	700-799	70-79%
D range	600-699	60-69%
F	0-599	59% or below

A-range grades reflect work that displays original thought and a superior ability to analyze, organize, and articulate ideas. B-range grades indicate work that is well thought out and effectively organized, but may lack originality, clarity, or evidence for some claims. C-range grades signify a lack of understanding of some material, poor organization, or problems fully engaging with the assigned readings. D-range grades represent serious writing problems, lack of effort, or little engagement with the course materials. F grades are reserved for non-submitted work, plagiarism, or serious disconnect from the readings and lectures.

Required Readings

There are two required readings for this course:

1. John M. Murrin, et al., *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People*, 7th edition, volume 1: to 1877 (Cengage Books) + Mindtap. ISBN 978-1-305-71846-3
2. Course Pack.

The textbook is available at the OU bookstore, other Norman-area bookstores, and online retailers. You can also buy or rent an ebook version directly from the publisher at <http://services.cengagebrain.com/course/site.html?id=1550506>. Please note that you must purchase this edition. The Course Pack, which contains all of the readings listed on the schedule below, is available at King Kopy on Boyd Street.

We will also be using a few brief videos to enhance your written work by developing practical skills. These videos can be accessed at the Explore History website (explorehistory.ou.edu) under Writing Tutorials. Please watch them before the discussion sections for which they are assigned.

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: TWO WORLDS MEET, 1492-1750

Week One

- Jan. 16 No class—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Jan. 18 Introduction: Interpreting American History
 Assignments
- Murrin, pp. 2-21
 - Becker, “Everyman His Own Historian”

Week Two

- Jan. 23 The Old Worlds We Have Lost: Medieval Europe and North America
 Jan. 25 New Worlds I: Tsenacomoco and Virginia
 Assignments
- Murrin, pp. 21-54
 - Sources for Document-based Paper:
 - Strachey, History of Travel into Virginia
 - Smith, General History
 - Powhatan, What Can You Get by War?
 - *View the “Working the Evidence” online video before section*

Week Three

- Jan. 30 New Worlds II: Wabanaki and New England
 Feb. 1 Empire and Instability: The Struggle to Recreate England in America
 Assignments
- Murrin, pp. 54-67
 - Bailyn, “Politics and Social Structure in Colonial Virginia”
 - *View the “Thesis” online video before section*

Week Four

- Feb. 6 Rebellions and Anarchy: Anglo-Indian Wars and the Crisis of Colonialism
 Feb. 8 Middle Passages: The Creation of an Atlantic Slave System
 Assignments
- Murrin, pp. 68-82
 - Equiano, *Interesting Narrative*
 - *View both “Paragraphs” videos before section*

Document-based paper due in class on Feb. 13**Week Five**

- Feb. 13 From Colonies to Provinces: Making “British America”
 Feb. 15 More than Thirteen Colonies: Greater Britain and Its Rivals
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 82-116
 • Waldstreicher, “Reading the Runaways”

UNIT 2: THE LONG WAR FOR THE WEST, 1750-1815**Week Six**

- Feb. 20 **First Exam**
 Feb. 22 “Gloomy and Dark Days”: The Long War for the West Begins
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 116-129
 • Calloway, “The First War of Independence”

Week Seven

- Feb. 27 From Resistance to Revolution: The Crisis of the British Empire
 Mar. 1 Many Wars for Independence
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 130-161
 • Jasanoff, “Civil War”
 • Jefferson’s draft of the Declaration of Independence

Week Eight

- Mar. 6 Many Revolutions
 Mar. 8 Confederations: New Fronts in the Long War for the West
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 161-185
 Irving, “Rip Van Winkel”
Topic for Research Paper due in discussion section

Week Nine

- Mar. 13 Spring Break—no class
 Mar. 15 Spring Break—no class
 Discussion Sections DO NOT meet this week.

Week Ten

- Mar. 20 Republicanism Reborn, or Betrayed? The Battle over the Constitution
 Mar. 22 Debating the Future of the Revolution: Faction and Schism in the 1790s
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 185-200
 • Murrin, “A Roof Without Walls”
 • *Brutus*, No. 1

Week Eleven

- Mar. 27 The “Revolution” of 1800: Jefferson and the Republicans Ascendant
 Mar. 29 The Last Wars for Independence: The Winning—and Losing—of the West
 Assignments • Murrin, pp. 200-223

- Zaggarri, “Women and the ‘War of Politics’”
- Annotated Bibliography due in discussion section**

UNIT 3: THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION, 1815-1865

Week Twelve

- Apr. 3 **Second Exam**
- Apr. 5 The Market Revolution: Upheavals in Economy and Society
- Assignments • Murrin, pp. 224-247
- Journeymen Cordwainers of Philadelphia, Statement of Grievances
 - *View “Research Introduction” video before section*

Week Thirteen

- Apr. 10 The “Peculiar Institution”: Antebellum Slavery
- Apr. 12 “The Democracy”: Andrew Jackson and the Politics of the Common Man
- Assignments • Murrin, pp. 248-293
- Douglass, excerpt from *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- Introduction and Thesis Statements due in discussion section**

Week Fourteen

- Apr. 17 The White Republic: Indian Removal, Black Slavery, and Westward Expansion
- Apr. 19 Awakenings: Religion and the Culture of Reform
- Assignments • Murrin, pp. 294-343
- Letter of Cherokee Nation to the Congress of the United States
 - Declaration of Sentiments from the Seneca Falls Convention
 - *View both “Integrating Quotations” online videos before section*

Research paper due in class on Apr. 24

Week Fifteen

- Apr. 24 “The Wolf by the Ears”: Abolitionism, Pro-Slavery, and Anti-Slavery
- Apr. 26 Another War for the (Far) West: Manifest Destiny and the U.S.-Mexico War
- Assignments • Murrin, pp. 344-367
- Garnet, “Address to the Slaves”
 - Calhoun, “Slavery as a Positive Good”
 - Benton, “The Oregon Question”

Week Sixteen

- May 1 A House Divided Against Itself: the 1850s
- May 3 Disunion: The U.S. Civil War
- Assignments • Murrin, pp. 368-459
- Declaration of ... the Secession of the State of Mississippi
 - Faust, “Killing”

FINAL: Tuesday, May 9, 1:30-3:30pm