

HIST 1483: American History to 1865

Fall 2020

Professor Adam Malka

Email: acmalka@ou.edu

Office Hours: Zoom, Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants:

Hannah Christensen

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12 – 2 pm

Victoria Funk

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12 – 2 pm

Adam Krejci

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12 – 2 pm

Josh Mika

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2 – 4 pm

Course Information:

Lectures: Online

Discussion Sections: In-person

Office Hours: Zoom

Course Websites: canvas.ou.edu; explorehistory.ou.edu

Course Description

This course introduces you to the social, political, economic, and cultural history of North America from the era of European colonization through the end of the U.S. Civil War. Its central theme is the tension between the U.S. founding principles of individual liberty, justice, and human perfection and the violence that the American nation created through warfare, slavery, and territorial expansion. Through course lectures, readings, writings, assignments, and discussions, you will examine a variety of historical topics from this long period: the economic, social, and cultural diversity of the North American colonies; the competition between empires in colonial North America; the political and legal invention of the United States; western expansion, the spread of slavery, and the dispossession of eastern Native Americans; the emergence of a modern two-party political system; the multiple effects of industrialization, immigration, and urbanization; and the political conflict over slavery that produced the Civil War.

One key way in which we will explore these topics is to analyze them as historians do. Rather than merely recite facts that can be found in any textbook, we will ask questions, analyze trends, think about specific personal experiences, and weave together a narrative of the past. By the end of this course you should be able to research and analyze primary and secondary sources, construct and write historical arguments that demonstrate critical thinking, and explain key historical trends and experiences in the North American mainland in the period through the Civil War.

Readings

All readings will be made available on the lecture canvas page as PDF documents or through hyperlinks. Look ahead in your syllabus. If you have a heavy workload coming up, you might want to get a head start on it. There is no textbook for this course. However, if you want to supplement your knowledge of the material, you should access one of two free online history textbooks:

1. U.S. History, OpenStax: <https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>
2. The American Yawp: <http://www.americanyawp.com/>

Assignments and Grading

Students can earn up to 1000 points in this class.

Lecture Quizzes (100 points)

Every lecture this semester will be online, delivered through a My Media file. A given week's lectures – usually two, though sometimes one – will be made available on the course canvas site by 9 am Tuesday morning. Because each lecture introduces new material, each student will have to complete a short quiz at the end. These quiz points will total 10% of the final grade. If you have any questions about a quiz score, question, or matter, talk with Professor Malka, not your TA.

First Paper (100 points)

Your first paper is a 1000-word analysis of primary documents, due 5 pm on Friday, September 25th. You will use (up to) five documents, which are provided for you on both the course canvas site as well as on explorehistory.ou.edu.

Research Paper Prep and Final Draft (250 points)

Your second paper is a 2000-word research paper, due by 5 pm Wednesday, December 2nd. You will have smaller assignments throughout the second half of the semester that help you prepare for this paper, which will be a part of your final grade. Two of them – the Paper Topic/Research Plan and Annotated Bibliography – will be graded, and are worth 25 points each. The final draft of the research paper is worth 200 points.

Midterm Exam (150 points)

You will have a take-home midterm exam in mid-October. It will be posted online at 9 am on Monday, October 11th, and will be due by 5 pm on Friday, October 16th. This exam consists of short answers and one essay question. It is open-book and open-note, and will test lecture material and course readings.

Final Exam (150 points)

At the end of the semester, you will have a take-home, open-note final exam. Testing both reading and lecture material, this exam will ask you to reproduce historical knowledge as well as produce historical arguments. Like the midterm, the exam will consist of short answer questions and an essay.

Discussion Section Participation (250 points)

A full quarter of your grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your participation in your discussion sections. This course will work best with the completion of weekly reading assignments and active participation in those classes – thus you're expected to come to discussion sections ready to

participate actively, which means having done the work and being prepared to talk about it. A student who attends every discussion section but rarely speaks can expect a participation grade no better than a C. If you are shy, speak with your TA about it. Our goal is to get you more involved; your goal should be the same.

Course Policies

Discussion Attendance

Your attendance in discussion sections is mandatory. However, due to Covid, we are implementing a more flexible policy regarding absences. Your TA will provide more detail about that attendance policy in class during the first week.

Behavior

Discussion sections are to be inclusive, safe, clean, and respectful environments, so please refrain from distracting activities. Some of the imagery and descriptions in this course of subjects (such as slave life) may be upsetting or otherwise uncomfortable. Interacting with this material is important for fully understanding American history. Please speak with one of your instructors if you have questions or concerns about these subjects. Additionally, throughout this course we will undoubtedly touch on mature subjects such as race, religion, sex, and politics. Please be prepared to discuss these topics as adults and with respect for one another's viewpoints. Feel free to express your opinions but do so in an intellectual manner and demonstrate courtesy toward your colleagues. I reserve the right to remove you from this course for repeated disruptions and/or disrespectful behavior of any sort.

Masks

As outlined by the University of Oklahoma's Chief COVID Officer, until further notice, employees, students, and visitors of the OU community will be mandated to wear masks (1.) when they are inside University facilities and vehicles and (2.) when they are outdoors on campus and social distancing of at least six feet is not possible. For the well being of the entire university community, it is important that everyone demonstrates the appropriate health and safety behaviors outlined in the University Mandatory Masking Policy (<https://www.ou.edu/coronavirus/masking-policy>). As this mandate includes all campus classrooms, please make sure you are wearing your mask while in discussion section. If you do not have a mask or forgot yours, see your TA for available masks. If you have an exemption from the Mandatory Masking Policy, please see your TA to make accommodations before class begins. If and where possible, please make both your TA and professor aware of your exemption and/or accommodation prior to arriving in class. If a student is unable or unwilling to wear a mask and has not made an accommodation request through the ADRC, they will be instructed to exit the classroom.

Late Work

All deadlines are firm. If you anticipate having trouble meeting any of them, please speak with your TA to discuss possible alternatives. We do not grant reprieves for poor planning. A letter grade will be deducted for every day the paper is late. Anything turned in more than five days after the due date will receive no better than an "F." Anything turned in more than a week after the due date will receive a ZERO. Make-up assignments will not be given except in the case of documented medical emergency or pre-approved, documented OU-related event (i.e. team sports travel).

Communication

I will answer all emails within 24 hours (excluding weekends). Please provide a signature with your full name so I know with whom I am communicating, as well as a proper greeting: “Dear Professor Malka,” etc. Please also include a proper closing, such as “Sincerely,” etc. I will not respond to rude messages. At the same time, all inquiries about grades must be handled in person and cannot be discussed over email. The same rules of communication apply for those with your TA.

Office Hours

My goal in this course is to help you succeed in learning how to become a successful historian. Please feel free to meet with me via zoom during office hours (or at a time we schedule together) to discuss questions or concerns about the course. To that end: my office hours are from 10 am to noon on Wednesday mornings. If you can’t meet with me at that time, that’s ok! I’m happy to set up times to meet via zoom, provided it works with both of our schedules.

Websites

Course materials including the syllabus, readings, and various links will be available on the course’s Canvas site. All students must sign into the Canvas site by the end of the first week of class. Please remember that Canvas is designed to be a resource – but not a substitute – for the classroom experience. The second website for this course is <http://explorehistory.ou.edu>. The History Department created the Exploring U.S. History website to help you find instructions on papers, tutorials on writing, and links to the primary and secondary sources required for the papers.

Accommodations**Religious Conflicts**

It is university policy to excuse absences of students that result from religious observations and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Disability Issues

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible to facilitate disability accommodations. Once I receive a confirmation email from the DRC, I will email the student so that we can schedule a time to discuss these accommodations to ensure full participation and facilitate all educational opportunities. Students must meet with me before these accommodations can go forward. Further information can also be found by contacting the Disability Resource Center (Goddard Health Center, Room 166, www.ou.edu/drc).

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students involved in OU official extra-curricular activities should inform the TAs at the beginning of the semester of any known scheduling conflicts.

Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html for commonly asked questions.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24.7, counseling services, mutual no contact orders, scheduling adjustments and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office 405-325-2215 (8-5, M-F) or OU Advocates 405-615-0013 (24.7) to learn more or to report an incident.

COVID-19

This course will abide by the university policies put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This means everyone in discussion section should sit 6 feet apart and try their best to avoid contact with each other. Please do not come to class if you have a cough or fever, if you have shortness of breath, or if you have lost your sense of taste or smell. We **will** make accommodations for you. Indeed, we will accommodate not only anyone who receives a positive test on COVID-19, but also those who are awaiting results on a test, who has been exposed to someone else with the virus, or who has reason at all to suspect they are infected. We do not want you attending discussion section while sick for fear of losing attendance points. You also should not hesitate to email your TA and professor if you have sick family members or must take on new responsibilities because of the pandemic.

Academic Responsibility

Plagiarism

All your written work should be your own. In using someone else's words you must use quotation marks and cite the relevant author, work, and page numbers in a footnote. If you paraphrase someone else's words and/or argument – if you rely on his or her ideas in any way – you *must* provide a citation. Taking another author's work without citation, whether or not you use direct quotations, constitutes plagiarism. Any student guilty of plagiarism will receive in an "F" for the course. As a general rule of thumb, if you are not sure about whether an action could be considered plagiarism, ASK! For more information see: <http://integrity.ou.edu>.

Intellectual Property

Course materials that I, Adam Malka, have prepared, together with the content of all lectures and materials presented and prepared by me in this course are my intellectual property. Video, audio, and photographic recording of lectures is prohibited without my explicit permission. The selling or dissemination of exams, study guides, homework assignments and handouts is prohibited without my explicit permission. The selling or dissemination for commercial purposes of notes derived from my lectures is also prohibited without my explicit permission.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments

Week of August Twenty-Fourth

Lecture #1 The Power of History

Section Assignment: Listen to “Why Historians Study History,” Jan 22, 2016, [0:00 – 14:41].

Week of August Thirty-First

Lecture #2 Native Grounds

Lecture #3 Mutual Discoveries

Section Assignment: Read Mary Rampolla, “Working with Sources” & “Using Primary Sources

Read Daniel Richter, “Prologue: Early America as Indian Country”

Week of September Seventh

Lecture #4 Virginia’s Ordeals

Lecture #5 The Development of the Chesapeake

Section Assignment: Read Primary Sources for Paper Option #1

Read Anthony Parent, “The Laws of Slavery”

Week of September Fourteenth

Lecture #6 New England’s Trials

Lecture #7 Consolidating New English Rule

Section Assignment: Read Primary Sources for Paper Option #2

Read Carol F. Karlsen, “The Economic Basis of Witchcraft”

Week of September Twenty-First

Lecture #8 Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade

Lecture #9 Slavery in Colonial North America

No Discussion Sections. **Turn In** Paper #1 by 5 pm on Friday September 25th.

Week of September Twenty-Eighth

Lecture #10 The Colonial System

Lecture #11 An Empire of Goods

Section Assignment: Read: Colin Calloway, “The First War of Independence”

Read: Pontiac, Two Speeches (1762 & 1763)

Week of October Fifth

Lecture #12 Native Peoples in an Imperial World

Lecture #13 The Imperial Crisis

Section Assignment: **Turn In** Final Paper Topic for Paper #2

Read: Benjamin Irvin, "Tar, Feathers, and the Enemies of American Liberties, 1768-1776"

Read: Philip Dawe, "The Bostonians Paying the Excise-Man, or Tarring and Feathering" (1774)

Week of October Twelfth

Lecture #14 The War for Independence

Lecture #15 Creating the Constitution

No Discussion Sections. **Turn In** Midterm by 5 pm on Friday, Oct 16.

Week of October Nineteenth

Lecture #16 Party Politics

Lecture #17 An Empire of Liberty

Section Assignment: Read: Kate Keller, "Is 'Hamilton' Good for History?"

Listen to selections from "Hamilton" (available on youtube and spotify)

Alexander Hamilton
My Shot
The Schuyler Sisters
Farmer Refuted
You'll Be Back
Right Hand Man

Helpless
Satisfied
Guns and Ships
History Has Its Eyes on You
Yorktown
What Comes Next?

Non-Stop
Cabinet Battle #1
Room Where It Happens
Cabinet Battle #2
I Know Him
Election of 1800

Week of October Twenty-Sixth

Lecture #18 The War of 1812

Lecture #19 The Market Revolution

Section Assignment: Read Zagari, "The Rights of Man and Woman in Post-Revolutionary America"

Read "The Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls Conference" (1848)

Week of November Second

Lecture #20 Working Men and Women

Lecture #21 Indian Removal

Section Assignment: Listen to "This Land" podcast, episode 4

(<https://crooked.com/podcast-series/this-land/>)

Read Andrew Jackson's Second Annual Message (1830)

Read “Appeal of the Cherokee Nation” (1830)

Week of November Ninth

Lecture #22 The Second Party System

Lecture #23 The Texas Revolution

Section Assignment: **Turn In** Annotated Bibliography
 Read Rampolla, “Developing a Thesis,” “Constructing an Argument,”
 “Organizing your Paper,” and “Revising for Content”
 Bring a working thesis (hard copy) to class.

Week of November Sixteenth

Lecture #24 Families, Black and White

Lecture #25 Fighting Against Slavery

Section Assignment: Read *Camp, “The Pleasures of Resistance”
 Read *Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” (1852)

Week of November Twenty Third

Lecture #26 The U.S.-Mexico War

No Discussion Sections. Thanksgiving Break.

Week of November Thirtieth

Lecture #27 Stories of Sectionalism

Lecture #28 Secession

Section Assignment: **Turn In** Paper #2 by 5 pm on Wednesday, December 2nd.
 Read *Mississippi Declaration of Secession (1861)
 Read *Alexander Stephens, “Corner Stone Speech” (1861)

Week of December Seventh

Lecture #29 Who Freed the Slaves?

Lecture #30 The Second American Revolution

Section Assignment: Read *Abraham Lincoln, “Second Inaugural Address” (1865)
 Read *Ta-Nehisi Coates, “Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil
 War?”
 Read Kevin Levin, “Why I Changed My Mind about Confederate
 Monuments”

The Final Exam will be available on the course canvas site at 5 pm on Friday, December 11th.