Development of the United States I
History 512:103
May 29-July 6, 2012
MTWTh 10:20 AM -12:15 PM
Room TBA

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Office Hour: Wed 12:30:1:30 PM, Van Dyck 013, or by appointment

The purpose of this course is two-fold: First to understand the *content* of American History from European contact to Reconstruction; and second, to understand the *process* of history, in other words, how to think like an historian. The content will cover American History through political, economic, social, cultural, and military developments from first contacts among American Indians, Africans, and Europeans in the 16th and 17th centuries through the establishment of the United States and the era of the Civil War and Emancipation. In order to understand this content, we will spend a significant portion of the course closely reading and discussing primary sources: writings and images from the past. Through these readings and discussions, along with lectures and documentary films, we will come to understand the past using the eyes and tools of an historian.

Assigned Texts

1. William B. Wheeler, et. al., Discovering the American Past, volume 1, 7th Edition (It is important that you find the 7th edition)
2. James West Davidson, et.al., U.S.: A Narrative History, Vol. 1: to 1877, any edition. Page numbers in the syllabus are based on the 1st ed. (2009)

Additional readings will be on Sakai

Course Web Page: Sakai.rutgers.edu

Grading

35% Class Participation
20% ID Quizzes
20% Short Writing Assignments
25% Final Exam

Course Requirements

Readings: You are required to read the assignment for each class before coming to class. Class discussion is an essential part of the course: Be prepared to discuss the readings in class. Reading will be about 30 pages per night.

Participation: In-class discussion is an important part of this course. Your participation grade will be determined by your general level of engagement in class discussions, attentiveness during lectures, and regular attendance. Attendance is mandatory. More than one unexcused absence will significantly reduce your grade. Three late arrivals equals one absence.

Respectfulness: Respect for your classmates and the lives of the people that we study is essential. Respect includes arriving on time, listening when others speak, and responding thoughtfully. Your attention should be fully in the classroom – to this end, cell phones and side conversations are not welcome, and computers may not be used for any purpose other than taking notes.

Key Terms and Identification ('ID') Quizzes: After each class you will review your notes and email me a list of 5 key terms that you think capture the key things we discussed in that day's class. There will be five ID quizzes throughout the course in which you will answer one or two IDs. I will consider the key terms you submit along with my own list when I choose IDs for the quizzes and the final.

Short Writing Assignments: There will be three short writing assignments, two-three pages each. One of these may require working in pairs with another member of the class.

Final Exam: The final exam will include essays. Since there is no midterm, the final will cover the entire scope of the course.

Topics and Assignments

Tues May 29 What is American History?/Worlds Collide

Wed May 30 English Settlement: Tenuousness and Conflict
Readings: DAP Chapter 1 (What Happened at Roanoke) and US Chapter 3 pages 41-5 (New Spain), and Chapter 4, pages 62-5 (New France)

Thur May 31 The Early Plantation System: Labor and Race
Readings: DAP Chapter 3 (Colonies, Commerce and Empire); and US Chapter 3 "English Society on the Chesapeake," and "Chesapeake Society in Crisis" (pages 39-40, 44-53)

Mon June 4 Social Order and Religion in New England
Readings: DAP Chapter 2 (Anne Hutchinson); and US Chapter 4 "The Founding of New England," and "Stability and Order in Early New England" (pages 65-73)
Short Writing Assignment #1 Due

Tues June 5 Imperial Wars and Dissent
Readings: Stamp Act documents (on Sakai) and US Chapter 6 "Toward the War for American Independence" (pages 100-112)
ID Quiz

Wed June 6 Road to Revolution
Readings: DAP Chapter 4 (Boston Massacre) (or US Chapter 5); and US Chapter 6 "Toward the War for American Independence" (pages 113-119)
Film: John Adams "Join or Die"

Thur June 7 Revolution or Civil War?
Readings: US Chapter 7 "The American People and the American Revolution"
Film: Mary Silliman's War
ID Quiz

Mon June 11 From Revolutionary Articles to Peacetime Constitution
Readings: US Chapter 8; and The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution (be prepared to discuss the differences and similarities) (documents on Sakai)
Short Writing Assignment #2 Due

Tues June 12 Visions and Practical Leadership for the New Nation: Hamilton vs. Jefferson and Jefferson the Idealist vs. Jefferson the President
Readings: selected writings of Hamilton and Jefferson (on Sakai); also read selections from Gillon & Matson's *The American Experiment* p250-6, 260-3, 266-7, 270-85 (on Sakai)

Wed June 13 An Overview of the 19th Century: Women's Perspective, Power and Role in the Events of the Time
Readings: US Chapter 9 (The Early Republic)
ID Quiz
Film: Hearts and Hands

Thur June 14 Changing Economies and American Expansion 1 -- The Cotton Gin and the Transformation of Plantation, Farm and Frontier
Readings: US Chapter 10 (The Opening of America)
Film Clips: Doing As They Can (Cotton Slavery) and Africans In America (excerpt on internal slave trade)

Mon June 18 Changing Economies and American Expansion 2 -- The Erie Canal and Cherokee Removal: Transforming the Trans-Appalachian West
Readings: DAP Chapter 7 (Removal of the Cherokees)

Tues June 19 Changing Economies and American Expansion 3 – Social Reform and the Great Awakening
Readings: DAP Chapter 6 (The Sunday Mail Controversy); and US Chapter 12 (Fires of Perfection, pages 224-235)

Wed June 20 Politics and the Common Man: Jacksonian Democracy to the Gold Rush
Readings: US Chapter 11 (The Rise of Democracy); and Webster "Against Universal Manhood Suffrage," and Jackson's Inaugural Address (on Sakai)
Film: Gold Rush

Thurs June 21 Changing Economies and American Expansion 4 -- Urban Growth and Mill Towns
Readings: DAP Chapter: "The Working Girls of Lowell" (on Sakai); and US Chapter 12 (235-240)
ID Quiz
Short Film: 5 Points

Mon June 25 Living and Portraying Slavery:
Readings: DAP Chapter 9 (Slaves Tell Their Own Stories) and White Slaveholders documents defending slavery (on Sakai)
Short Writing Assignment 3 Due

Tues June 26 Towards Sectionalism: From Manifest Destiny to the Election of 1860
Readings: US Chapter 14 (Western Expansion and the Rise of the Slavery Issue – pages 262-276 and 281-284) and Chapter 15 (The Union Broken – pages 295-306)
In Class Exercise: Party Platforms

Wed June 27 Film: John Brown
Readings: US Chapter 16 (Total War and the Republic)
ID Quiz

Thurs June 28 The Civil War
Readings: DAP Chapter 10 (Civil Liberties in time of War)
Film: Gettysburg

Mon July 2 Reconstruction I: Post War Possibilities
Readings: DAP Chapter "The Port Royal Experiment" (on Sakai); and US Chapter 17 (334-342)

Tues July 3 Reconstruction II: Politics and Public Opinion
Readings: DAP Chapter 11 (The Political Cartoonist); and US Chapter 17 (342-352)
Review for Exam

Wed July 4 No Class

Thur July 5 **Final Exam**

This course satisfies requirements H, K and L of the SAS Core Curriculum.

H. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.

K. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science

L Employ historical reasoning to study human endeavors.