

## Development of the United States: Origins to Reconstruction (1877)

512:103

Sections 02, 03 and 04 (see below on sections)

and 512:107

Fall 2017

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*William Clark of the Lewis & Clark expedition meeting a Native American people along the Missouri River. This may have been the Mandan people in South Dakota, but as the expedition arrived at the Mandan villages in early winter 1804, this seems an unlikely setting. It could also be the meeting with the Shoshone in the spring of 1805 in present day Montana. Toussaint Charbonneau, the husband of Sacagawea, is the interpreter and Clark's slave, York, who claimed an unusual degree of autonomy during the expedition, is to the right. Charbonneau, however, did not know the Shoshone language, so the scene again doesn't fit the evidence. Most likely the scene is a meeting imagined by Charles M. Russell who painted this picture in 1897. The painting belongs to the Sid Richardson Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. .*

The unfolding history of the United States today is rooted in a very different past. This course takes us half way along the path from that past to the present, from the 15<sup>th</sup>-century origins of European exploration of what they called a new world to the era immediately after the Civil War when the country emerged as a powerful nation state with a new constitutional mandate for racial justice. We begin with Lewis & Clark, jump back to Columbus and native peoples of the

Americas, and then move forward. Along the way we treat the European and African background of American colonization; the encounters between cultures in the "New World" and Native American history; the causes, fighting and consequences of the American Revolution (and its relationship to the Constitution); the different paths of development of North and South; slavery, abolition, and reform in ante-bellum America; African American life before and after the American Revolution; the changing roles and rights of women in early America; the causes and bloody battlefield history of the Civil War; and "New Birth of Freedom" that followed the War and affected African Americans and American politics.

While a lecture class, students will have the opportunity to participate in every class, and approximately every other week, we replace the lecture with a small group discussion section. These discussion sections will make extensive use of Victoria Bissell Brown and Timothy J. Shannon, *Going to the Source, Volume I: To 1877*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, (2016).

Sections: each section attends the every-other week discussion in a different room. Section 2 meets in the regular lecture hall (AB 2125). Section 3 meets 6<sup>th</sup> period (not 7<sup>th</sup>) on designated Thursdays. Section 4 meets 7<sup>th</sup> period on designated Thursdays but in a different classroom. 512:107 students attend section every week, 6<sup>th</sup> period, in a different classroom.

**Initially, all students should attend class in AB 2125 where any confusion about how the sections work will be explained.**

Course will be graded on two short papers, a mid-term and a final examination, short response essays to the documents in *Going to the Source*, and discussion.

Students will view film clips from *New World* (on the Jamestown settlement, John Smith, and Pocahontas), *Twelve Years a Slave* (Solomon Northup's experience of enslavement), and *Glory* (the Civil War service of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts).

Students can use ebooks and used copies of the Townsend and Gilfoyle books. Renting the two texts is highly recommended. The following books are required:

Nancy A. Hewitt and Steven F. Lawson, *Exploring American Histories, Volume 1* (2017). ISBN: 9781457694707. .

Victoria Bissell Brown and Timothy J. Shannon, *Going to the Source, Volume I: To 1877*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, (2016). ISBN: 978131902749-0

Camilla Townsend, *Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma* (2005) ISBN: 9780809077380.

Timothy Gilfoyle, *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1820* (1994). ISBN: 978-0393311082.