

SYLLABUS – HISTORY 251 – “American History to 1877”

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID ULBRICH

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CLASS: T/Th, 8-9:15, M313

OFFICE: 309 Main Hall, 436-2970

OFFICE HOURS: Th, 3-5pm

PURPOSE: This class will trace the development of American History from 1492 to 1877. The content will concentrate on political, social, and economic continuity and change spanning 350+ years. Certain issues repeatedly arise in this time period. Key foci include the following: individuals influencing history and vice versa, group/gender/class/race relations, shifting forms of governments and political parties, long and short term causes for important events, reasons for rise and decline of dominant persons and ideas, technology as a precipitant for change, and sectional conflicts. When finished, students should have a broad grasp of the roots of American’s contemporary events and its place in the modern world.

REQUIRED BOOKS: Boyer, et.al., The Enduring Vision, Vol 1 to 1877, (EV)

Boller and Story, A More Perfect Union, Vol 1 to 1877, (MP)

Douglass, A Narrative Life

McPherson, What They Fought For

ATTENDANCE: Absolutely required and taken intermittently. Missing classes will hurt performances on exams, quizzes, and papers. Students are expected to take notes during class, participate in discussions, and ask questions if something is unclear.

GRADING: Total points are as follows: 500 points for the course

A =	90%=	excellent=	450-500
B =	80%=	good =	400-449
C =	70%=	fair =	350-399
D =	60%=	poor/pass=	300-349
F =	-59%=	fail=	0-299

Two midterm exams, several pop quizzes, one paper, and one final exam will be assigned. There will be review session(s) either the class prior to both midterms or on an evening before them. Exams, the Final, and Quizzes will be in-class, closed note, close book and open brain.

Their weights are as follows: Pop Quizzes	=	50 points (5 out of 6)
Midterm 1	=	125
Midterm 2	=	125
McPherson Paper	=	100
Final	=	100

The midterm exams will consist of the following items: 25 objective questions for 50 points
1 (of 3) essay questions for 75 points

The final exam will consist of the following: 25 objective for 50 points
1 (of 2) essay questions for 50 points

Note: Missing a midterm exam, a final exam, or quiz will not be permitted; the student will receive a zero. In the event of serious illness or other emergency, students may retake their exams or quizzes. However, written verification must be obtained from an independent source. No exceptions. Notification should be given ASAP. Once again, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor.

PAPER: The short paper on McPherson's What They Fought For will be due at beginning of class on ????. It will be graded and returned to students by ?????. Lateness will be penalized at 1.5 full letter grades per class day. PLEASE NOTE: Rough drafts are encouraged, accepted, and helpful.

The paper will be graded on content, context, logic, and grammar. The instructor will discuss these areas in class closer to the assignment. For the record, three conditions must be met in this paper:

1. NO PLAGIARISM OR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: In a nutshell, plagiarism means using someone else's work without giving him/her proper credit. Plagiarism (or any other forms of cheating on any quiz or exam in this class) are serious offences and carry serious penalties including failure and/or expulsion. To avoid any plagiarism problems, please use MLA, footnotes, or endnotes. Please note: materials covered in class will be considered "common knowledge" and thus need not be cited. However, materials from the all printed sources must be cited.

2. Use proper grammar and syntax. A maximum of 6 typos or misspelling will be tolerated. For any more than 6 errors, there will be a full letter grade deducted from the paper grade. Egregious sentence structure or punctuation mistakes will also count as an error toward the total. One of best ways to avoid losing points is to proofread, proofread, proofread.

3. The paper will be a minimum of 5 pages long or about 1200 words long. This means that the text must end on page 5 or more – not including title and bibliography pages. For each page less than 5, a full letter grade will be deducted. The paper must be typed and double-spaced at 12 point type (courier, roman, or schoolbook) and with 1 inch margins on all sides of pages. Direct quotes are encouraged but their historical significance must be explained. The student will use the bibliography and Reserves to supplement his or her paper.

HOW TO READ BOLLER: These readings in Boller are "primary sources": documents from a given time period that illustrate important ideas, customs, or events from that contemporary perspective. Furthermore, these "primary sources" have been specifically chosen for their relevance in the past.

Students should read the Boller selections with an eye for what life was like, how people lived, why they believed what they did, how they viewed “other” people, how they viewed authority, how they were biased, what they thought truth and morality was, etc. This will give students practice as historians doing “real” history. Reading them on a daily basis will enrich the classroom experience. Answers to some questions on the exams and quizzes may also be found in these readings.

DISABILITIES OR HEALTH CHALLENGES: Any student with a condition covered by the ADA or which would otherwise affect this class who needs accommodations should contact the instructor a.s.a.p. The necessary arrangements will be made in accordance with the ADA. The Office of Services for Student with Disabilities can be contact at ext. 3217.

NOTE-TAKING: All forms of copyright and property ownership are reserved by the course instructor. Professional note-takers or their agents are expressly excluded from this course.

CALENDAR OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND READINGS

Week 1	Aug 28-30	Intro, What is history? Class Overview “Dave’s Top 10 Questions of Hist-251” Columbian Exchange, Invasion of Americas	EV, ch 1-3 MP, ch 1
Week 2	Sept 4-6	Virginia vs. Massachusetts Colonial Comparisons: New England, Middle Colonies, Southern colonies	MP, ch 3-4 EV, ch 1
Week 3	Sept 11-3	How people lived? Race, class, gender, and religion	EV, ch 5 MP, ch 2
Week 4	Sept 18-20	Relations with Great Britain and the world Origins of War for Independence Revolution or Rebellion?	EV, ch 6 MP, 2-3
Week 5	Sept 25-27	War for Independence Constitutional Convention: United States or Confederation	EV, ch 7 MP, 3
Week 6	Oct 4-6	IN-CLASS REVIEW (Tues) MID-TERM #1 (Thurs)	
Week 7	Oct 9-11	NO CLASS (Tues) “What is an American?” The Federalists	EV, ch 8-9 MP, ch 4
Week 8	Oct 16-18	Jefferson and the First Party System Problems in Political Power Balance	EV, ch 10, 12 MP, 4

		Westward Expansion and War of 1812 Start reading Douglass	
Week 9	Oct 23-25	Jackson and the Second Party System Manifest Destiny, its rationale and effects 1830-60, How people live in South? Slaves and Abolitionism Finish reading Douglass	EV, ch 9, 11, 13 MP, ch 4
Week 10	Oct 30-Nov 1	Market Revolution and industry 1830-60, How people lived in North? Mexican War and more Manifest Destiny	EV, ch 14-5 MP, ch 4
Week 11	Nov 6-8	Crisis in 1850s and Secession Lincoln and the Third Party System Start of Civil War and Strategies Start reading McPherson	MP, ch 4-5 EV, ch 15
Week 12	Nov 13-15	IN-CLASS REVIEW (Tues) MID-TERM #2 (Thurs) Finish reading McPherson	
Week 13	Nov 20-22	Start of Civil War and Strategies to Gettysburg MCPHERSON PAPER DUE (Tues) NO-CLASS (Thurs) HAPPY THANKSGIVING	EV, ch 15 MP, ch 5
Week 14	Nov 27-29	After Gettysburg, Logistics Why the South lost and the North won?	EV, ch 16 MP, ch 5
Week 15	Dec 4-6	Aftermath - Reconstruction: Who won the Peace?	
Week 16	Dec 13, Thurs	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> 8:30-10:30	