Historical Studies 359: The United States, 1607-1877

This course is the first of a two semester introductory sequence in U.S. history. The class will begin with the first peopling of North America, explore contacts between peoples and the building of societies in the colonial context, address the formation of the United States, trace the development of sectionalism in the new nation, and conclude with the American Civil War and the efforts to reconstruct the nation in its aftermath.

**Required Readings**

**Traditionally Published Readings:**
The following are available for purchase at the University of Calgary Bookstore and have been placed on reserve at McKimmie Library:

*Mary Rowlandson, The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, With Related Documents (edited by Neal Salisbury)*
*Sheila L. Skemp, Benjamin and William Franklin; Father and Son, Patriot and Loyalist*

**Electronic Readings (available at the listed website):**

Douglass, Frederick, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Electronic Edition, Documenting the American South Website, University of North Carolina)
[http://docsouth.unc.edu/douglass/douglass.html](http://docsouth.unc.edu/douglass/douglass.html)

**Readings Available on Blackboard (under “Course Documents”):**


Blackboard

The blackboard site for this course will deliver some of the assigned readings. The instructor will also be posting outlines of the lectures, course handouts, and most of the announcements made in class. Students are encouraged to check blackboard on a regular basis. The login page for Blackboard can be found at [http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/). Please note that to access blackboard you must have a U. of C. IT account.

Course Evaluation

Marks will be computed in the following manner:

1. Take-Home Midterm Exam, 30%, Due October 14
2. Paper Proposal, 10%, November 4
3. Research Paper (9-10 pages) 30%, due on November 25
4. Final Examination, 30%, date and time to be determined by the registrar

Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing mark for the course.

Grading Scale:

There is no standard grading scale across the department or the university. Grades will be given and reported to the registrar in letter form, not percentages. There will be no curving of marks. Grades will be calculated on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Outstanding to excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>(well above average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Very good to good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>(above average to average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Satisfactory to adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>(below average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>Inadequate to unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>50-56</td>
<td>(well below average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examinations

The Midterm Exam will be a take-home. You will be required to answer two essay questions. Your exam should be typed (not hand written) and must be turned in, in hard copy, by the end of the day on the due date. There will be no extensions given for this exam unless extenuating circumstances (documented) such as illness or emergency necessitate it. Further details about the exam will be given out in class.

The Final Exam will include some short answer questions (requiring about a paragraph of response) and an essay question that requires a more lengthy response. There will be a study guide to help students prepare for the essay portion of the final exam. The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar and students who must miss the exam are directed to contact that office for information about a possible make-up exam. Please note that the final exam covers the entire course, including material addressed before the midterm exam.

Research Paper Assignment

A research paper of 9-10 pages is due for this course on November 25. The paper should be typed and doubled spaced. It should have margins of 1 to 1 ¼ inches all around. The font should be similar in size to that used in this course outline (Times New Roman, 12). In style and format the paper should conform to the standards of the Department of History. For citation format and other matters of presentation please consult “The History Student’s Handbook: A Short Guide to Writing History Essays,” available on-line at the Department of History website: (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook.pdf).

Of course students should also feel free to seek the advice of the instructor.

The research paper should address itself to a topic of your own choosing within the parameters of this course. The paper must be focused on a specific aspect of the history, between about 1550 and 1877, of the geographical area that is now included in the United States. The paper should be based upon course materials, a significant number of secondary sources of your own choosing, and at least one primary source. Remember that the paper should not be just a report. You are expected to have a central point or thesis for the paper, which will be demonstrated in the body of the essay by the judicious presentation of information and quotations. You are expected to use at least one primary source directly in the paper (the easiest way to meet this requirement is to quote from the source or address it directly in the paper).

Students are required to turn in a proposal for their papers on or before November 4. The proposal should include a paragraph that identifies the general subject of the paper and proposes the sort of questions the paper will seek to answer and must also include a bibliography. The bibliography should include several well-respected and up-to-date secondary sources directly related to your topic and at least one primary source. While the proposal need not be formally annotated, you must give one sentence of justification for inclusion of each source in the bibliography. The success of the research paper (and the mark for this proposal assignment) depends upon the framing of an appropriate topic and the selection of useful sources. Students are encouraged to discuss their research proposal with the instructor in advance of completing this assignment.
Classroom Environment and Course Material Distribution

It is important that students respect one another’s needs in the classroom. Students are asked to turn off phones, personal stereos and other distracting devices during lectures and discussions (unless pre-arrangements have been made with the instructor) and to refrain from engaging in private conversation during lectures. Using laptops and similar devices is acceptable only under the restrictions that a) students seat themselves so that their screens are not easily visible to other students and b) the device is used for classroom related activities only.

It is forbidden to tape or digitally record lectures and/or discussions without the explicit consent of the instructor and any students affected. Materials related to the course (including hand-written lecture notes) are for your own use only and may not be distributed to anyone not officially registered in the course.

Accommodation of Disabilities:

The University of Calgary seeks to provide equal educational opportunities to all students. Students with disabilities (either long-term or recently acquired) will be appropriately accommodated, but must register with the Disability Resource Centre, MacEwan Student Centre 293.

Department of History Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is defined as submitting or presenting one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that course, when, in fact, it is not.

Plagiarism may take several forms:
a) Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, ideas, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
b) Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghost-written papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
c) Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works. The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author’s language and ideas as one’s own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the course and other penalties as noted in The University of Calgary Calendar.
**Lateness Policy**

Students should expect to turn in the take-home midterm and to take the final exam on the assigned dates. Only emergency or illness, with documentation, is sufficient reason to reschedule these exams.

Students may receive an extension for up to a week for the proposal and research paper if prearrangements with the instructor are made at least a full day before the due date. No explanation is required of the student for this extension. Marks for proposals and papers without a prearranged extension will be lowered by 1/3 of a mark for every day that they are late (for example, a “B” paper that is late by two days would be lowered to a C+, and so on). Please note that the weekend counts as two days. If illness or emergency should strike, students must be prepared to provide documentation to avoid lateness penalties.

Please Note: Those who choose to request an extension on the deadline for their research papers will be marked by the same standards as those who turn them in on the original due date, but they might have their papers returned to them after the last day of instruction.

**Turning in Assignments:**

New this year: Students are requested to turn in their research proposals via Blackboard if at all possible. Explicit instructions for how to do this will be provided in class. Please note that there will be a paperless response to your work. Deadline is at 23:59 on the due date.

Students are requested to turn in their actual research papers the old-fashioned way (printed out). The simplest way to turn in the paper (and the midterm exam) is to bring it to class on the due date. To turn in midterms and papers at other times, students should place them in the RED BOX, attached to the wall just outside of the History Department Main Office, on the 6th floor of the Social Sciences building (be sure the instructor’s name is visible on what you turn in). The box is emptied at about 4:30 every day and each item is date-stamped and placed in instructors’ mailboxes. The box is also emptied sometime before 8:00 a.m., and items given the previous day’s date stamp. Please do not put exams and papers under the instructor’s office door, as items tend to get damaged and lost that way. Also, please avoid questioning the office staff about turning in papers unless it can’t be avoided.

**Weekly Assignments**

**Week One (Sept. 9 and 11): Peopling the Continent**
Readings: Faragher, et al., *Out of Many*, Chap. 1

**Week Two (Sept. 16 and 18): European Arrivals**
Readings: *Out of Many*, Chap. 2
Week Three (Sept. 23 and 25) Making Colonies
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 3; Excerpt from John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (on Blackboard); Mary Rowlandson, Sovereignty and Goodness of God , 1-112.

Week Four (Sept. 30 and Oct 2): Making Colonies, Part II
Readings: Out of Many, Chaps. 4 and 5

Week Five (Oct. 7 and 9): Toward Revolution
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 6

Week Six (Oct. 14 and 16) The American Revolution
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 7; Skemp, Benjamin and William Franklin, pages 1-152; Thomas Paine, Common Sense (excerpt, available on Blackboard)

Take-Home Midterm Exam Due October 14.

Week Seven (Oct. 21 and 23) The Emergence of the United States
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 8

Week Eight (Oct. 28 and 30) The New Republic
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 9; the U.S. Constitution (appendix of textbook)

Week Nine (Nov. 4 and 6) Antebellum Society
Readings: Out of Many, Chap. 12 and 13; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (first half)

Paper proposal Due November 4

Week Ten (Nov. 11 and 13) Antebellum Society, Part II
Readings: Out of Many, Ch. 10 and 11; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, (second half)

No Class on November 11 (Reading Days)

Week Eleven (Nov. 18 and 20) Sectional Conflict
Readings: Out of Many, Ch. 14 and 15;

Week Twelve (Nov. 25 and 27) The Civil War
Readings: Out of Many, Ch. 16

Research Papers Due November 25

Week Thirteen (Dec. 2 and 4) Emancipation, Reconstruction, and Summation
Readings: Out of Many, Ch. 17

Final exam date to be determined by the Registrar.

Safewalk: 220-5333, ANYTIME