

HIST51a Fall 2007

T/F 9:10-10:30 am Olin-Sang 104

History of the United States 1607-1877

Ms. Tona Hangen

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This course surveys the social, political and cultural history of America from the settlement of British North America through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Major themes include colonization and conquest, cultural exchange among Europeans, native Americans and Africans in colonial America; the meanings of the American Revolution, the rise of market capitalism, industrialism and wage labor; the transformation of the natural environment; the sectional crisis and the conquest of the American west; and the significance of the Civil War along political, cultural and racial fronts. The class assumes no prior background in American history at the college level; beginning students are particularly welcome.

In this course we pursue two main objectives. The first is to deepen your working knowledge of American history, and the second is to illuminate the process of doing history, by engaging with a wide range of sources so that you may strengthen your analytical and critical skills and form your own interpretations of past events.

Required Books,

We will read these in their entirety or nearly so (available in the bookstore, and in the library on reserve, and therefore not on Moodle)

*Jacqueline Jones et al, *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the US, Vol. 1 to 1877*

*Jon Butler, *Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776*

*Wendy Martin, ed., *Colonial American Travel Narratives*

*T. H. Breen and Stephen Innes, *"Myne Owne Ground": Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1640-1676*

*Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (edited by Isaac Kramnick)

*Carol Sheriff, *The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress 1817-1862*

*Theda Perdue and Michael Green, *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*

*Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

*Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

*Kenneth Stampp, *Causes of the Civil War*

A number of smaller required readings will be posted and available electronically on the course Moodle. Please check this site often for updates to the syllabus, relevant website recommendations, paper and other assignment guidelines, etc. There is also a link to MyHistoryLab (www.myhistorylab.com) which has additional documents and images referenced in the textbook, *Created Equal (CE)*. Note that on the syllabus below, most of the reading assignments have two parts: a background reading, often from the CE textbook, and a primary source (PS) reading, a document or set of documents from the period covered by the background reading—most of these documents are found under “Chapter Resources” in myhistorylab, but in a few cases are posted directly onto that unit in Moodle.

Administrative Business

- Academic honesty: All the work you submit for this course must be your own. I will expect you to know and follow the policies on academic honesty outlined in the Brandeis student handbook. Plagiarism on papers or cheating on exams has no place at Brandeis and will be reported to the Student Judicial system.
- Disability accommodations: If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis and you wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Class Format, Grading and Expectations

Our class meets twice a week for lecture/discussion. Discussion will be part of every class session, and both your reading and your attendance are important to your progress in the course. As detailed in the syllabus below, we will cover a variety of topics and approaches to American history before 1877. You will read both primary and secondary sources – that is, contemporaneous and firsthand accounts from different moments in the American past, as well as historians’ accounts of past events. Typically the readings for a given week do not amount to more than 200 pages. I expect that you will complete all readings by the assigned date and be prepared to discuss them actively in class. You will have the opportunity during the semester to lead off our class discussion on the day’s topic, and you’ll be expected to bring thoughtful questions with you to class to aid in active discussion, even on days when you do not have responsibility for the discussion. We will take two field trips this term, on 10/26 to Gore Place and on 11/6 to the Waltham Museum of Industry.

You will write three short papers (3-4 pages in length). For each paper, you will take the part of historian and consider a tightly focused question that can be answered from documentary or material evidence. More detailed assignments for each of these papers will be handed out later and posted on Moodle. There will be an in-class midterm and a 3-hour final exam. Work must be submitted when due. You must turn in every assignment to receive course credit. Please keep in mind that computer problems are never an acceptable excuse for late work.

Grade calculation:

Papers	45% total (15% each)
Midterm	15%
Final exam	20%
Class participation	20% <i>(includes homework & assessments from discussion day)</i>

Syllabus and Summary of Due Dates

#	Date	Topic	Reading	What's Due/ Notes
1	8/31 Fr	History Survey: a Field Guide to the Trail		
2	9/4 Tu	Contact, Conquest and Exchange	Background: <i>Created Equal</i> (CE) Ch. 1 "First Founders" PS: Iroquois Creation Story, Journal of Christopher Columbus, Sahagun's reconstructed dialogue (CE p. 20), Cartier's First Contact, Charter to Sir Walter Raleigh	
3	9/7 Fr	Historian's Bootcamp	See Moodle links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jesuit Relations</i> = 2-3 chapters of your choice • "Jamestown Revisited," <i>Nat'l Geographic</i> My07 (online) Also, consult "Mural of Jamestown Settlement" from CE Ch. 2	completed Jesuit Relations document report
4	9/11 Tu	European Footholds/ Chesapeake Society	CE Ch. 2 "Euro Footholds in NA 1600-1660," and Breen & Innes, <i>Myne Owne Ground</i> (entire) PS: John Smith "Starving Time," Charter of Maryland 1632	
	9/14 Fr	<i>Rosh Hashanah holiday, no class</i>		
5	9/18 Tu	The New England Town & Society	CE Ch. 3 "Controlling Edges 1660-1715" PS: Mayflower Compact (from CE Ch 2), Bacon's Declaration 1676, Wadsworth "A Well-Ordered Family" 1712, Deposition and Confession of Ann Putnam	
6	9/21 Fr	Margins and Frontiers	PS: <i>Colonial American Travel Narratives</i> 1-48, "Narrative of Mary Rowlandson"	
7	9/25 Tu	Slavery and the Colonial South	CE Ch. 4 "African Enslavement" PS: Of Servants and Slaves in Virginia 1705, Equiano "Middle Passage" 1788, Falconbridge "African Slave Trade" 1788, Oglethorpe "Stono Rebellion" 1739, Appeal to Bishop Gibson (CE p. 103)	Paper #1
8	9/28 Fr	American Babel	CE Ch. 5 "American Babel 1713-1763;" Butler, <i>Becoming America</i> Ch. 1, 4-5 "Peoples," "Things Material," and "Things Spiritual" PS: Edwards "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Albany Plan of Union	
9	10/2 Tu	A trip through the colonies:	PS: <i>Colonial American Travel Narratives</i> 176-327, "Alexander Hamilton's Itinerarium of 1744"	

		Discussion Day		
#	Date	Topic	Reading	What's Due/ Notes
10	10/5 Fr	Shifting Centers and Peripheries	CE Ch. 6 "Imperial Control Limits 1763-1775;" Butler, <i>Becoming America</i> Ch. 2-3 "Economy" and "Politics" PS: Otis "Rights of British Colonies Asserted and Proved," Stamp Act images and protest of 1765, Franklin's Testimony of the Stamp Act, Dickinson "Letters from a PA Farmer"	
	10/9 Tu	<i>Brandeis Thurs, no class</i>		
11	10/12 Fri	Cleaving Apart: Waging a Rebellion	CE Ch. 7 "Revolutionaries @ War 1775-1783;" Butler, <i>Becoming America</i> , Ch. 6 "1776." PS: Paine, <i>Common Sense</i> (entire), Boston Globe description of Boston Massacre from CE Ch 6	
12	10/16 Tu	Cleaving Together: Nation-Forging	CE Ch. 8 "New Beginnings: 1780s" and Ch 9 "Rev Legacies 1789-1803" PS: Washington "Newburgh Address," Northwest Ordinance 1787, Shay's Rebellion Military Reports, Madison's Account of Federal Convention Debates 1787, Washington "Whisky Rebellion Address," Jay Treaty 1794 and Treaty of San Lorenzo, Alien and Sedition Acts, VA and KY Resolutions,	
13	10/19 F		Midterm Exam	
14	10/23 Tu	Whose Nation?	CE Ch. 10 "Defending & Expanding Nation 1803-1818;" PS: Washington Irving, "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (posted as PDF on Moodle), Western Country OH 1816	
15	10/26 Fr	Field trip to Gore Place	"The History Behind Gore Place;" (Moodle weblink)	
16	10/30 Tu	The Stories Things Can Tell	Ulrich, "A Linen Tablecloth" and Sweeney, "Furniture and the Domestic Environment" (posted as PDFs on Moodle)	
17	11/2 Fr	Jacksonian North	CE Ch. 11 "Westward: Age of Common Man 1819-1832;" Sheriff, <i>The Artificial River</i> (entire) PS: Monroe Doctrine 1823	
18	11/6 Tu	Field trip to Charles River Museum of Industry	PS: Edith Abbott, "Rules of the Mill" and other/Lowell mill documents (posted as PDFs on Moodle)	
19	11/9 Fr	Indian Removal & Westward Expansion	CE Ch. 12 "Peoples in Motion 1832-1848" PS: Perdue & Green, <i>Cherokee Removal</i>	Paper #2

#	Date	Topic	Reading	What's Due/ Notes
20	11/13 Tu	Reform and Revival	Schantz, "Religious Tracts, Evangelical Reform, and the Market Revolution in Antebellum America" (posted as PDF on Moodle) PS: David Walker, "Appeal," Garrison, "To the Public," "Declaration of Sentiments" from Seneca Falls (all posted as PDFs on Moodle)	
21	11/16 Fr	"Old" South and its Critics	CE Ch. 13 "Crisis over Slavery 1848-1860," Forret "Slave-Poor White Violence in the Antebellum Carolinas" (posted as PDF on Moodle) PS: TBA, from online archive "Documenting the American South" (see Moodle weblink, http://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html)	
22	11/20 Tu	The World the Slaves Made	Genovese, <i>The World the Slaves Made</i> , excerpt (posted as PDF on Moodle), Lightner and Ragan "Were African American Slaveholders Benevolent or Exploitative?" (posted as PDF on Moodle) PS: Douglass, <i>Narrative</i> ; Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , Part I	
	11/23 Fr	<i>Thanksgiving holiday, no class</i>		
23	11/27 Tu	The 1850s Political Crisis	PS: Lincoln-Douglas debate, 1858 (Moodle); John Brown documents from Valley of the Shadow project (see Moodle weblink, http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/jbrown/master.html); Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Part II	
24	11/30 Fr	From Union to Freedom: Causes of the War	CE Ch. 14 "Civil War;" Kenneth Stamp, <i>Causes of the Civil War</i> (entire) PS: photographs from Civil War online archive, http://www.civil-war.net/ (see Moodle weblink)	
25	12/4 Tu	Legacies of Emancipation	CE Ch. 15 "Consolidating Union 1865-1877;" Barbara Fields, "Who Freed the Slaves?" (posted as PDF Moodle) PS: Lincoln's Addresses	Paper #3
26	12/7 Fr	Discussion Day: The US in 1877	Pencak, "The American Civil War Did Not Take Place" (posted as PDF on Moodle)	
	TBA	Final Exam		