

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

History 2500: American History to 1865

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D. Office: Portable C 216
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Introduction:

In this course, the class will trace the history of the United States from colonial times to the end of the Civil War. Through lectures and class discussions, the class surveys American developments from distinct colonial societies to revolutionary and national consciousness along the Atlantic coast, internal expansion and commercial growth to the rise of racial and constitutional conflict and the Civil War catastrophe. Students will write one term tests, one research and one brief analytical essay and a final examination during the course.

Texts:

P. Boyer, et.al. The Enduring Vision. Volume I. D.C. Heath, 1990.

J. Cary and J. Weinberg, The Social Fabric. Volume I. 6th Edition. Harper-Collins, 1991.

Hugh Brogan. The Pelican History of the U.S.A., Penguin, 1986.

Gary Nash, Red, White and Black, 3rd Ed. Prentice-Hall, 1992.

Outline:

Week One : Backgrounds

September 2 - Introduction

September 4 - First Peoples

READ: Enduring Vision, Prologue, also pp. 2-9.

Week Two : Colonial Origins

September 7 - European Expansion

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 1, pp. 9-40

September 9 - Colonial Dreams and Realities

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 2, pp. 44-63, 68-78.

September 11 - The Puritans

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 3-4

Week Three: Colonial Tensions ;Brogan, Book I;
 September 14 - Colonial Protest and Change
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 3

September 16 - The Empire's Wars
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 4, 126-153.

September 18 - Road to Revolution
 READ: Enduring Vision, 153-162.

Week Four: Independence

September 21 - The Fight
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 5, 164-180.

September 23 - A Social Revolution?
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 5-6

September 25 - Fruits of Victory
 READ: Enduring Vision, 180-202.

Week Five: Jeffersonian Democracy

September 28 - Constitution Making
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 6, 204-214.

September 30 - Federalists and Republicans
 READ: Enduring Vision, 214-239.

October 2 - The Virginia Dynasty: Jefferson
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 7, 242-254.

Week Six : Escape From Europe ;Brogan, Book II;

October 5 - The Virginia Dynasty: Madison
 READ: Enduring Vision, 254-262

October 7 - Madison's Wars
 READ: Enduring Vision, 262-274.

October 9 - Theme Study from Nash and Brogan due!!
 DEBATE: America at 1820: a ticking bomb?

Week Seven: A North American Nation

October 12 - Thanksgiving Holiday

October 14 - A New Economy
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 8

October 16 - Trails of Tears
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 10, 16, 18

Week Eight:

October 19 - The Politics of the Common Man
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 9

October 21 - Revival and Reform
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 7, 11.

October 23 - Brave New Worlds
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 13

Week Nine: Bondage

October 26 - The Peculiar Institution
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 10, 350-367.

October 28 - The Old South
 READ: Enduring Vision, 357-384.

October 30 - Afro-Americans
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 2, 15

Week Ten: Keeping Body and Soul Together

November 2 - American Life at Mid-century
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 11, 386-400, 407-416.

November 4 - Mill and City
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 8, 9, 17

November 6 - The Romantic Age
 READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 12

Week Eleven: Millennium and Race

November 9 - Expansion and Conflict
 READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 12, 418-434.

November 11 - Holiday

November 13 - Manifest Destiny
 READ: Enduring Vision, 435-450.

Week Twelve: Sectional Conflict Peaks

November 16 - Sectionalism
 READ: Enduring Vision, 452-460.

November 18 - Test 2

November 20 - Compromises Fail
 READ: Enduring Vision, 460-484.

Week Thirteen: Marching as To War

November 23 - Abolitionism

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 19

November 25 - The Secession Crisis

November 27 - Trampling Out the Vintage

READ: Enduring Vision, 486-504.

Week Fourteen: Terrible Swift Sword

November 30 - Lincoln's Dilemmas

READ: Enduring Vision, 504-524.

December 2 - Attrition

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 20

December 4 - Dixie Defeated ;Brogan, Book III;

Week Fifteen: Reconstruction

December 7 - Racism, Retrospect and Assessment

READ: Enduring Vision, 526-551, and Social Fabric, Chapter 21.

Final Examination: To Be Announced

Course Format and Philosophy:

The course consists of two lectures and one directed discussion each week. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week and also serve as guides to the text readings. Ideally, students should read the assigned chapters of The Enduring Vision or Social Fabric before each lecture. Your Theme Study will be a critical analysis of how Brogan and Nash portray a common theme in Colonial American history. The test will be short answer in nature, while the examination at the end of the course will include both short and longer essay type questions. ALL research essay topics must be cleared with me before final submission. An attendance and participation mark will be given, which measures both consistent appearance and taking part in the discussions. Late assignments will be penalized 10% each day they are overdue, UNLESS special permission is secured from the instructor in advance. Any students having trouble with their assignments or with the course in general are encouraged to see me as soon as possible -- after class, by contacting me in the office or calling me at home (between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. please!) at 539-7764. I am always willing to help in any way I can!

Marking Scheme:

First Test (in class)	20
Theme Study (ten pages)	20
Essay (twelve pages)	20
Attendance and Participation	10
Final Examination	30

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