

HISTORY 2500: AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865

INSTRUCTOR: DUFF CRERAR

COURSE OUTLINE, FALL TERM, 2001

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPT. OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION

SEP. 07 2001

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Circle. I

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members
in each State shall have Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to 14, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several
Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons
not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made
and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by
law be directed, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and no
State shall have more than three; Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations two, Delaware one, Maryland one, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive

Section 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators, Senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be ascertained in consequence of the first of the Session of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second of Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every year. Any of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments.

each morning
1723

First page of the United States Constitution of 1787.

Grande Prairie Regional College
Dept. of Arts, Commerce and Education
HI2500: American History to the Civil War
Credits: 3 (3 Hrs.) Lecture/Discussion
Pre- and Co-requisites: None
Room: ~~B204~~ C316

Fall 2001

Instructor: Duff W. Crerar, Ph.D.
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Introduction: The course is a survey of the outstanding events, personalities, issues and historical trends in the history of the United States of America, from its earliest beginnings to the end of the Civil War. Through lectures and class discussion of selected course readings, the course surveys developments from distinct colonial societies to revolutionary and national consciousness in the East, internal conquest of the West and commercial growth, to the rise of racial and constitutional conflict and the catastrophe of 1861-1865. Students will write two term tests, one research essay, and a final examination to be scheduled in December.

Texts:

Boyer, Clark, Katt, Salisbury, Sitkoff, Woloch. **The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People**. Volume 1: to 1877. 4th Edition Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Cary, Weinberg, Hartshorne and Wheeler, **The Social Fabric, Volume 1: American Life from 1607-1877**, 8th Edition. Longman, 1999.

Outline:

September 5: American Approaches

September 10: First Peoples

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Prologue and Chapter 1. Also **Social Fabric**, Chapter 1 (pp. 3-20).

September 12: The Europeans: Colonial Dreams and Realities

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 2.

September 17: The City on a Hill - The Puritans

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 3, pp. 47-61; and **Social Fabric**, Chapters 3-4.

September 19: Protest and Change

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 3, pp. 61-79; and **Social Fabric**, Chapters 2, 5, 6.

September 24: The Empire and its Wars

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 4.

September 26: Independence - Road to Revolution

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 5

October 1: The Fight

READ: **Enduring Vision**, pp. 145-165; also **Social Fabric**, Chapters 7-8.

October 3: Constitution-making

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 6, pp. 165-179.

October 8: *Thanksgiving* Holiday (ok, ok, in the USA it's Columbus Day!)

October 10: Mid-Term *Test 1*.

October 15: The Virginians: Washington, Jefferson and Madison
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapters 7-8 (*passim*)

October 17: A North American Nation - Society and Economics
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 9, also **Social Fabric**, Chapters 9, 11.

October 22: Reform and Revival
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 10; and **Social Fabric**, Chaps. 13, 14, 17, 18.

October 24: The Peculiar Institution
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 12; and **Social Fabric**, Chapter 16.

October 29: Keeping Body and Soul Together
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 11, and **Social Fabric**, Chaps 10, 12, 15.

October 31: Manifest Destiny
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 13, and **Social Fabric**, 17, 19-20.

November 5: *Test 2*.

November 12: Sectionalism - the Compromises Fail
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 14.

November 14: Abolitionism and Secession

November 19: The Crisis

November 21: Trampling out the Vintage
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 15, to page 420. **Social Fabric**, Chapter 21.

November 26: Terrible Swift Sword
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 15 to page 439.

November 28: Dixie Defeated. (ESSAY DUE!)

December 3: Retrospect and Assessment.

December 5: Exam Preparation Session.

Final Exam: TBA.

Course Format and Philosophy:

The course primarily consists of lectures, films, slides and guided discussions. This means that students should always have read the assigned readings *before the scheduled class*. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week, and also serve as guides to the texts. You cannot do well in this course if you don't do the readings. The tests are short answer in nature, while the final examination consists of a choice of essay questions reviewing the entire course. Your research essay is your special opportunity to become a specialist on a topic you are interested in. You must clear all essay topics (please propose your own) with me, so that I can use my training to help you locate sources and avoid pitfalls. As you can see, I have scheduled some classes with no readings, so that you can use the normal preparation time for essay research and writing. But do NOT skip classes those days: I will be telling you things you must know to do well on the final examinations. I DO notice attendance, even when I forget to take it! I DO notice whether you are well prepared for class or not, and I WILL be asking you questions as we go along. If you have not got the readings done now and then, COME ANYWAY, to benefit from the lectures and discussion. I know you'll have the readings caught up by next time, right? (!)

Late assignments will be heavily penalized UNLESS you have provided me with a legitimate excuse or a reason in advance. I am happy to give advance permission for an extension. I don't like surprises. Any students having trouble with their assignments or with the course are encouraged to see me or contact me by phone, email, etc. as soon as possible. I am eager to help in any way I can!

Marking Scheme:

First Test	20
Second Test	20
Essay (twelve pages)	20
Attendance	10
Final Examination	30
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	100