

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: B2305

Fall 2003

Instructor: Duff W. Crerar, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: 1-3 Thursday, 1:30-3 Friday, and by appointment.

Introduction: The course surveys 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 traces 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.** 9th Edition. Longman, 1999.

Stout, Neil. *Getting the Most out of Your U.S. History Course.* 3rd Ed.

Outline:

September 3: American Approaches
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Prologue.

September 8: First Peoples
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chap.1. Also **Social Fabric**, Chapters 1, 5.

September 10: The Europeans: Colonial Dreams and Realities
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 2; **Social Fabric**, Chapter 2.

September 15: The City on a Hill - The Puritans
READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapt. 3, pp. 47-61; **Social Fabric**, Chapt. 3-4.

September 17: Protest and Change

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chap. 3, pp. 61-79; **Social Fabric**, Chapter 6.

September 22: The Empire and its Wars

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

September 24: Independence - Road to Revolution

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 5

September 29: The Fight

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

October 1: Constitution-making

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

October 6: Mid Term *Test 1*.

October 8: The Virginians: Washington, Jefferson, and Madison

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapters 7-8 (*passim*).

October 13: *Thanksgiving* Holiday (ok, ok, in the USA it's Columbus Day!)

October 15: A North American Nation - Society and Economics

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 9, also **Social Fabric**, Chapters 9, 11-12.

October 20: Reform and Revival

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 10; **Social Fabric**, Chaps. 13, 16-17.

October 22: The Peculiar Institution

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 12; and **Social Fabric**, Chapter 15.

October 27: Keeping Body and Soul Together

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 11, and **Social Fabric**, Chaps 10, 14.

October 29: Manifest Destiny

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 13, and **Social Fabric**, 18, 19.

November 3: *Test 2*.

November 5: Sectionalism - the Compromises Fail
 READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 14.

November 10 – No Classes.

November : 13: Reading Day for Essay Research and Writing.

November 17: Abolitionism and Secession

November 19: The Crisis

November 24: Trampling out the Vintage
 READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chap. 15, to page 420. **Social Fabric**, Chap. 20.

November 26: Terrible Swift Sword
 READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chap.15 to page 439; **Social Fabric**, Chap. 21.

December 1: Dixie Defeated. (**ESSAY DUE!**)

December 3: Reconstruction Backlash
 READ: **Social Fabric**, Chapter 22.

December 8: 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.

Late assignments will be heavily penalized UNLESS you have provided me with a legitimate excuse or a reason *in advance*. I do not like surprises. I am happy to give advance permission for an extension. 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

	100