

Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

History 350: American History to 1865

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D.

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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 two term tests, one 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.

Outline:

Week One : Backgrounds

September 6 - First Peoples  
READ: Enduring Vision, Prologue

Week Two : Colonial Origins

September 9 - European Expansion  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 1

September 11 - Colonial Dreams and Realities  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 2

September 13 - The Puritans  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 3-4

Week Three: Colonial Tensions

[Brogan, Book I]

September 16 - Colonial Protest and Change  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 3

September 18 - The Empire's Wars  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 4

September 20 - Road to Revolution

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Week Four: Independence

September 23 - The Fight

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 5

September 25 - A Social Revolution?

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 5-6

September 27 - Fruits of Victory

Week Five: Jeffersonian Democracy

September 30 - Constitution Making

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 6

October 2 - Federalists and Republicans

October 4 - The Virginia Dynasty: Jefferson

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 7

Week Six : Escape From Europe

(Brogan, Book III)

October 7 - The Virginia Dynasty: Madison

October 9 - Madison's Wars

October 11 - Test 1

Week Seven: A North American Nation

October 14 - Thanksgiving Holiday

October 16 - A New Economy

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 8

October 18 - Trails of Tears

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 10, 16, 18

Week Eight:

October 21 - The Politics of the Common Man

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 9

October 23 - Revival and Reform

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 7, 11.

October 25 - Brave New Worlds

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 13

Week Nine: Bondage

October 28 - The Peculiar Institution

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 10

October 30 - The Old South

November 1 - Afro-Americans  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 2, 15

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Week Ten: Keeping Body and Soul Together

November 4 - American Life at Mid-century  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 11

November 6 - Mill and City  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 8, 9, 17

November 8 - The Romantic Age  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 12

Week Eleven: Millennium and Race

November 11 - Expansion and Conflict  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 12

November 13 - Manifest Destiny

November 15 - Sectionalism

Week Twelve: Sectional Conflict Peaks

November 18 - Test 2

November 20 - Compromises Fail  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 13

November 22 - Abolitionism  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 19

Week Thirteen: Marching as To War

November 25 - The Secession Crisis

November 27 - Trampling Out the Vintage  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 14

November 29 - Lincoln's Dilemmas

Week Fourteen: Terrible Swift Sword

December 2 - Attrition  
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 20

December 4 - Dixie Defeated [Brogan, Book III]

December 6 - Reconstruction and Racism  
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 15, and Social Fabric, Chapter 21.

Final Class: December 9: Retrospect and Assessment

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. The tests 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 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
Second Test (in class)	20
Essay (twelve pages)	20
Attendance and Participation	10
Final Examination	30

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