

U.S. History to 1877
HIS 010A—Summer 2014

Instructor:

Noel E. Smyth

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Office: 439 Humanities I

Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm and by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Jeff Sherman and Rajan Gill

Course Description:

This course provides a chronological introduction to major events and themes in early U.S. history and introduces students to the discipline of history. The course is set in an Atlantic World context, in which students will be required to think about U.S. history not in isolation, but as part of a larger Atlantic World system that includes diverse interactions of people from Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Furthermore, the development of a U.S. nation had different meanings for different people, thus there is an emphasis in the course to understand early American history from multiple perspectives of race, ethnicity, class, and gender.

Required Texts:

- 1) Gary B. Nash, *Red, White, and Black: The Peoples of Early North America (6th Edition)* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010).
- 2) Davidson, James West and Mark Lytle, *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, Volume 1 (6th Edition)* (New York: Mc-Graw Hill, 2010).
- 3) Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* **or** Soujourner Truth, *Narrative of Soujourner Truth*

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Since this is a compact five-week class that will cover a lot of material during each scheduled class time, attendance at every class is mandatory. More than one absence will result in a failing grade.

Reading, Discussion, Participation, In-Class Writing Assignments: Students are expected to attend lecture, do the required weekly readings, and come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that particular day. During the quarter, there will be a number of short in-class writing assignments. You will be asked to write a brief response to a question concerning the reading for that particular day. The in-class writing assignments will allow you to demonstrate knowledge of the readings and apply that knowledge to a particular question or issue.

Historical Analysis Essay: Each student is required to write one 4-5 page essay either on Frederick Douglass's *My Bondage, My Freedom* or Harriet Jacob's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Prompts for this essay will be provided in Week 3.

Midterm Exam: The exam will be held in class on Tuesday August 19th. The test will review course material covered in the course up to the end of the American Revolution. Students will receive a list of possible ID's and essay questions before the exam.

Final Exam: The final is a take-home, open book exam that will require students to write 1 or 2 essays concerning the cumulative course material. Exam prompts will be distributed on the last day of class. Exams are due Friday, August 29th at 4pm.

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance	5%
In-Class Writing Assignments and Class Participation	20%
Historical Analysis Essay (4-5 pages)	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at [831-459-2089](tel:831-459-2089) or drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

Week 1: Introduction to the Atlantic World

Day 1, 7/29: Introduction to American History in Atlantic World Context: Africa, Europe and the Americas
Native American History Before Europeans

In-class: Watch *The Mystery of Chaco Canyon*

Day 2, 7/31: Spanish, French, Dutch and Swedish Colonization in North America
Early Native American Contacts with Europeans

Reading: Nash, *Red, White and Black*, pages 1-43, and *After the Fact*, Ch. 1

In-class: Discuss readings

-Distribute chronology of early contact (handout)

Week 2: English Colonies and Slavery

Day 3, 8/5: British Colonization in North America

Reading: Nash, *Red, White and Black*, pages 44-86, and *After the Fact*, Ch. 2&3

In-class: Discuss both chapters in *After the Fact*

Day 4, 8/7: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery in the British Colonies
Colonial Transformations: The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening

Reading: Nash, *Red, White and Black*, pages 87-116, 117-131, 142-188

In-class: Discuss course readings

-Distribute Historical Analysis Essay prompt

Week 3: Wars of Empire and the American Revolution

Day 5, 8/12: Wars of Empire in the Eighteenth Century
The American Revolution

Reading: Nash, *Red, White and Black*, pages 189-249, 266-273 and *After the Fact*, Ch. 4

In-class: 1) Discussion of *After the Fact*

2) Distribute midterm sample ID's and essay prompts

Day 6, 8/14: The Early Republic, 1789-1820

Reading: None assigned for today

In-class: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 4: The Early Nineteenth Century

Note for students: The assigned reading is lighter for the final two weeks which will allow you time to finish either Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* or Truth's, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*

Day 7, 8/19: Cotton, Slavery and Politics
Jacksonian Democracy, 1820-1840

Reading: *After the Fact*, Ch. 5

In-class: Watch *We Shall Remain*, episode 3.

Day 8, 8/21: Manifest Destiny and the West
U.S.-Mexico War

Reading: *After the Fact*, Ch. 6

In-class: Discussion of *After the Fact*

-Workshop outlines/drafts of Document Analysis Paper

DUE in class: Rough Outline or draft for the Document Analysis Paper

Week 5: Social Reforms, the Politics of Slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction

Day 9, 8/26: Free to Work: Agriculture, Industry, and Wage Labor
Social Conflict and Reform: Temperance, Abolition and Women's Rights

Reading: *After the Fact*, Ch. 7

In-class: Discussion of *After the Fact*.

DUE: Document Analysis Paper (4-5 pages)

Day 10, 8/28: The Politics of Slavery and the Civil War
Reconstruction

Reading: *After the Fact*, Ch. 8

In-class: Discussion of *After the Fact*.

-Distribute take-home final exam, due Friday by 4pm.

Friday, 8/29: Final Exam due by 4pm