

| **Professor Mia Bay : Office – Van Dyck 002D**
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Office hours: Tuesdays 4:30–5:30 and by appointment |

Section leaders: Scott Bruton,
Justin Lorts,
and Charles Upchurch

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Course description

This course provides an introductory overview of American history from its beginnings to 1877. Opening with an overview of the Atlantic world in the fifteenth century, the course traces the social, cultural, and political history of America through to Reconstruction. Subjects include the first contacts between Native inhabitants and European colonists, the evolution of Britain's American colonies, the displacement of Native peoples, the development of slavery, the social impact of successive waves of European migration, and the emergence, expansion, and consolidation of the United States. Topical rather than comprehensive, the course will emphasize the historical experiences of individual Americans, and the major events, ideas, and social and political conflicts that have shaped American society.

Sections

Each of you is enrolled in a discussion section. Discussion sections will meet six times over the course of the semester and are an essential part of the course. Discussion sections are on Thursdays on the dates listed on the syllabus. You should come to discussion sections fully prepared to discuss the readings, and may be asked to submit one-page commentaries on the readings. Alternatively, you may be asked to participate in classroom exercises on the readings, or answer brief quizzes about them.

Requirements

Readings

The weekly readings required in this course usually range between 50–100 pages. Course readings are contained following four books, all of which are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore:

James A. Henretta et.al, *America: A Concise History* (listed on the schedule as *America*)

William Andrews, *Classic American Autobiographies*

James MacPherson, *What They Fought for 1861–1865*

Bibliobase Coursepack (listed on the schedule as *CP*)

Please note that students are expected to do *all* the reading. As indicated above, there will be several pop quizzes and/or section assignments on the weekly readings. Readings will also be discussed and analyzed in lecture. Please bring your weekly readings to class.

Written Assignments

In addition, course participants must complete three papers, a midterm exam, and a final. Both the papers and the exams will be based on the readings. The

course grade will be divided as follows: the first paper will count for 10% of the final grade; each of the second two papers will be worth 15%; the midterm and the final will comprise 20% each; and quizzes, section assignments, and participation in section will make up the remaining 20%.

[First Written Assignment \(USHistory2.html\)](#)
[Midterm Study Sheet \(USHistoryMT.html\)](#)
[Second Written Assignment \(USHistoryP2.html\)](#)
[Third Written Assignment \(USHistoryP3.html\)](#)

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Beginning the second week of the course, you are expected to sign in and attend the entire class. More than three unexcused (medical, family emergency) absences will lower your grade one letter grade. Six unexcused absences from lecture and discussion will result in failure. Arriving more than five minutes after class begins will count as half an absence. Signing in and leaving early (without notifying your instructor) is a triple absence. If you cannot get to class on time on a regular basis due to a schedule conflict, do not enroll in this class.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction

January 16: Studying American History

January 18: 1492: World Collide

READING: Columbus Announces His Discovery (1493) *CP*, 1–4; *America* 1–21.

Week 2: Exploration, Invasion, And Settlement

January 23: European Powers In the New World

READING: The Exploration Of New Mexico (1582) *CP*, 4–6; Richard Hakluyt, England is Title to North America (1584), handout; *America*, 29–37.

[16th Century Timeline \(USHistory1.html\)](#)

January 25: Discussion Section

READING: The Divine Right to Occupy The Land, *CP*, 7–8; *America* 21–27.

Week 3: British American Settlement

January 30: [Pioneers, And Pilgrims \(USHistory3.html\)](#)

READING: Captain Smith Rescued By Pocahontas, The Earliest Days of Virginia (1607) History Of Plymouth Plantation, (1620) *CP*, 9–18; *America*, 38–44.

February 1: [The Puritan Experiment \(USHistory4.html\)](#)

READING: A Model of Christian Charity (1630), The Trial of Anne Hutchinson (1637) *CP*, 19–30, *America*, 44–56.

Week 4: The City on the Hill

February 6: [Puritan Discontents \(USHistory5.html\)](#)

READING: The Wonders of the Invisible World (1693)

February 8: Discussion Section:

READING: Mary Rowlandson, The True History of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, *Classic American Autobiographies*, 20–69.

*****1st Paper Due *****

Week 5: The British Empire in America

February 13: Colonial Slavery

READING: A Quaker Confronts Slavery 1757; Advertisements For Runaway Slaves (1767–1839); An African View of The Slave Trade (1789) *CP*, 36–51; *America* 58–79.

February 15: [The Great Awakening \(USHistory7.html\)](#)

READING: Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God; *CP*, 51–58; *America*, 86–113.

Week 6: Colonial America

February 20: [Benjamin Franklin's America \(USHistory8.html\)](#)

READING: Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, *Classic American Autobiographies*, 70–156.

February 22: **Midterm Exam**

READING: Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, *Classic American Autobiographies*, 156–228.

Week 7: The Revolution

February 27: [The Revolution \(USHistory9.html\)](#)

READING: Parliamentary Debates (1766), Common Sense (1776), The Intimate Revolution *CP*, 58–88; *America*, 115–141, D1–D–3.

March 1: The Constitution

READING: Essays Of Brutus (1787) Federalist #10 (1787–1788) *CP*, 88–108. *America*, 144–200, D–4–D–20.

Week 8: Creating A New Nation

March 6: Forging A New Nation

READING: Farewell Address (1796), Jefferson's Inaugural Address (1801), Against Christian Missionaries (1805), *CP*, 102–113; *America*, 201–228.

March 8: Section

READING: *America*, 229–256

Week 9: The New Republic Takes Shape

March 20: [From Jefferson to Jackson \(USHistory10.html\)](#)

READING: A Revival in Cincinnati, 1828, How to Get Elected (1834), *CP*, 111–117; *America*, 257–300.

March 22 [Indian Removal \(USHistory11.html\)](#)

READING: Jackson's Second Annual Message To Congress (1830); To the People of the United States (1830), *CP*, 117–124, *America*, 300–310.

Week 10: Slavery and Freedom in the New Republic

March 27: [Slavery and Freedom \(USHistory12.html\)](#)

READING: The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass, *Classic American Autobiographies*, 229–327.

March 29: Section

READING: The Pro–Slavery Argument (1832) *CP*, 124–129 Rules on a Rice Plantation 134–136; *America*, 337–347. *****2** ND Paper Due *** **Week 11: Reform Movements**

April 3: [Abolitionism and Women's Rights \(USHistory13.html\)](#)

READING: The Liberator (1831; Legal Disabilities Of Women (1837); Declaration of Sentiments (1848), The Great Lawsuit (1843); *CP*, 137–148; *America*, 323–336.

April 5: [Antebellum Culture \(USHistory14.html\)](#)

READING: Self–Reliance (1841), Civil Disobedience (1849) *CP*, 148–163; *America* 311–323.

Week 12: The 1850s

April 10: [Sectionalism and Southern Thought \(USHistory15.html\)](#)

READING: Manifest Destiny (1845) Fugitive Slave Act (1850), Cotton Is King (1858); A Disquisition On Government (1851), *CP*, 130–134, 163–180.

April 12: Discussion Section

READING: The Planter's Northern Bride (1854) *CP*, 180–186; *America*, 347–391

Week 13: The Civil War

April 17: The Irrepressible Conflict

READING: The Lincoln–Douglas Debates (1858); Slavery and the Confederacy (1861), *CP*, 186–207; *America*, 392–418.

April 19: War

READING: James MacPherson, *What They Fought For: 1861–1865*, 1–69.

3 rd Paper Due

Week 14: The World the War Made

April 24: Reconstruction and Redemption

READING: A Southern View of Defeat (1866), The Negro Exodus (1879), Civil Rights Cases, (1883), *CP*, 207–225; *America*, 419–445.

April 26: Discussion Section

Final Exam, May 8, 8–10pm