

## History 1004

### INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Spring 2002

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Class Webpage – access via the Blackboard 5 portal at

<http://www.learn.vt.edu> (<http://www.learn.vt.edu>)

#### Course Description

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#### Course Requirements

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#### Required Readings

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#### Honor Code

#### Computer Requirements

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#### Course Schedule

#### Course Description

This course provides an interpretive overview of the history of the United States from the eve of European arrival on the North American continent through the present day. We will frame our discussion of the social, economic, political, and cultural developments that shaped this nation around three interlocking themes: 1) the ongoing tension between national unity and national division due to geography, ideology, and racial, class and ethnic identity; 2) the changing role of the U.S. in the world, and the efforts to define what that role should be; and 3) the debate over the function and size of government, along with related contests over the meaning of "freedom" and citizenship rights. Our ultimate objective is to understand not only what happened but why, and to gain some perspective into the arguments and issues whose history shapes our present lives.

Your work in History 1004 simultaneously satisfies the Virginia Tech requirement for achieving competency in American history and counts toward the completion of the University's Area 3 Core Requirement in Society and Human Behavior.

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## Required Readings

All books are available from the University Bookstore, Volume Two Bookstore, and the Tech Bookstore. Many are also available from online booksellers. All books are also on reserve at Newman Library.

- Tindall and Shi, *The Essential America*
- Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- Thomas Bell, *Out of This Furnace*
- Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
- Online Sources: – accessed through the "Documents" link on the class web page (see top of syllabus for URL).

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## Computer Requirements

This class requires access to an up-to-date computer and the web – both for e-mail communication and for use of the course web-page.

### *Course Webpage*

\_ You can access the course website through the Blackboard 5 portal at:

<http://www.learn.vt.edu> (<http://www.learn.vt.edu>)\*.\* Logging-in with your Virginia Tech PID and password will give you direct access to the class web-page, "Hist 1004 – Intro to US History."

Numerous reading assignments, announcements, weekly quizzes, and posted grades will **only** be available through the website. I will also post lecture outlines and lists of key terms at the end of each week.

Finally, additional study aids are available on the companion website to *The Essential America*. Simply point your browser to <http://www.wwnorton.com/eamerica> (<http://www.wwnorton.com/eamerica>) and click on "Online Tutor" (for practice quizzes and other exercises) or "e-Reserves" (for links to web-pages of interest).

### Communication

If you wish to communicate with me via e-mail, please be sure to type "Hist 1004" in the subject header line. Otherwise, I will delete the message without reading it.

I will communicate with you periodically via e-mail as well. If you check your e-mail through an account other than your Virginia Tech account (ie: Hotmail or Yahoo), make sure you configure your Virginia Tech e-mail account to forward your mail. Otherwise you will miss out on important announcements.

Finally, some things are best discussed in person rather than electronically. If you have a complicated or sensitive problem to discuss, please feel free to come and introduce yourself to me. I am always available during my office hours as well as after class.

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## Course Requirements

### Readings

Unless otherwise noted on the syllabus, the readings will be due on the Tuesday of the week they are assigned.

### Online Quizzes

Over the course of the semester, there will be 10 timed online quizzes, of which you must complete 8. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions based on the readings for that week, and can be accessed via the "Assignments" link on the class web page (URL listed at top of syllabus).

There will also be a practice quiz the first week of class that is required but which will not count towards your grade.

Quizzes will be available online for 24 hours, from 12 am through midnight on the Thursdays noted on the syllabus. You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, and you are expected to abide by the Virginia Tech Honor Code.

There will be no make-up quizzes. No exceptions.

### Examinations

Three in-class closed-book examinations will be given on the dates listed on the schedule below. Exams will be multiple choice, and will cover **all** of the material from the course, including lectures, discussions, and readings.

Please note the dates that exams are scheduled for. Make-ups will be given only in the most dire of circumstances – due to serious illness, death in the immediate family, or participation in an approved university activity – all of which will require acceptable documentation from the Dean of Students. Please see me before the exam to make the appropriate arrangements.

### Final Grades

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Online Quizzes (best 8 out of 10)

In-Class Exams:

Exam #1

Exam #2

Exam #3

**Total:**

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20%

25%

25%

30%

\*\* 100%\*\*

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Students **must** take **all** exams and complete the appropriate number of online quizzes in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

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### **Honor Code**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and adhere to the [Virginia Tech Honor Code \(http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/index.html\)](http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/index.html) on all assignments for this course. Although I strongly encourage students to work together in study and review groups, all work submitted for a grade must be your own.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **PART I: *New Societies and a New Nation***

#### **Jan 15–17      *The Atlantic World at the Point of Contact***

The Essential America: Chap 1

*Practice Quiz – Thurs, Jan 17*

#### **Jan 22–24      *Colonial America, North and South***

The Essential America: Chaps 2–3

*Online Quiz #1 – Thurs, Jan 24*

#### **Jan 29–31      *Revolutionary Thought and Action***

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (entire book)

The Essential America: Chaps 4–5

*Online Quiz #2 – Thurs, Jan 31*

#### **Feb 5          *Creating a New Nation***

The Essential America: Chap 6, pp. A28–A41

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Feb 7 (Thurs) ***Exam #1, in class***

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### **PART II: Expansion, Division, and Reunification\*\***

#### **Feb 12–14      *Political and Economic Expansion in the Early Republic***

The Essential America: Chaps 7–8,11

*Online Quiz #3 – Thurs, Feb 14*

#### **Feb 19–21      *Free and Slave Labor in the Antebellum U.S.***

The Essential America: Chaps 12, 14

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (entire book, for

Thurs, Feb 21)

|| *Online Quiz #4 – Thurs, Feb 21*

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Feb 26–28 \_\_| *Manifest Destiny and Sectional Crisis*

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The Essential America: Chaps 13, 15

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Mar 2–10 | **Spring Break**

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Mar 12–14 | *The Civil War and Reconstruction*

| | The Essential America: Chaps 16–17

| | *Online Quiz #5 – Thurs, Mar 14*

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Mar 19 (Tues) **Exam #2 (in class)**

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PART III: Industrializing America\*\*

**Mar 21**                      ***The Industrial Age***

Out of This Furnace: 3–171

The Essential America: Chaps 19, 21

Mar 26–28 *Empire and Race at Home and Abroad*

Online Documents – "The Jim Crow South"

The Essential America: Chaps 18, 22

*Online Quiz #6 – Thurs, Mar 28*

Apr 2–4    *Modern Times*

Out of This Furnace: 172–258

The Essential America: Chaps 20, 23, 25

*Online Quiz #7 – Thurs, Apr 4*

**PART IV: The Rise and Fall of American Liberalism**

**Apr 9–11**                      ***The New Deal Order – In Peace and War***

Out of This Furnace: 259–413

The Essential America: Chaps 27–29

*Online Quiz #8 – Thurs, Apr 11*

Apr 16–18 *The U.S. as a Global Superpower*

The Essential America: Chaps 30–32

Coming of Age in Mississippi, 11–214 (for Thurs, Apr 18)

*Online Quiz #9 – Thurs, Apr 18*

Apr 23–25 *The Rise and Fall of Postwar Liberalism*

Coming of Age in Mississippi, 215–384

The Essential America: Chaps 33–34

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*Online Quiz #10 – Thurs, Apr 25*

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Apr 30 | *The New World Order*

| | The Essential America: Chaps 35–36

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**May 6 (Mon) Final Exam, 4:25–6:25 PM**

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