

HIST 231  
The Foundations of American Society: Beginnings to 1877  
Fall 2002, MWF 10:40-11:30  
Seney Hall 322  
appointment

Dr. Susan Youngblood Ashmore  
Office: Language Hall 101  
Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30 or  
T Th 2:30-3:30 or by

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## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the history of the United States from pre-colonial times through the Civil War. As a survey course we will focus on what it means to be an American and how that has changed over time with specific emphasis on migration, diversity, the concept of individual freedom, and the creation and maintenance of the Union. We will learn about the political and economic development of the United States as well as the social history of the country. Special emphasis will be given to colonialism, the American Revolution and its aftermath, the era of Andrew Jackson, social and cultural life in nineteenth-century America, expansion and sectional crisis, and the Civil War.

### Course Goals:

There are several objectives for this course. First, by gaining a factual knowledge of this historical period the course seeks to assist students in learning to think historically by recognizing and criticizing evidence and using primary and secondary sources to reason inductively going from specifics to generalizations. Second, this course hopes to teach students to ask questions about the past to gain new perspectives on the past as well as the ability to educate themselves in the future. Third, the course strives to help students discover, understand, and appreciate the interplay of forces and personalities that shape historical change in America's past. Fourth, this course will help students develop reading, researching, and writing skills that will benefit them in upper division classes. At the end of the course students should be able to recognize a historical argument when they see one, be familiar with the most important people, ideas, and events of early American history, and understand their significance for today.

**Required Readings:** These books are available at the campus bookstore.

Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery 1619-1877*, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650-1750*, Vintage Books: New York, 1980.

Pauline Maier, ed., *The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States*, Bantam Books: New York, 1998.

Noble E. Cunningham, Jr., *Jefferson vs. Hamilton: Confrontations that Shaped a Nation*, Bedford/St. Martin's Press: Boston, 2000.

David Blight, ed. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1993.

Louis P. Masur, *1831: Year of Eclipse*, Hill and Wang: New York, 2001.

Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Cause of the Civil War*, University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville, 2002.

Primary documents and secondary journal articles on E-Reserves.

### Grading and Assignments:

Midterm Essay Exam (20%) given on **Monday, October 21**; 2 book reviews (20%): a book review of either Ulrich or Cunningham, a book review of either Masur or Douglass due at the *beginning* of class (Ulrich, **September 18** or Cunningham **October 30**, Masur **November 15** or Douglass **November 22**); unannounced quizzes from reading material (10%); review of reading journal (10%) due **October 11 and November 25**; attendance and general class participation (10%); final essay exam (30%) given on **Monday December 16 from 2:00-5:00**. All assignments as well as your final course grade will be based on the +/- system. Study questions for the midterm examination and final examination will be passed out at least one week prior to each exam.

Explanation of Reading Journal Assignment: Throughout the semester you will read primary documents and journal articles that have been placed on E-reserves through the library web page. Your responsibility is to read all of the documents and journal articles assigned throughout the semester and keep

a reading journal that answers assigned questions that are posted on the LearnLink class conference. Reading journal review due dates are **October 11 and November 25**.

Explanation of Book Review Assignment: Each student will write two book reviews that are 4-6 pages in length using double-spaced lines of either Ulrich or Cunningham and either Masur or Douglass. Each book review should summarize the main theme(s) in the book and comment on their importance to your understanding of this course's themes. In writing your book reviews you should ask yourself the following: 1. Why did the author write this book; 2. What generalizations did the author hope you would remember after all the details had been forgotten; 3. How successful was the author in convincing you that these generalizations are worth remembering? Be sure to comment here on the reasons the author gave for making his/her generalizations and the ways she/he used historical evidence to support his/her reasons and generalizations.

#### **Honor Code:**

We are a community of scholars. Therefore, academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Your signature or name on any work submitted for credit in this course shall indicate you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, nor have you condoned the giving or receiving of unauthorized information by others. As a student at Oxford College of Emory University you have agreed to abide by the honor pledge and have taken upon yourself the responsibility of upholding the Honor Code; you are encouraged to inquire of the Honor Council about any doubtful case at any time throughout the semester. For complete details on the Honor Code please see pages 94-97 in the Oxford College 2002-2003 Catalog.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Class begins at 10:40 and ends at 11:30. Regular attendance and active participation in class is assumed to be an essential part of the learning process. You will sign in for yourself at the beginning of each class. Do not sign in anyone else but yourself. Signing in for another classmate is considered a form of dishonesty that I consider a violation of the honor code. Students are allowed two absences, every absence after that will deduct points from the attendance/class participation portion of your final course grade. Occasionally participation in a college-sponsored event is an excused absence. However, you must inform me prior to the absence and present written proof of college sponsorship. It is your responsibility to obtain missed lecture notes and turn in all assignments on time. I expect you to be awake and focused on the material being covered in class. Do not study for another course while you are in my class. During class discussions of reading material I expect you to have prepared before class.

If you miss the midterm exam or the final exam, **only absences due to medical or family emergencies** (for example, attending the funeral of an immediate family member) are valid. You will need to present written evidence of your illness or family emergency for an excused absence. Students will only be allowed to make up missed work after presenting written proof of a medical or family emergency. All make-up midterm exams will be given on the last day of class (December 10) during my office hours. You cannot change the time of your final exam because of travel plans, vacation plans, job opportunities, or having more than one final exam on one day.

If you miss the due date on a written assignment, a late penalty of **five points per day** (including weekends) will be deducted from your grade for that assignment. If you turn your written assignment in after the beginning of class but on the same day it is due you will be deducted **2.5** points from your grade for that assignment.

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours, or make an appointment with me if my office hours do not coincide with your schedule. One of the positive experiences you can have at Oxford College is getting to know your professors well. So, take advantage of that opportunity and come see me throughout the semester.

#### **Class Etiquette:**

E-mail: We will have a class conference on LearnLink that corresponds with this course. I will post all assignments on the conference as well as other pertinent items that may enhance class discussion. When communicating with your fellow classmates on the conference or with me on my personal e-mail address do not post anything that you would not be comfortable saying to your classmates or to me in person.

Cell phones: I do not take phone calls during class so you should not either. Turn off your cell phone during class.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Aug 28	Syllabus, Why Study History?	
Aug 30	September 11, 2001: A Case Study in the Process of Studying History	
Sept 2	No Class–Labor Day Holiday	
Sept 4	Natives and Colonizers	E-Reserves: Discovery
Sept 6	New Spain	
Sept 9	Jamestown, Virginia	Kolchin, Chap 1
Sept 11	Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake	E-Reserves: 17th-Cent Chesapeake
Sept 13	Massachusetts Bay Colony	Ulrich, <i>Good Wives</i>
Sept 16	Seventeenth-Century New England	Ulrich, <i>Good Wives</i>
Sept 18	Discussion of Ulrich <i>Good Wives</i> , <b>Book Review due at beginning of class</b>	
Sept 20	Colonial South Carolina and Georgia	Kolchin, Chap 2
Sept 23	Middle Colonies	
Sept 25	Colonial Society: Enlightenment/Great Awakening	E-Reserves: Colonial Society
Sept 27	The French and Indian War (The Seven Years War)	
Sept 30	Imperial Crisis	E-Reserves: Imperial Crisis
Oct 2	Discussion of the Declaration of Independence	
Oct 4	Road to War	
Oct 7	War for Independence	E-Reserves: War for Indep,
Kolchin Chap3		
Oct 9	War for Independence	E-Reserves: War for Indep,
Kolchin Chap3		
Oct 11	Republican Society	
	<b>Reading Journals Due at the beginning of class</b>	
Oct 14	No Class–Fall Break Holiday	
Oct 16	Republican Society	
Oct 18	The Federal Constitution	E-Reserves: The New Nation
Oct 21	<b>Midterm Essay Exam</b> covering Natives and Colonizers through War for Independence, E-Reserve readings, Ulrich, lectures through Oct 11. Blue Book Required	
Oct 23	Discussion of the Federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights	
Oct 25	Washington's Administration	E-Reserves: Washington's Admin
Oct 28	The Young Nation	Cunningham <i>Jefferson vs.</i>
<i>Hamilton</i>		
Oct 30	Discussion of Cunningham <i>Jefferson vs. Hamilton</i> , <b>Book Review due at the beginning of class</b>	
Nov 1	Jefferson and Madison	
Nov 4	Jacksonian America	Masur <i>1831</i> , Chapter 3: Religion and Politics
Nov 6	The Age of Jackson	E-Reserves: American Nationalism
Nov 8	The Age of Jackson	Masur <i>1831</i> , Chapter 4: State and Nation
Nov 11	Domesticity and Reform	Masur <i>1831</i> , Chapter 2: Slavery and Abolition;
Kolchin Chap 4; E-Reserves:	2nd Great Awak & Ante.Reform	
Nov 13	Economic Expansion	Masur <i>1831</i> , Chapter 5: Machines & Nature; E-Reserves: Antebellum North
Nov 15	Discussion of Masur <i>1831</i> , <b>Book Review due at the beginning of class</b>	

Nov 18	Antebellum South	Douglass <i>Narrative of a Life</i> ; Kolchin Chapters 5-6
Nov 20	Antebellum South	Douglass <i>Narrative of a Life</i> ; Kolchin, Chapters 5-6
Nov 22	Discussion of Douglass <i>Narrative</i> , <b>Book Review due at the beginning of class</b>	
Nov 25	Sectional Conflict--the 1850s	E-Reserves: Sectional Conflict
	<b>Reading journals due at the beginning of class</b>	
Nov 27	No Class--Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov 29	No Class--Thanksgiving Holiday	
Dec 2	Sectional Conflict--Dred Scot to Lincoln	E-Reserves: Sectional Conflict
Dec 4	The Coming of the Civil War	Dew <i>Apostles of DisUnion</i> ;
Kolchin Chap7; E-Reserves: Civil War		
Dec 6	The Civil War	E-Reserves: Civil War
Dec 9	The Civil War	E-Reserves: Civil War
Dec 11	Reading Day	

Dec 16 **Final Essay Exam, 2:00-5:00, bring blue book**

## **Documents and Journal Articles**

**Hist 231, Fall 2002**

**Dr. Susan Youngblood Ashmore**

### **Discovery**

Document:

Marco Polo, The Travels, (Penguin: New York, 1958), pp. 243-248.

Readings:

Delno West, "Christopher Columbus and His Enterprise to the Indies: Scholarship of the Last Quarter Century," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., Vol 49, (April 1992), pp. 254-277.

### **Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake**

Document:

James Revel, "The Poor Unhappy Transported Felon's Sorrowful Account of His Fourteen Years Transportation at Virginia in America," c. 1680, in William A. Link and Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, eds, The South in the History of the Nation Vol 1: Through Reconstruction, (Bedford/St. Martin's Press: Boston, 1999), pp. 42-49.

William Byrd, "Entries from His Secret Diary," 1709, in Link and Spruill, pp. 64-68.

Readings:

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter One: Origins and Consolidation.

T.H. Breen, "Horses and Gentlemen: The Cultural Significance of Gambling Among the Gentry of Virginia," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., Vol 34, No. 2 (Apr 1977), pp. 239-257.

### **Seventeenth-Century New England**

Document:

Hetty Shepard, "Diary of a Puritan Girl," in Robert d. Marcus and David Burner, eds, America Firsthand: Readings from Settlement to Reconstruction, (Bedford/St. Martin's Press: Boston, 1997), pp. 68-72.

Readings:

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Goodwives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750, (Vintage Books: New York, 1980).

### **Colonial South Carolina and Georgia**

Document and Readings:

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter Two: The Colonial Era

### **Colonial Society: Enlightenment and The Great Awakening**

Document:

Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

John Locke, "Of Property," in Thomas P. Peardon, ed. John Locke, The Second Treatise of Government, (MacMillan: New York, 1952), pp. 16-30.

Readings:

C. Bradley Thompson, "Young John Adams and the New Philosophical Rationalism," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., Vol 55, No. 2. (Apr. 1998), pp. 259-280.

### **Imperial Crisis and War for Independence**

Documents:

The Stamp Act

Broadside on the Boston Massacre, "A monumental Inscription on the Fifth of March," Boston, Printed by Isaiah Thomas, 1772, the American Antiquarian Society. (Receive this in class)

The Declaration of Independence

Thomas Paine, "The American Crisis, Number 1," in John Rhodehamel, ed., The American Revolution: Writings from the War of Independence, (The Library of America: New York, 2001), pp. 238-246.

Reading:

Pauline Maier, "Coming to Terms with Samuel Adams," American Historical Review, Vol 81, No. 1 (February 1976), pp. 12-37.

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter Three: American Revolution

### **The New Nation**

Document:

Letter to the Providence Gazette and Country Journal about the important subject of the Constitution, October 18, 1788. (Receive this in class)

James Madison, "Preface to Debates in the Convention," in Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 Reported by James Madison, (WW Norton: New York, 1966), pp. 3-19.

Readings:

Saul Cornell, "Aristocracy Assailed: The Ideology of Backcountry Anti-Federalism," Journal of American History, 1990 76 (4): pp. 1148-1172.

#### **Washington's Administration**

Readings:

John R. Howe, Jr., "Republican Thought and the Political Violence of the 1790s," American Quarterly, Vol 19, No. 2, Part 1, (Summer 1967), pp. 147-165.

#### **The Young Nation**

Readings:

Noble E. Cunningham, Jr., Jefferson vs. Hamilton: Confrontations That Shaped a Nation, (Bedford/St. Martin's Press: New York, 2000).

#### **American Nationalism**

Documents:

Andrew Jackson, "Excerpt from Jackson's Message to Congress, December 8, 1829," and "The Text of the Removal Act," in The Long and Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians, (Hill and Wang: New York, 1993), pp. 121-128.

Readings:

Walter H. Conser, Jr., "John Ross and the Cherokee Resistance Campaign, 1833-1838," Journal of Southern History, Vol. 44, No. 2 (May 1978), pp. 191-212.

#### **Second Great Awakening and Antebellum Reform**

Documents:

Lyman Beecher, "Six Sermons on Intemperance," 1828.

William Lloyd Garrison, "Truisms," January 8, 1831, "On the Constitution and the Union," December 29, 1832, in William E. Cain, ed., William Lloyd Garrison and the Fight Against Slavery: Selections from The Liberator, (Bedford/St. Martin's Press: Boston, 1995), pp. 74-76, 87-89.

Readings:

Ian R. Tyrrell, "Drink and Temperance in the Antebellum South: An Overview and Interpretations," Journal of Southern History, Vol 48., No. 4 (Nov. 1982), pp. 485-510.

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter 4: Antebellum Slavery

#### **Antebellum North**

Documents:

Abraham Lincoln, "To the People of Sangamo County," in Andrew Delbanco, ed., The Portable Abraham Lincoln, (Viking Press: New York, 1992), pp. 5-9.

Readings:

Edward Pessen, "How Different from Each Other Were the Antebellum North and South?" American Historical Review, Vol 85, No. 5. (Dec 1980), pp. 1119-1149.

Louis P. Masur, 1831: Year of Eclipse, (Hill and Wang: New York, 2001).

#### **Antebellum South**

Documents and Readings:

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter Five: Antebellum Slavery: Slave Life and Chapter Six: The White South: Society, Economy, Ideology.

David W. Blight, ed., Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass An American Slave Written by Himself, (Bedford/St. Martin's: Boston, 1993).

#### **Sectional Conflict**

Documents:

Dred Scott v. Sanford, 1857, in Commager, Vol I, pp. 339-345.

Readings:

Paul Finkleman, "What Did the Dred Scott Case Really Decide?" Reviews in American History, 1979 7 (3): 369-374.

#### **Civil War**

Documents:

Walt Whitman, "States," Leaves of Grass, (W.W. Norton: New York, 1973), pp. 608-610.

Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861, in Commager, Vol. I, pp. 385-388.

Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863, in Commager, Vol I, pp. 420-421.

Gary Wills, "The Gettysburg Address, 1. Spoken Text, 2. Final Text," in Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words That Remade America, (Simon and Schuster: New York, 1992), pp. 261-263.

Readings:

Charles B. Dew, Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Cause of the Civil War, (University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville, 2002).

Peter Kolchin, American Slavery 1619-1877, Hill and Wang: New York, 1993, Chapter Seven: The End of Slavery.