

History 11
Early American History
Fall 1999

Instructor: Nathan Boyer
Office Hours by appointment

History of the United States to 1865

This course examines the history of the United States from the colonial period through the end of the Civil War in 1865. The class will consider important economic, political, and social events and ideas that were instrumental in shaping the growth of the American nation. Lectures, readings, and discussions are intended to expand individual understanding of the connection between various developments in American history and the influence of such developments on the modern nation.

Textbook:

American History: A Survey, volume one, by Alan Brinkley

Course Objectives:

1. Explain the causes and impact of European exploration in the New World.
2. Analyze the development of political institutions in the United States up to the conclusion of the Civil War.
3. Describe the evolution of the American economy from colonial times to the Civil War, focusing on the transition from a pre-industrial to an increasingly industrial society.
4. Evaluate trends in American culture, society, and intellectual life to 1865.
5. Explain the contributions, socio-economic conditions, and experiences of various minority groups in the history of the United States to 1865.
6. Identify the causes and consequences of the United States foreign policy, wars, and expansion through 1865.
7. Identify and evaluate the significance of prominent persons, places, and events in United States history.
8. Compare and contrast important political, social, and economic events from the American past with current trends in American society.

Class Attendance:

Regular attendance is required and is necessary for successful completion of the course. A portion of your grade will include points for attendance. You have two "free" absences during the semester. I will deduct points for each additional absence. If you have more than two absences by the final drop date, you may be removed from the class.

Assignments:

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester – two “midterm” exams and one final. These exams may consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. I will provide a study guide in advance of the exam and will allow class time for review and specific questions.

The final exam is not comprehensive, however, it is weighted heavily to encourage consistent performance at the end of the semester. Furthermore, this allows you an opportunity to improve your grade.

Makeup Exams: Sufficient notice will be given of exam dates. Thus, every effort should be made to take exams on the assigned date. If you must miss a test, arrangements must be made to make up the exam. Makeup tests will contain only essay questions and must be taken within one week of the original exam date. Due to time constraints, there will be no makeup tests for the final.

Quizzes: To encourage regular attendance and timely reading of your textbook, you will be given a total of seven quizzes during the semester. Five of these quizzes will be announced in advance. The remaining two will be unannounced and will deal with material covered in class. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and/or fill-in questions and should take ten to fifteen minutes at the beginning of class.

Only five quiz scores will be counted in your final grade. The two lowest scores will be dropped. **Makeup quizzes will not be given.**

Research Paper: You will be assigned one research paper. Specific instructions on topic, requirements, and due date will be forthcoming.

Grading Information:

Exam #1	100 points
Exam #2	100 points
Final Exam	150 points
Quiz total	50 points
Research Paper	100 points
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total points	550 points

Grading Scale:

A	495-550
B	440-494
C	385-439
D	330-384
F	0-329

Extra Credit

As a rule, extra credit points will not be offered. It is my opinion that extra credit too often excuses students from consistent effort throughout the semester. From the beginning of the semester every effort should be made to achieve the highest quality of work. Do not rely on extra points to raise your grade at the last moment!