



HIS 1400
US History I
Summer Session, 7/1-8/2 2019
3 credits

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 13:00-14:00

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is a survey of United States History beginning with colonial times and continuing through the era of Reconstruction following the Civil War.

ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The major themes will be the dispossession of Indigenous Peoples by Europeans and Euro-Americans, the development and limitations of democracy, and slavery and its legacy for the U.S. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the historian's craft. They will study what historians do, how they do it, and why.

We will read a survey text, a scholarly narrative, and a collection of primary sources. Class will be primarily lecture-based but will require student participation through discussion and in-class exercises. This is an upper division course and will require significant time, effort and thought from its students. You are ill-advised to take it unless you have the time and the will to work hard.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will gain knowledge of important historical processes of U.S. history to 1877.
- Students will understand how history can be viewed through the lens of race, class, and gender and thus affect how history is interpreted.
- Students will gain an understanding of how historians work by reading primary sources, engaging in historiographical debates, and crafting written essays defending an interpretive argument
- Students will learn to think more critically, evaluate arguments based on evidence, and challenge long-held assumptions and myths about American history.

INSTRUCTOR'S ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Without your regular attendance and engagement with the material, you will not achieve the objectives of the class. Roll will be taken each day, with each student granted one excused absence. Any other absence, regardless of the reason, will reduce your grade for this component of the requirements by 25%. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain--alert and engaged- for the duration of the class period.

TEXTS:

- Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States* (Norton, 2018).
- Henretta, et al. *Documents for America's History, Vol. I. To 1877* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012).
- Ambrose, *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869* (Simon & Schuster, 2001).

ASSESSMENTS/COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations: There will be a midterm and a final examination. Both will be a combination of essay and short answer.

Homework/Exercises/Quizzes: There will be occasional homework and in-class quizzes and exercises, primarily based on the readings for that week.

Essays: Two papers in essay form are due over the course of the semester. These are to be at least 750 but no longer than 1200 words (approximately 3-5 pages double-spaced, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins). Each essay involves an integration of the reading assignments with the major themes discussed in lecture.

Participation: Unlike on-line learning, direct human-to-human, real-time courses offer an opportunity to engage and develop a wide range of skills, including thinking, speaking, staying alert, and listening (to each other as well as the Instructor). It is expected that every student will exercise this opportunity and privilege by preparing for and participating in every class meeting.

Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	25%
Homework/Exercises/Quizzes:	15%
Essays (10% each):	20%
Participation:	10%
Attendance:	<u>10%</u>
	100%

FINAL PROJECT/EXAM DESCRIPTION:

The Final Exam will be a cumulative, in-class assessment of all materials covered in the course. There will be an in-class review the class before the examination. The form will be short-answer and essay.

COURSE OUTLINE:

All assignments must be read *before* the first class day of the week they are assigned. Book and page number assignments for Weeks 2-5 will be distributed on the first day of class:

Week 1 (7/1-5): Lepore, pp. 3-72; Henretta, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-24).

- Introduction
- Indigenous America
- Europe and Africa on the Eve of Colonization

Week 2 (7/8-12)

- Colonial America
- The Great War for Empire, 1754-1763
- The War for Independence
- *Essay #1 Due: 7/12*

Week 3 (7/15-19)

- The Early Republic
- Commercialization and Industrialization
- Western Expansion
- *Midterm Exam: 7/19*

Week 4 (7/22-26)

- Reform and Abolition
- Transit, Technology, and the Global Economy
- The Rending of the Republic: The Missouri Compromise to *Dred Scott*
- *Essay #2 Due: 7/26*

Week 5 (7/29-8/2)

- The Civil War
- The New Constitution and Reconstruction
- Course Review
- *Final Exam: 8/2*

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE GRADING POLICY

<u>4.0</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>95 – 100</u>
<u>3.7</u>	<u>A-</u>	<u>92 – 94</u>
<u>3.5</u>	<u>A-/B+</u>	<u>89 - 91</u>
<u>3.3</u>	<u>B+</u>	<u>86 – 88</u>
<u>3.0</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>83 – 85</u>
<u>2.7</u>	<u>B-</u>	<u>80 – 82</u>
<u>2.5</u>	<u>B-/C+</u>	<u>77 – 79</u>
<u>2.3</u>	<u>C+</u>	<u>74 – 76</u>
<u>2.0</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>71 – 73</u>

<u>1.7</u>	<u>C-</u>	<u>69 – 70</u>
<u>1.5</u>	<u>C-/D+</u>	<u>67 – 68</u>
<u>1.3</u>	<u>D+</u>	<u>64 – 66</u>
<u>1.0</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>60 – 63</u>
<u>0.0</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0 – 59</u>
-	<u>IN</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
-	<u>IP</u>	<u>In Progress</u>
-	<u>W</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>

CLASS POLICIES:

- You must be present to turn in your homework, no late homework will be accepted, and in-class exercises and quizzes cannot be made up. Every student is allowed one missed homework, exercise, and quiz without it negatively affecting the student's grade.
- Failure to take the midterm without having made prior arrangements with the instructor at least 48 hours in advance will result in an automatic 10-point mark-down of any subsequent make-up, regardless of the reason.
- Failure to take the final exam without having made prior arrangements with the instructor at least 48 hours in advance will result in an automatic 10-point mark-down and an Incomplete for the course, regardless of the reason.
- Electronic devices brought into the classroom must be used **ONLY** for class purposes. The use of such devices for any other purpose will result in ejection from the classroom and an absence marked for that day.
- Each student is expected to prepare for and attend class, take notes and participate in discussion, quizzes, and/or exercises throughout the duration of the class, to complete all course requirements, to respect the Instructor, the Assistant, and fellow classmates, and to respect and make full use of the privilege of receiving higher education.

POLICY ON DISABILITY

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me. It is important that the issues relating to disabilities be discussed with me as soon as possible.

GRADE APPEAL

If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The faculty at Fitchburg State University require that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual candidate and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu. There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.