



Beijing Jiaotong University

2020 Summer Session

HIS 105-B Introduction to American History

Course Outline

Term: June 29-July 24, 2020

Class Hours: 18:00-19:50 (Monday through Thursday Review Friday)

Course Code: HIS 105-B

Instructor: Dr. Gurnis

Home Institution: Washington University

Office Hours: TBA

Email: musa.gurnis@aol.com

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, 8 professor office hours, 8 TA discussion session hours, and 4 review session hours.

Course Description:

This course covers major developments in American history from pre-colonial societies, through the early colonial period, Revolutionary War, Jacksonian democracy, Civil War and Reconstruction. We will investigate the political formation of national institutions, as well the economic and social forces that shaped the early United States, including the young nation's dependence on slavery and the displacement of indigenous people. We will consider the lasting legacy of early American history on contemporary political and social life. Continuing forward from Reconstruction, we will examine the development of America from the aftermath of slavery, through the Gilded Age, American imperialism, World War I, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, the social changes of the 1960s, through the aftermath of 9/11, to consider the impact of these historical forces on America today.



Course Objectives:

Students in this course will acquire an overview of the major developments in American history. They should be able to weigh multiple factors (political, social, and economic) that cause historical change. Students should learn to consider the perspectives of different cultural groups involved in historical conflicts. They should become skilled in examining conflicting evidence, and become particularly adept in evaluating primary documents for their significance in historical context. Instead of seeing history as a series of events, students should be able to identify ongoing tensions and problems in the early development of the United States.

Attendance Policy:

Students may miss up to two classes for personal reasons. Please send me an email if you are unable to attend class. Because of the short time frame of the class, late assignments must be turned in the following day.

Texts:

Fredrick Binder and David Reimers eds., *The Way We Lived: Essays and Documents in American Social History* (Boston: Cengage, 2013).

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty Vol. 1* (New York: Norton, 2011)

————— *Give Me Liberty Vol. 2* (New York: Norton, 2011)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Midterm (20%):

Final Exam (20%):

Assignment 1: (20%): Students will write 800-1000 words (roughly 3-4 pages) discussing the historical importance of a primary document.

Assignment 2 (20%): Students will write 800-1000 words analyzing the complex causes and multiple effects of a major historical event.

Assignment 3 (20%): Students will write 800-1000 words reflecting on the ways American history continues to shape contemporary politics.

Class Participation: Each student is expected to contribute vocally to class each week. Students should be able to demonstrate a strong grasp of the assigned reading, and to pose thoughtful questions. Though not given a numerical value, class participation can positively or negatively impact a student's final grade.



Schedule:

Week 1

Mon: Indigenous societies and European invasion: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1: p. 1-22, 34-5, 41, 44;

Tues: English colonization: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, p. 53-82

Wed: Introduction of slavery: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, p. 97-105, 131-148;

Thurs: The Revolutionary War: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1 p. 179-197, 205-207

Fri: Review. Assignment 1 Due.

Week 2

Monday: Liberty for some: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, p. 199-201, 216-218, 221-223, 225-227, 237-242, 248-249

Tuesday: Founding Documents and Fundamental Disagreements: *Give Me Liberty*, Vol. 1. P. 253-257, 263-279, 284-286

Wednesday: Jacksonian democracy and Indian Removal: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1 p. 373-397

Thursday: Review

Friday: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 3:

Mon: Assignment 2 Due: Slavery: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1 p 404-428

Tues: Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1 p.476-487

Wed: The Gold Rush and Westward Expansion: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1 p. 487-503

Thurs: Review Lincoln and the Civil War: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, 503-517, 521-536

Friday: Review.

Week 4:

Mon: Assignment 3 Due: Civil War and Reconstruction: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, p. 554-561, 564-574

Tues: Feminism: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 1, p 465-474

Wed: Segregation in the South and Civil Rights: *Give Me Liberty* Vol. 2, p. 648-664

Thurs: Review.

Fri: FINAL EXAM