



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2020 Summer Program

HIS 105 Introduction to American History

Course Outline

Term: July 06-August 07,2020

Class Hours: 12:00-13:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: HIS 105

Instructor: Dr. Susan Hinely

Home Institution: State University of New York at Stony Brook

Office Hours: TBA

Email: susan.hinely@stonybrook.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours: According to the regulations of Minister of Education, R.O.C, 18 class hours could be counted as 1 academic credit in all universities in Taiwan. This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 10 lecturer office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

The course is a survey of United States History beginning with pre-colonial times and continuing through the era of Reconstruction following the Civil War. 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. It is expected that:

- 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.

Required Textbooks:

- Jill Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States* (Norton, 2018).
- Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello* (Norton, 2009).
- Additional materials to be accessed through Blackboard.

Requirements:

Examinations: There will be a midterm and a cumulative 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 550 but no longer than 1000 words (approximately 2-4 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.



Evaluation:

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

Grading:

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|---------------|
| A+ 98-100 |
| A 93 -97 |
| A- 90 - 92 |
| B+ 87 - 89 |
| B 83 - 86 |
| B- 80 - 82 |
| C+ 77 - 79 |
| C 73 - 76 |
| C- 70 - 72 |
| D+ 67 - 69 |
| D 60 - 66 |
| F 0 - 59 |
| IN Incomplete |
| W Withdrawn |



Class Policies:

- No late homework will be accepted and missed in-class exercises and quizzes cannot be made up.
- 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.
- More than 3 late arrivals or early departures will result in an absence.
- 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. Any student's failure to be alert and engaged diminishes the educational atmosphere for all, and it is



disrespectful of the Instructor, the Assistant, and fellow classmates. In these instances, students will be asked to leave, and an absence will be recorded for that class.

- Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. All work other than the student's must be cited appropriately. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in penalties ranging from failure of the assignment, to failure of the course, to ejection from the program.

Tentative Course Schedule:

All assignments must be read *before* the first 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: Lepore, pp. 3-72; Documents assigned on Blackboard.

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

Week 2

- Colonial America
- The Great War for Empire, 1754-1763
- The War for Independence
- Essay #1

Week 3

- The Early Republic
- Commercialization and Industrialization
- Western Expansion
- Midterm Exam

Week 4

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



Week 5

- The Civil War
- The New Constitution and Reconstruction
- Course Review
- Final Exam

