

AMERICAN HISTORY I

HIS 103-02, Fall 2024

T-Th 10:10 – 11:30 A.M., VAN 113

Hans P. Vought, Ph.D.

TEXTBOOKS: You should purchase the textbooks at the college bookstore or retailer of your choice. You will be responsible for all material in the books in addition to the lectures. In college, you should develop the ability to read critically - that is, to determine what the author's thesis or argument is, and evaluate the evidence which he or she uses to support it. You will probably find it useful to take notes on the reading, both for in-class discussions and in preparing for the papers and exams.

- **Rebecca Edwards, Eric Hinderaker, Robert O. Self & James Henretta, *America's History, Value Edition, Volume 1: To 1877* (10th ed, Bedford/St. Martin's).** This is the main textbook. It gives a narrative history with supporting features available online. It is important to read the textbook in conjunction with the lectures to fully understand the course material.
- **Kevin B. Sheets, *Sources for America's History, Volume 1: To 1877* (10th ed, Bedford/St. Martin's).** This is the primary source reader. It has historical documents and images that allow you to explore the topics in the textbook in greater detail. Analyzing primary sources allows you to understand how historians develop their interpretations of the past.

The textbook and source reader is available as a discount bundle at the college bookstore. The **ISBN for the bundle is 978-1-319-45979-6**. It should be cheaper than buying each book separately. Of course, you may purchase the books at the retailer of your choice.

CONTACT INFORMATION: My office is in Vanderlyn 239D. My Office Hours are 11:40 – 1:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10:00 – 12:00 on Wednesdays, and by appointment (either in person or online via Zoom). My office telephone number is 688-1594. My e-mail address is voughth@sunyulster.edu. Website: <http://people.sunyulster.edu/voughth>. **Please note**

that all e-mail communication between faculty and students should occur through Brightspace or the mysunyulster.edu portal, which complies with federal law (FERPA).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This survey course traces the development of American civilization from the Colonial era through Reconstruction. This course meets the SUNY General Education requirement for U.S. History and Civic Engagement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Students will analyze why and how the major developments in American history from European colonization through 1877 occurred.
2. Students will assess the impact of race, class, ethnicity and gender in the development of American society.
3. Students will understand the role of individual participation in U.S. communities and government.
4. Students will appraise America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in written English, to apply historical and contemporary evidence to draw, support, or verify conclusions.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the diverse Native American cultures that existed prior to European colonization.
2. Explain the establishment of Spanish, Dutch, French and English colonies in America.
3. Explore the roots and evolution of "American" culture, attitudes, and beliefs during the Colonial period.
4. Analyze the historical developments of American political, economic, social and cultural institutions in the period.
5. Explain how the conflict between Great Britain and her Colonies led to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War.
6. Describe the creation and development of the American political system, based on first the Articles of Confederation and then the Constitution.
7. Explore the political, economic, social and cultural development of the new republic from its inception through 1860.

8. Explain how westward expansion led to sectional disputes over the nature of the Union and the place of slavery in American life.
9. Describe the causes and consequences of the Civil War.
10. Understand the period called Reconstruction and its implications for the future of American life in the areas of race and ethnicity.

OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT:

Tues. 8/27: PRE-CONTACT NATIVE AMERICANS & EUROPEANS

Thur. 8/29: EXPLORATION & CONQUEST: THE SPANISH EXAMPLE

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 1; *Sources*, chap. 1

Chapter 1 Paper due on Thur. 8/29

Tues. 9/3: THE DUTCH & FRENCH COLONIES

Thur. 9/5: THE CHESAPEAKE COLONIES

Tues. 9/10: THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 2; *Sources*, Chap. 2 & Document Set

Chapter 2 Paper due on Tues. 9/10

Thur. 9/12: THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR & THE RESTORATION COLONIES

Tues. 9/17: THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE & COLONIAL SLAVERY

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 3; *Sources*, chap. 3

Chapter 3 Paper due on Tues. 9/17

Thur. 9/19: 18th CENTURY COLONIAL SOCIETY

Tues. 9/24: IMPERIAL RELATIONS

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 4; *Sources*, Chap. 4 & Document Set

Chapter 4 Paper due on Tues. 9/24

Thur. 9/26: FIRST EXAM

Tues. 10/1 – Thur. 10/3: IMPERIAL CONFLICT

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 5; *Sources*, chap. 5

Chapter 5 Paper due on Thur. 10/3

Thur. 10/3 – Tues. 10/8: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Tues. 10/15: NO CLASS – MON. SCHEDULE

Thur. 10/10 – Thurs. 10/17: CREATING THE CONSTITUTION

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 6; *Sources*, chap. 6

Chapter 6 Paper due on Thur. 10/17

Tues. 10/22: THE FEDERALISTS & THE EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Thur. 10/24: THE REPUBLICANS & THE WAR OF 1812

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 7; *Sources*, chap. 7 & Document Set

Chapter 7 Paper due on Thur. 10/24

Thur. 10/29: EARLY NATIONAL SOCIETY & CULTURE

Thur. 10/31: THE SECOND GREAT AWAKENING & ANTEBELLUM REFORM

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 10; *Sources*, chap. 10

Chapter 10 Paper due on Thur. 10/31

Tues. 11/5: SECOND EXAM

Thur. 11/7: NORTHERN INDUSTRIALIZATION

Tues. 11/12: SOUTHERN SLAVERY

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 8; *Sources*, chap. 8

Chapter 8 Paper due on Tues. 11/12

Thur. 11/14: THE SECOND PARTY SYSTEM

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 9; *Sources*, chap. 9

Chapter 9 Paper due on Thur. 11/14

Tues 11/19 – Thur. 11/21: WESTWARD EXPANSION & THE MEXICAN – AMERICAN WAR

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 11 (pp. 322 – 349); *Sources*, chap. 11 & Document Set (pp. 226 – 255)

Chapter 11 Paper due on Thur. 11/21

Tues. 11/26: SECTIONAL CONFLICT

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 12 (pp. 354 – 383); *Sources*, chap. 12 (pp. 257 – 275)

Chapter 12 Paper due on Tues. 11/26

Thur. 11/28: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Tues. 12/3: THE CIVIL WAR

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 13 (pp. 384 – 415); *Sources*, chap. 13 (pp. 276 – 292)

Chapter 13 Papers due on Tues. 12/3

Thur. 12/5: RECONSTRUCTION

READINGS: *America's History*, chap. 14 (pp. 416 – 442); *Sources*, chap. 14 & Document Set (pp. 293 – 311, 328 – 346)

Chapter 14 Paper due on Thur. 12/5

Tues. 12/10 – Wed. 12/11: Make-up days (if necessary)

Fri. 12/13, 10:50 – 12:50: FINAL EXAM

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE COURSE: You will write 10 short papers about the historical documents in the *Sources* book. Each paper will be 2-3 pages (typed), and will be in response to one of the comparative questions at the end of each chapter in the *Sources* book. These questions ask you to compare several of the primary sources in that chapter. **You must write on 10 of the 14 chapters we will be reading in the *Sources* book.** The papers are due at the beginning of class on the dates noted above. You will submit

them to the Turnitin drop boxes in the Paper Assignments folder on Brightspace. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

You will write three essay exams over the course of the semester. The three exams will include a choice of short answer and essay questions, covering material discussed in the readings as well as material discussed in class. The exams are closed-book and notes (including websites) and non-cumulative. Your essays should articulate a clear thesis (that is, an argument supported by evidence) in response to the questions. You are free to express any opinion; however, you must present historical evidence to support it.

LATE PAPER POLICY: The papers are due by 10:10 a.m. on the days noted in the schedule above. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance and meaningful participation in the class discussion is mandatory. I strongly encourage all students to attend class. Excessive absences will lower your grade. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Please note the withdrawal deadlines set by the college.

ASSESSMENT: Grades will be based upon the ten *Sources* papers and the three exams. The papers will make up 30% of your final grade, the first two exams will make up 20% each of your final grade, and the final exam will make up 30% of your final grade. There will be no “extra credit” - in college, you are judged by the quality rather than the quantity of your work. Participation in class discussion and improvement will be taken into consideration in determining the final course grade.

The following grading scale is used:

93-100 = A	73-76 = C
90-92 = A-	70-72 = C-
87-89 = B+	67-69 = D+
83-86 = B	63-66 = D
80-82 = B-	60-62 = D-
77-79 = C+	< 59 = F

Please retain all graded papers from this course until you see your final grade posted on your College transcript. If I suspect you of plagiarism or cheating, you will receive a 0 for that particular paper or exam. You will have an opportunity to meet with me and demonstrate that you are innocent. If a second offense should occur, you will receive a 0 for the course.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled examination period at the end of the semester. It will not be cumulative – It will simply be the third exam.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty means that students are expected to do their own work and follow the rules regarding acts such as cheating and plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic honesty. That is, ignorance of the standards of academic honesty is not an acceptable excuse for breaking these standards. Academic dishonesty - breaking the standards of academic honesty - is taken very seriously by the College. Breaking the rules of academic honesty will result in immediate disciplinary consequences.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. **Cheating on examinations or quizzes.** Examples include (a) referring to materials that the instructor has not allowed to be used during the test, such as textbooks or notes or websites; (b) using devices the instructor has not allowed to be used during the test, such as cell phones, text messages, or calculators; and (c) copying from another student's paper or asking another student for an answer.
2. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism means the use of words or ideas that are obtained from other sources without giving credit to those sources. Not only do quotations have to be referenced, but also any use of the ideas of others, even if expressed in the student's own words, must be referenced. The College has a service to check for plagiarism. Any student paper can be submitted for this plagiarism check.
3. **Submission of work that is not entirely the student's own work.** Having another person write a paper or parts of a paper is one example of this offense; allowing another student to copy test answers is another example.
4. **Theft or sale of examinations, falsification of academic records, and similar offenses.**
5. **Submitting work to more than one class without the permission of the second instructor.** For example, a student who submits to a class a paper previously turned in to another class is in violation of academic honesty, unless the second instructor has given permission.
6. **Unauthorized duplication of computer software or print materials.** For example, turning

in a term paper downloaded from a website is a violation of academic honesty.

7. **Influence.** A student should not attempt to get an instructor to change a grade or record for any reason except achievement. For example, trying to get an instructor to change a grade because of personal hardship - or because of a bribe - is a violation of academic honesty.

8. Practice of any other form of academic dishonesty not included in this list.

N.B.: This syllabus is not a legal contract. Assignments and policies (other than college rules) are subject to revision at any time throughout the course.

Basic Needs Statement

To learn effectively you must have basic security: a roof over your head, a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat. If you are having trouble with any of those things, please contact Samantha Chambers at chambers@sunyulster.edu or 845-688-1560.

Start Here. Go Far Boutique

VAN 154

Weekdays 8:30a-4:30p

A Dress to Feel Your Best resource. Free clothing, shoes, accessories, coats, scrubs, undergarments, and select personal care items. FREE for students.

Samantha Chambers, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

StudentLife@sunyulster.edu, 845-688-1560

SUNY Ulster Food Pantry

VAN 155

Wednesdays 10:30a-1:30p, Thursdays 11:30a-12p

The Food Pantry provides free food and select personal care items to all SUNY Ulster Students, Faculty, and Staff regardless of race, color, creed, religion, citizenship, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability.

Samantha Chambers, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

chambers@sunyulster.edu, 845-688-1560

Office of Mental Health

Zen Den (entrance through VAN 119)

Weekdays 9:00a-4:30p

Students are provided with short-term counseling for issues involving mental health, alcohol or substance abuse, careers, and life skills. When needed, referrals are made to outside agencies.

Ashley Brown, LCSW-R, Crisis Counselor/Case Manager Director

brownas@sunyulster.edu, 845-687-5192

Office of Accessibility Services

VAN 128F or VAN 128C

(Entrance through VAN 119)

Weekdays 8:30a-4:30p

At SUNY Ulster and in this class, we welcome a diverse student body and are committed to promoting access and inclusion for all members of our campus community. For more information and for students who plan to request academic accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services at Accessibility@sunyulster.edu Phone: (845) 687-5121. They will assist eligible students with the process of setting up accommodations.