

AMERICAN HISTORY I

HIS 103-S01, Fall 2024

ONLINE

Hans P. Vought, Ph.D.

TEXTBOOKS: You should purchase the following books at the college bookstore (where they are bundled together for a discount) or retailer of your choice. They are also available as e-books. 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 the threaded discussions and in preparing for the papers and exams. In addition, there will be shorter documents to read on Brightspace in the HIS 103 Documents and the Links section of each module, which will be discussed in the threaded discussions.

- **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 It has historical documents and images that allow you to explore the topics in the textbook in greater detail.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 OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to give an overview of the “first half” of United States history. It traces the history of American life from the initial European settlement to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Key themes will include the interaction between different racial and ethnic groups (Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans), the creation of the republic and its political and social institutions, the economic growth and industrialization of the nation, territorial expansion, and the growing sectional differences which led to the Civil War. The course will consist of both lectures and threaded discussions based on the readings. You are expected to develop analytical skills as you assess historical evidence and arguments, and explain your conclusions in discussions and essays.

OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT:

Mon. 8/26 – Tues. 9/10 (Mon. 9/2 = Labor Day): MODULE 1: PRE-CONTACT NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE BEGINNINGS OF EUROPEAN COLONIZATION

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 1-2; *Sources*, Part 1 (pp. 1-50)
Chapter 1 & 2 Papers due on Tues. 9/10

TOPICS:

- Pre-contact Native Americans & Europeans
- Exploration & Conquest: The Spanish Example
- The French and Dutch Colonies
- The Chesapeake Colonies
- The New England Colonies
- The English Civil War & the Restoration Colonies

Wed. 9/11 – Wed. 9/25: MODULE 2: 18th CENTURY COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT & IMPERIAL RELATIONS

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 3-4; *Sources*, Part 2 (pp. 51-100)
Chapter 3 & 4 Papers due on Wed. 9/25

TOPICS:

- Colonial Life & Development
- The Transatlantic Slave Trade & Colonial Slavery
- Imperial Relations

Thur. 9/26 – Sun. 9/29: FIRST EXAM

**Mon. 9/30 – Tues. 10/15 (Mon. 10/14 = Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day): MODULE 3:
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION & THE CREATION OF THE UNITED STATES**

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 5-6; *Sources*, Part 3, chaps. 5-6 (pp. 101-142)
Chapter 5 & 6 Papers due on Tues. 10/15

TOPICS:

- The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1776
- The Revolutionary War, 1776-1783
- Creating the Constitution

Wed. 10/16 – Wed. 10/30: MODULE 4: THE EARLY REPUBLIC

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 7, 10; *Sources*, Part 3, chap. 7 & Document Set (pp. 143-176), Part 4, chap. 10 (pp. 209-225)
Chapter 7 & 10 Papers due on Wed. 10/30

TOPICS:

- The Federalists and the Emergence of Political Parties
- The Republicans and the War of 1812
- Early National Society & Culture
- The Second Great Awakening & Antebellum Reform Movements

Thur. 10/31 – Sun. 11/3: SECOND EXAM

Mon. 11/4 – Tues. 11/19 (Mon. 11/11 = Veterans' Day): MODULE 5: ANTEBELLUM AMERICA

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 8-9, 11; *Sources*, Part 4, chaps. 8-9, 11 & Document Set (pp. 177-208, 226-255)
Chapter 8, 9 & 11 Papers due on Tues. 11/19

TOPICS:

- The Second Party System: Democrats and Whigs
- Northern Industrialization
- Southern Slavery

**Mon. 11/20 – Mon. 12/9 (Wed. 11/27 – Sun. 12/1 = Thanksgiving Break): MODULE 6:
SECTIONAL CONFLICT & THE CIVIL WAR**

READINGS: *America's History*, chaps. 12-14; *Sources*, Part 5, chaps. 12-14 & Document Set (pp. 257-311, 328-346)

Chapter 12, 13 & 14 Papers due on Mon. 12/9

TOPICS:

- Westward Expansion & the Mexican War
- 1850s: Sectional Conflict
- The Election of 1860 & Secession
- The Civil War, 1861-1865
- Reconstruction

Thur. 12/12 – Sun. 12/15: 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. You should use evidence from at least 3 of the primary source documents in each paper. **You must write on 10 of the 14 chapters we will be reading in the *Sources* book.** The papers are due at the end of the module in which we read that chapter. 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. I will be submitting your exams to Turnitin to check for plagiarism. 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 on the days noted in the schedule above. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY: “Attendance” online and meaningful participation in the threaded discussions is mandatory. 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 your meaningful participation in the threaded discussions, the ten *Sources* papers and the three exams. Discussion will make up 10% of your

final grade, the papers will make up 30% of your final grade, and the exams will make up 20% each 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. 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 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.