

HIST 176: The United States to 1877 (online)
Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Lee Willis

Contact: lwillis@uwsp.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 AM on Zoom and by appointment

Text rental (available at the University Bookstore):

Roark, et. al. *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, vol. 1 (Bedford- St. Martens).

For purchase (available at the University Bookstore)

Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and their World* (Hill and Wang, 1976). Also available on reserve in the University Library.

Melton McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave* (University of Georgia, 1991). Also available on reserve in the University Library.

Additional readings (available as PDFs on CANVAS):

Ira Berlin, "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African- American Society in Mainland North America." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 53, no. 2 (1996): 251-88.

Amy Gilman Srebnick, "A Body Floating Between Two Tides," in *The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 13-32.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course meets the General Education Program requirement for Historical Perspectives and U.S. Diversity. By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Use primary sources as evidence to answer questions about historical change.
2. Describe differences among interpretations of colonial America and early United States history.
3. Analyze institutional and cultural change in early American society.
4. Describe how people and institutions in the United States have constructed diverse identities and cultures.
5. Explain how individuals in the United States have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality.

6. Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the United States.

Assignments and responsibilities:

Canvas: Students are responsible for logging on to the course Canvas site each week to complete online quizzes and other assignments.

Weekly reading quizzes (50%): Each week students are expected to read approximately one chapter in the Roark textbook and complete the chapter reading quiz. These assignments are open book and are designed to check for understanding and to encourage analysis. You can take each quiz twice and the highest score will be counted.

Primary source reaction papers (20%): These assignments are designed to help you think about the process of historical research, the evidence that historians use to answer questions about the past, and to incorporate content that you have learned from the textbook reading.

Article precis (10%): A precis is a brief analytical review. You must write a precis for both the Berlin and Srebnick articles and upload them to Canvas by 11:00 pm on their due date. Specific instructions and electronic copies of the articles are provided in the content section of CANVAS.

Book precis (20%): You must write a precis for both the Gross and McLaurin books and upload them to Canvas by 11:00 pm on their due date.

Late penalties: Assignments will be docked one letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Grades:

The final grade will break down as follows:

Weekly reading quizzes (16 total): 50%

Berlin article precis: 5%

Srebnick article precis: 5%

Reaction papers (7 total): 20%

Gross book precis: 10%

McLaurin book precis: 10%

Course outline and due dates:

September 2-4: Course introduction and the Native Peoples of North America. Read “Introduction to Primary Sources” and “Precis for 176” handouts. In the textbook, read chapter one and complete chapter one quiz in Canvas by Friday, September 4 at 11:00 pm.

Week of September 7: Europeans Encounter the New World. Read chapter two and complete chapter two quiz by Thursday, September 10 at 11:00 pm. Re-read “Precis for 176 handout” then read Ira Berlin, “From Creole to African.” As you read, think about what Berlin is arguing and what examples he uses to convince you of his argument. What is the change over time that he is describing? How is this a different interpretation from what others have argued before?

Week of September 14: The Emergence of Colonial Societies. Read chapter three and complete chapter three quiz by Thursday, September 17 at 11:00 pm. Read William Byrd diary entry and complete reaction paper by Thursday, September 17 at 11:00 pm. Re-read Berlin, “From Creole to African” and begin taking notes for your precis due next week.

Week of September 21: The Emergence of Colonial Societies, continued. Read chapter four and complete chapter four quiz by Thursday, September 24 at 11:00 pm. **Precis on Berlin article due Friday, September 25. Paper should be uploaded to Canvas by 11:00 pm.**

Week of September 28: Colonial Crisis. Read chapters five and six; complete chapters five and six quizzes by Thursday, October 1 at 11:00 pm.

Week of October 5: The War for Independence. Read chapter seven and complete chapter seven quiz by Thursday, October 8 at 11:00 pm. Read “Three Virginia Counties Defend Slavery” and complete reaction paper by Thursday, October 8 at 11:00 pm.

Week of October 12: The New Republic: Establishing Government. Read chapter eight and complete chapter eight quiz by Thursday, October 15 at 11:00 pm. Read Dolley Madison letter and complete reaction paper by Thursday, October 15 at 11:00 pm.

Week of October 19: The New Republic: Economic and Political Developments. Read chapter nine and complete chapter nine quiz by Thursday, October 22 at 11:00 pm. **Precis on Gross due Friday, October 23. Paper should be uploaded to Canvas by 11:00 pm.**

Week of October 26: Politics in the Age of Jefferson. Read chapter ten and complete chapter ten quiz by Thursday, October 29 at 11:00 pm. Read “The Drunkard’s Pilgrimage” editorial cartoon and verse and complete reaction paper by Thursday, October 29 at 11:00 pm.

Week of November 2: Market Revolution, Revival, and Reform. Read chapters eleven and complete chapter eleven quiz by Thursday, November 5 at 11:00 pm. Read Srebnick, "A Body Floating Between Two Tides" and think about her argument and the evidence she uses to convince you of her conclusions.

Week of November 9: The New West and Free North. Read chapter twelve and complete chapter twelve quiz by Thursday, November 12 at 11:00 pm. **Srebnick precis due on Friday, November 13. Paper should be uploaded to dropbox on Canvas by 11:00 pm.**

Week of November 16: Slavery and the Old South. Read chapter thirteen and complete chapter thirteen quiz by Thursday, November 19 at 11:00 pm. Read the Mary Reynolds slave narrative and complete reaction paper by Thursday, November 19 at 11:00 pm. Begin reading McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave*.

Week of November 23: From Compromise to Secession. Read chapter fourteen and complete chapter fourteen quiz by Wednesday, November 25 at 11:00 pm. Read "Mississippi Declaration of Secession" and complete reaction paper by Wednesday, November 25 at 11:00 pm. Continue reading McLaurin.

Week of November 30: The Civil War. Read chapter fifteen and complete chapter fifteen quiz by Thursday, December 3 at 11:00 pm. Read Octave Johnson document and complete reaction paper by Thursday, December 3 at 11:00 pm. Finish reading McLaurin.

Week of December 7: Reconstruction and Resistance. Read chapter sixteen and complete chapter sixteen quiz by Thursday, December 10 at 11:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 16: McLaurin precis due by 11:00 pm