

HIST 176: The United States to 1877 (online)
Summer 2024
May 28- June 21

Instructor: Dr. Lee Willis

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Text rental (available at the University Bookstore):

Roark, et. al. *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, vol. 1 (Bedford- St. Martens), 8th ed.

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. Describe significant events of United States history to 1877.
2. Identify the people who helped shape those events.
3. Recognize the varieties of evidence that historians use to offer diverse perspectives on the meaning of the past.
4. Evaluate competing historical claims that inform the present.
5. Describe the various dimensions of diversity and marginalization within the United States.
6. Explain the means by which persistently marginalized groups have negotiated the conditions of their marginalization.

Assignments and responsibilities:

This is a 3-credit, 4-week course. Given our condensed schedule, we have a lot to accomplish in a short amount of time. Each day is roughly equivalent to a week of class in a fall or spring semester.

CANVAS: students are responsible for logging on to the course CANVAS site every day to complete all daily quizzes. In addition, you will upload your primary source essays and article precis to the dropbox on CANVAS.

Daily reading quizzes (60%): Most week days students are expected to read approximately one chapter 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.

Article precis (30%): A precis is a brief analytical review. You must write a precis for both the Berlin and Srebnick articles and upload them to the dropbox in CANVAS by 11:59 pm on their due date. Specific instructions and electronic copies of the articles are provided in the course home page in CANVAS.

Primary source essays (10%): 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 course reading. These assignments are posted in the home page of the course CANVAS site. You must upload them to the dropbox in CANVAS by 11:59 pm on their due date. More information and details about these assignments are posted in the home section of CANVAS.

Grades:

The final grade will break down as follows:

Daily quizzes: 60%

Berlin article precis: 10%

Srebnick article precis: 10%

Primary source midterm essay: 10%

Primary source final essay: 10%

Course outline and due dates:

Tuesday, May 28: Course introduction. Read course syllabus, "Introduction to Primary Sources" and "Precis for 176" handouts on CANVAS.

Wednesday, May 29: The Native Peoples of North America. In the textbook, read chapter one and complete chapter one quiz in CANVAS by 11:59 pm.

Thursday, May 30: Europeans Encounter the New World. Read chapter two and complete chapter two quiz 11:59 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?

Friday, May 31: The Emergence of Colonial Societies. Read chapter three and complete chapter three quiz by 11:59 pm. Read William Byrd diary entry (document is in the content section of CANVAS). Re-read Berlin, "From Creole to African" and review the questions above. Also, this time pay closer attention to his footnotes. Where is he getting his evidence? What are his commonly used sources?

Monday, June 3: The Emergence of Colonial Societies, continued. Read chapter four and complete chapter four quiz by 11:59 pm.

Tuesday, June 4: Colonial Crisis. Read chapter five and complete chapter five quiz by 11:59 pm. **Precis on Berlin article due. Paper should be uploaded to CANVAS by 11:59 pm.**

Wednesday, June 5: Colonial crisis, continued. Read chapter six and complete chapter six quiz by 11:59 pm.

Thursday, June 6: The War for Independence. Read chapter seven and complete chapter seven quiz by 11:59 pm. Read Abigail Adams letter (document is in the content section of CANVAS).

Friday, June 7: The New Republic: Establishing Government. Read chapter eight and complete chapter eight quiz by 11:59 pm. Read "Three Virginia Counties Defend Slavery" (document is in the content section of CANVAS).

Monday, June 10: The New Republic: Economic and Political Developments. Read chapter nine and complete chapter nine quiz by 11:59 pm. **Primary source essay one due. Paper should be uploaded to CANVAS by 11:59 pm.**

Tuesday, June 11: The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers. Read Srebnick, "A Body Floating Between Two Tides" and think about her argument and the evidence she uses to convince you of her conclusions.

Wednesday, June 12: Politics, Revival, and Reform. Read chapter 10 and complete chapter 10 quiz by 11:59 pm. Read "The Drunkard's Pilgrimage" editorial cartoon and verse.

Thursday, June 13: Politics, Revival and Reform, continued. Read chapter 11 and complete chapter 11 quiz by 11:59 pm.

Friday, June 14: The New West and Free North. Read chapter twelve and complete chapter twelve quiz by 11:59 pm.

Monday, June 17: Slavery and the Old South. Read the Mary Reynolds slave narrative on CANVAS. Watch "The Age of Slavery," on CANVAS. Link is available on the content section of CANVAS. If you have difficulty streaming the video try using a different browser. **Srebnick precis due. Paper should be uploaded to CANVAS by 11:59 pm.**

Tuesday, June 18: Slavery and the Old South, continued. Read chapter thirteen and complete chapter thirteen quiz by 11:59 pm.

Wednesday, June 19: From Compromise to Secession. Read chapter fourteen and complete chapter fourteen quiz by 11:59 pm. Read "Mississippi Declaration of Secession," on CANVAS.

Thursday, June 20: The Civil War. Read chapter fifteen and complete chapter fifteen quiz by 11:59 pm. Read Octave Johnson primary source on CANVAS.

Friday, June 21: Reconstruction and Resistance. Read chapter sixteen and complete chapter sixteen quiz by 11:59 pm.

Monday, June 24: Second primary source essay due. Paper should be uploaded to dropbox on CANVAS by 11:59 pm.