

HISTORY 176 - 1
United States to 1877

Fall 2015
10:00 TRF in 303 CCC

Professor Kaminski

Office: 466 CCC

Phone: 346-4695

e-mail: tkaminsk@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: 3:00 Tues., 11:00 Thurs., and by appointment

History 176 examines society, culture, and politics in America from the settlement of North America to post-Civil War Reconstruction. Since its beginning, the United States has been a country made up of many different groups of people, and this course will reflect that diversity by exploring the experiences of women, Native Americans, and African Americans, and by looking at class and regional differences. Doing so will provide an appropriately complex view of the interconnectedness between politics and people. Knowledge of the political, social, and cultural foundations of the United States and the country's development through the post-Civil War period is crucial to understanding present-day national and international concerns.

This course is part of the General Education Program's Historical Perspectives category, designed to teach students to:

Describe events from past cultures, societies, or civilizations;
Recognize the varieties of evidence that historians use to offer diverse perspectives on the meaning of the past;
Identify the role of human agency in shaping events and historical change;
Explain historical causality; and
Evaluate competing historical claims that frequently inform the present.

History 176 is also part of the General Education Program's U.S. Diversity category, designed to teach students to:

Describe the various dimensions of diversity and marginalization within the United States; and
Explain the means by which one or more persistently marginalized groups in the U.S. have negotiated the conditions of their marginalization.

This will all be accomplished through exams and essays based on lectures and assigned readings.

REQUIRED READING

Davidson, et. al, eds., *Nation of Nations*, 6th edition, Vol. I
(available at text rental)

Make sure to have the correct edition and volume.

Sheila Skemp, *The Making of a Patriot*
(available for purchase at the book store)

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
(available for purchase at the book store)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All assignments must be completed. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the class.

1. Exams

Three 50-minute exams cover textbook reading assignments, lectures, and anything else that might be presented in class. The exams are objective, a combination of multiple choice and identifications. All three exams must be taken on the dates listed on the syllabus.

Make-up exams are given only in documented cases of illness, a death in the family, a required trip for another class or a university sports team, and military service, and when I have been consulted in advance. Failure to take an exam means receiving a failing grade (a zero) for that exam and failing the course.

2. In-class Essays

There will be one in-class essay on the Skemp book and one on the Jacobs book. The assigned book and the textbook may be used while writing the essay. Study guides will be posted on D2L.

Both of these essays must be completed on the dates listed on the syllabus. Failure to write an essay means receiving a failing grade (a zero) for that essay and failing the course.

Make-ups are given only in documented cases of illness, a death in the family, a required trip for another class or a university sports team, and military service, and when I have been consulted in advance.

Extra Credit

You may, at my discretion, earn up to three extra points on your final grade if you regularly participate in class by asking and answering questions that are pertinent to the material. These points will not be awarded to any student who violates the policy about electronic devices (see below).

Grading criteria for the essays are roughly as follows:

A (90-100): demonstrates both a fine command of historical information (ideas, names, places, dates, etc.) from the book and an informed interpretation of that information.

B (80-89): demonstrates a command of historical knowledge but contains a weak interpretation.

C (70-79): demonstrates a command of historical knowledge but completely lacks an interpretation.

D (60-69): shows weakness of historical knowledge and lacks an interpretation.

F (59-1): shows inaccurate historical knowledge and lacks an interpretation, and/or is incomplete.

0: a portion or portions are copied from another student's work; the work has no historical or intellectual value.

Point equivalents for letter grades for exams and essays are as follows:

93-100: A; 90-92: A-

87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-

77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-

67-69: D+; 63-66: D; 60-62: D-

59 and below: F

0: blank or incomplete work

Check Desire2Learn (D2L) at least once a week for any new information on the class.

Graded assignments (exams and essays) will be returned two weeks after the completion date. I do not keep an electronic grade book. It is your responsibility to collect and keep your graded assignments and to keep a tally of your progress in the course.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

3 Exams: 75% (25% each)

Book Essay #1 on Skemp: 15%

Book Essay #2 on Jacobs: 10%

Reminder : All assignments must be completed. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for the class.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS/INSTRUCTIONS

1. Attendance: It is your responsibility to attend class on a regular basis. I do not post my lectures or PowerPoint presentations nor do I provide notes to students for any reason.

If you do not come to class, you will be poorly prepared for the exams. At the end of each lecture I will review key terms that will show up on the exams. That is the only time and place the terms will be available—they will not be posted on D2L or distributed as handouts. So if you miss a class, you will have to ask another student for that information or do without it.

2. Arrive on time. If for some very compelling reason you have to leave early, you must notify me in advance and sit in an aisle or front row seat so that your departure is not distracting. If you are tardy, take the first most easily accessible seat.

3. Computers (laptops or tablets), phones, audio and visual recording devices, etc. must be turned off and put away during class. Anyone in violation of this rule at any time is not eligible for the extra points described above. Accommodations will be made for students working through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (609 LRC).

4. Only one person talks at a time (this is usually me). If you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called on.

5. E-mails are a form of professional communication and therefore must conform to high standards of politeness and respect. I will answer questions about the class via e-mail, except in instances where the answer is available from the syllabus. If you don't receive a response from me within 24 hours, Monday through Friday, it means you already have that information--you just have to look for it.

I am willing to discuss your progress in the class at any point in the semester, but if you are having trouble with the course material (as evidenced with a D or F on the first assignment), you should get in touch with me sooner rather than later. The office hours listed at the top of the syllabus indicate the scheduled times I am available for such conversations. I am available at other times as well.

Please review this link for additional information on rights and responsibilities:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS:

Lecture topics may be rearranged at my discretion.

Week 1: Sept. 2-4

Course Introduction

First Civilizations

Readings: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 1

Start reading Skemp, *The Making of a Patriot*

Week 2: Sept. 8-11

Europeans, North Americans, and the Southern Colonies

Readings: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 2 and ch. 3

Week 3: Sept. 14-18

The Northern Colonies and the Maturing Colonies

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 4 and ch. 5

Week 4: Sept. 21-25

The Unraveling of Britain's North American Empire

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 6

Week 5: Sept. 28-Oct. 2

The American Revolution

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 7

Week 6: Oct. 5-9

Building a Nation: From Confederation to Constitution

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 8

Thursday, Oct. 8: Exam #1 (covers lectures and readings from Weeks 1-5)

Week 7: Oct. 12-16

Federalists, Republicans, and Average Citizens in a Growing United States

Readings: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 9 and ch. 10

Week 8: Oct. 19-23

A "Democratic" Society and Democratic Politics

Readings: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 11

Begin reading Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Thursday, Oct. 22: In-class essay #1 on Skemp, *The Making of a Patriot*

Week 9: Oct. 26-30

Seeking Perfection: Abolition, Women's Rights, Transcendentalism, and Utopian Societies

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 12

Week 10: Nov. 2-6

Slavery and the Old South

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 13

Week 11: Nov. 9-13

Westward Expansion and the Unraveling of the Union

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 14

Thursday, Nov. 12: Exam #2 (covers lectures and readings from Weeks 6-10)

Week 12: Nov. 16-20

A Broken Union and the Start of the Civil War

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 15

Week 13: Nov. 23-25

The Civil War

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 16

Happy Thanksgiving (Nov. 26-27)

Week 14: Nov. 30-Dec. 4

The Fight for the Union

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 16

Thursday, Dec. 3: In-class essay #2 on Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Week 15: Dec. 7-11

Reconstruction

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 17

Week 16: Dec. 14-18

Reading Day

Friday, Dec. 18 at 12:30-1:20 p.m.: Exam #3 (covers lectures and readings from Weeks 11-15)

Alternative times for this last exam will be offered only for students who have more than three finals scheduled for the same day. Family/holiday/travel will not be considered as valid excuses, so make your end-of-the-semester plans accordingly.