

United States History to 1865

History 203 Section 001

MWF 9:00-9:50, Brock Hall 401

Fall 2009

Dr. Michael D. Thompson

Office: Brock Hall 407

Office Hours: M 3:00-4:00; TT 1:00-2:00; or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course surveys American history from European contact to the Civil War, with special attention to the diverse peoples, ideas, and cultures that created the United States. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the major historical events and themes of early American history, as well as to the social, cultural, political, and economic developments that shaped pre-1865 America. In addition, the course will strive to strengthen students' critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills. The class format generally will be two lectures and one discussion session each week. Readings will include a textbook, primary historical documents, and secondary source essays and articles. These textual sources will be supplemented by images, audio recordings, and film clips.

Note: This course fulfills a general education requirement in Humanities and Fine Arts.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The following texts are required and are available for purchase at the bookstore located in University Center:

James L. Roark, et al, *The American Promise: A History of the United States, Volume I: To 1877* (Value/4th Edition)

Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, *Major Problems in American History, Volume 1: To 1877* (2nd Edition)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to actively and intelligently participate in all class discussions and activities, including lectures. Although attendance is not required, students who do not attend class cannot participate and the participation grades of habitually absent students will be impacted accordingly. In addition, students who are routinely late to class, or who sleep, converse, text message, use the internet, read the newspaper, or engage in any other inappropriate conduct during class time will not receive credit for participation.

Group Task: Students will be placed into small groups, and one group will be responsible for leading the class discussion each week. All students must read the course material by Friday of each week; however, those students facilitating the discussion additionally must develop a list of thoughtful and pertinent questions for the class to discuss and debate. All group members are expected to participate equally in the preparation of these questions, and a list of the questions should be submitted to the instructor immediately following the class discussion. The assessment of students' performances on this assignment will be factored into students' participation grades.

Quizzes: Several unannounced quizzes will be given during the semester to ensure that students are reading and understanding the course material. Quiz grades will be factored into students' participation grades. I generally do not offer make-up quizzes; however, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Examinations: This course features two in-class midterm examinations and a comprehensive final exam given during the final examination period. Students should arrive for exams on time and with blue books. Students who anticipate scheduling conflicts should contact the instructor beforehand to discuss an alternative time and location for the exam and be able to provide appropriate documentation. Make-up exams only will be granted with the prior consent of the instructor or in the event of a legitimate and documented emergency situation. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes such circumstances.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Students will be graded based upon active and intelligent classroom participation, and upon performances on the group task, quizzes, two midterm examinations, and a final examination. Please note that if you are taking the course Satisfactory/No Credit (i.e. Pass/Fail) you must earn a passing grade in each of the categories below in order to earn a passing grade for the course.

Participation (including quizzes and group task):	20%
Midterm Examination I:	20%
Midterm Examination II:	20%
Final Examination:	40%

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59 and below

HONOR CODE STATEMENT

All students are expected to abide by UTC's Honor Code, which is in effect at all times and which prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. Any attempt to use the work of others as your own is grounds for failing the course and suspension or expulsion from UTC. In accordance with the policies of UTC, all violations of the Honor Code will be reported immediately to the Honor Court. The Honor Code is available for students to read carefully in the UTC Student Handbook. If you are unsure of what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please consult the instructor and refer to the UTC Student Handbook.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, please speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Also contact the UTC Office for Students with Disabilities at 423-425-4006 and/or go to their office in 110 Frist Hall on the UTC campus. Please note that special academic accommodations will be provided only after the instructor has received official notice from UTC's Office for Students with Disabilities. These accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. Therefore, it is imperative that you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities immediately if you think you may need special academic accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Additional readings occasionally will be assigned. Students will receive sufficient notification and the reading assignments will be made available online via UTC Online and/or library reserves.

<u>Week One</u> August 17-21	Topics:	Course Introduction The "Old World" meets the "New World" The Columbian Exchange
	Readings:	<i>American Promise</i> , Ch. 1 (optional) <i>American Promise</i> , Ch. 2 <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 1
<u>Week Two</u> August 24-28	Topics:	The Southern Colonies Tobacco, Servants, and Slaves
	Readings:	<i>American Promise</i> , Ch. 3 <i>Major Problems</i> , Ch. 2
<u>Week Three</u> Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Topics:	The Puritans and the New England Colonies The Middle Colonies

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 4
Major Problems, Ch. 3

Note: Class will not be held on Monday, September 7 (Labor Day).

Week Four
September 9-11

Topics: America in the 18th Century
The Great Awakening

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 5
Selected Readings (TBA)

Week Five
September 14-18

Topics: The Origins of the American Revolution
The Seven Years' War/French and Indian War

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 6
Selected Readings (TBA)

Week Six
September 21-25

Topics: The War for Independence
Red and Black in the American Revolution
Prepare for Midterm I

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 7
Major Problems, Ch. 4

MIDTERM I – Wednesday, September 23, 9:00-9:50 AM, Brock Hall 401 (Bring a Blue Book).

Week Seven
Sept. 28-Oct. 2

Topics: Building a Republic
Federalists and Anti-Federalists
The Constitution

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 8
Major Problems, Ch. 5

Week Eight
October 5-9

Topics: The New Nation
The Federalist Era
Federalists and Republicans

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 9
Major Problems, Ch. 6

Week Nine
October 12-16

Topics: Jeffersonian America
The War of 1812
The Era of Good Feelings
The Missouri Compromise

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 10
Selected Readings (TBA)

Note: Class will not be held on Monday, October 19 (Fall Break).

Week Ten
October 21-23

Topics: The Age of Jackson
American Democracy
The Transportation and Market Revolutions

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 11
Major Problems, Ch. 8
Selected Readings (TBA)

Week Eleven
October 26-30

Topics: Reform in Antebellum America
Free Labor and Free Men in the North
Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 12
Major Problems, Ch. 10
Major Problems, Ch. 11
Prepare for Midterm II

MIDTERM II – Wednesday, October 28, 9:00-9:50 AM, Brock Hall 401 (Bring a Blue Book).

Week Twelve
November 2-6

Topics: The Slave South
Masters and Slaves
Plain Folk of the Old South

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 13
Major Problems, Ch. 12

Week Thirteen
November 9-13

Topics: The Origins of the Civil War

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 14

Major Problems, Ch. 13

Week Fourteen
November 16-20

Topics: The Civil War
Why the North Won and the South Lost
The Homefront

Readings: *American Promise*, Ch. 15
Major Problems, Ch. 14

Week Fifteen
November 23

Topics: Chattanooga during the Civil War

Readings: Selected Readings (TBA)

Note: Class will not be held on Wednesday, November 25, or on Friday, November 27 (Thanksgiving).

Week Sixteen
November 30

Topics: Review and Looking Forward

Readings: Selected Readings (TBA)
Prepare for Final Examination

FINAL EXAM – Friday, December 4, 8:00-10:00 AM, Brock Hall 401 (Bring a Blue Book).

Note: The syllabus and course schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.