

History 135
United States History To 1877

Rita Thompson, Instructor
Office: 385
Office Hours: M-W 5:15-5:45
& by appointment

Fall 2008
M-W 6-7:15 pm
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Course Description: HY 135 is an introductory examination of American History from pre-settlement through the Civil War. While broad in scope, this course will focus on the social, cultural, and political aspects of U.S. History, analyzing in particular issues of race, class, gender, social structure, and citizenship.

Texts: Readings will come from our main text, *The American Promise*, but there will be additional readings handed out in class as well.

The American Promise: A History of the United States, James L Roark et al, 3rd Ed. Utilize this book's resources. Their website has a plethora of study aids and practice tests to help you.

An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, alias Pvt. Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers, 1862-1864, Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, author

Format: This course is a combination of lecture and class discussions. You are expected to read all assignments and to be prepared to discuss them in class. There will be discussion only nights and all contributions on those evenings will be graded accordingly. Questions are always encouraged—if I do not know the answer, I will have it for you at the next class. No question is ever considered dumb!

Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory, but tests are drawn on both reading assignments and lecture notes so skip at your risk. Students who miss exams will receive a 0 for that exam unless they have one of the following excuses: (1) death in your immediate family; (2) student illness verified by a physician's letter; (3) participation in a USA athletic event; or (4) any other emergency that affects the student's physical or mental abilities (for example, a major auto accident). Excuses must be given in writing within a week of missing the exam.

The Rules: Be on time. Turn off your cell phone, no texting and no talking to other students during lectures. Your behavior can impact a fellow student's grade—be considerate of others around you; while opening a bag of chips during an exam may not bother you, it might bother the person sitting beside you. Classes will end promptly on time; do not start packing up your books until class is over.

Study Skills Seminars: Check with the USA History Department (Humanities Room 344) for the Fall 2008 study skills seminar. Study skills seminars are designed to help students better organize study materials.

Grading/Tests: There will be **two** in-class exams, a book review, an internet resource list assignment, and a final exam for this course. The in-class exams will consist of identification, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer essays. There will also be the occasional take-home or in-class essay or pop-quiz test.

Grading breakdown:

Test 1 – 15%
Test 2 – 15%
Internet Resources – 10%
Book Review – 20%
Pop quizzes or take-home essays – 15%
Class discussions – 10%
Final Exam – 15%

Course grades are determined on the following scale:

A = 90% and above
B = 80% to 89.99%
C = 70% to 79.99%
D = 60% to 69.99%
F = 59.99% and below

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: The University of South Alabama is committed to the fundamental value of academic honesty. Any dishonesty related to your academic work constitutes academic misconduct. **Any student who plagiarizes material will receive an automatic F for the course.** Some examples of plagiarism: sharing answers on tests, representing published material in book form or from the internet as your own, using your cell phone during a test to retrieve information. Read the student handbook, *The Lowdown*, for more information on the standards of academic conduct and the far-reaching consequences of violating these standards.

Inclement weather: USA may find it necessary to close down the campus due to inclement weather. Closings will be posted on the USA website or you can call 251-460-6999 for recorded messages.

Americans with Disabilities Act: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Acts, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor and provide certification from Disability Services. The Office of Special Student Services is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, room 270, phone 460-7212.

Assignments – the following is the general plan for this course; there may be changes as necessary:

WEEK 1

August 18 Introduction and course overview
What is History?

August 20 America Before 1492
Read Chapter 1

WEEK 2

August 25 Welcome to the New World!
Read Chapter 2

August 27 The Atlantic System; Slavery
Read Chapter 3

WEEK 3

September 1 Happy Labor Day!

September 3 Internet research—good or bad?

WEEK 4

September 8 Continuation of the Atlantic system
Internet resource list due

September 10 Colonial Society
Read Chapter 4

WEEK 5

September 15 Colonial Society
Read Chapter 5

September 17 Colonial Crisis
Read Chapter 6

WEEK 6

September 22 TEST 1

September 24 Revolution
Read Chapter 7

WEEK 7

September 29 Revolution
Read Chapter

October 1 Revolution

WEEK 8

October 6 Republic
Read Chapters 8 & 9

October 8 Class discussion on the New Republic

WEEK 9

October 13 Jeffersonian Politics
Read Chapter 10

October 15 The Age of Jackson
Read Chapter 11

WEEK 10

October 20 Religion
October 22 Manifest Destiny
Read Chapter 12

WEEK 11

October 27 Class discussion on changes in the social landscape
October 29 TEST 2

WEEK 12

November 3 The Slave South
Read Chapter 13
November 5 Antebellum Life
Read Chapter 14

WEEK 13

November 10 Class discussion on causes leading up to the Civil War
November 12 Civil War
Read Chapter 15

WEEK 14

November 17 Civil War
November 19 Class discussion on women in the Civil War
Book reviews are due

WEEK 15

November 24 Reconstruction
Read Chapter 16
November 26 Happy Thanksgiving

WEEK 16

December 1 Reconstruction

**December 8 Final Exam
6-8 pm**