Course Description and Objectives:
This course is a broad survey of the political, constitutional, social, economic, and cultural
development of the United States from European settlement to the end of Reconstruction. Since
we cannot cover every facet of United States history in a single semester, the course will
emphasize three very general themes: the gradual development of a market capitalist economy,
the concurrent rise of democracy and expansion of slavery, and the ongoing creation of a nation-
state from distinct sectional interests and identities.

The basic format is that of a lecture course, but discussion will also play an important role. We
will discuss documents, as well as the three supplementary books, at great length. Class
participation, in other words, is important to your success in this course, and irregular attendance
will result in a lower final grade.

You should leave this class not only with a broad understanding of American history to 1877, but
also with improved oral, written, and critical thinking skills.

Readings:
Gary Nash and Julie Roy Jeffrey, The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society, vol. 1,

Paul F. Boller, Jr. and Ronald Story, A More Perfect Union: Documents in U.S. History, Volume
I: To 1877, fourth edition, 1996.


Paul Johnson, A Shopkeeper’s Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York,


Assignments and Grading Policies:
Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness please notify me immediately,
either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect your attendance. You may assume that
your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentages of classes you attend. (We
will meet 39 times this semester. If you miss 5 classes, your attendance is 87%, which would be a B+. Final grades will be determined as follows:

Writing Assignment - 20%
Map Quiz - 10%
Class participation - 10%
Mid-Term Examinations - 40%
Final Examination - 20%

Details on all of these assignments will follow. Copies of this syllabus, as well as all handouts and assignment sheets will be available on the Academic Volume in the file marked "Huebner." Make up exams will not be given without a verifiable medical excuse, and all excuses are subject to the approval of the instructor. There will be no make-ups of the map quiz. Late papers will be accepted one day after the due date (not one class period), with a one letter-grade penalty. Papers will not be accepted more than one day after the due date. All work, unless otherwise indicated, is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Class Assignments:

Part I. The Colonial Era

1. Colliding Cultures
(Nash, 6-48)

Aug. 26 - Introduction to course

Aug. 28 - The Europeans

Aug. 31 - Native Americans and the Spanish
(Boller, 2-8: Columbus, “Journal of the First Voyage”; Handout: De Las Casas, “Destruction of the Indies”)

Sept. 2 - Native Americans and the English
(Boller, 9-12: Powhatan, “Address to John Smith”)

2. Colonial Society
(Nash, 48-98)

Sept. 4 - Chesapeake Society and the Origins of Slavery
(Handout: Morgan, “Labor Problem at Jamestown”)

(Sept. 7 - Labor Day Holiday)

Sept. 9 - New England Society
Sept. 11 - Society in the Middle Colonies
(Boller, 42-45: Parke, “Letter from Pennsylvania”)

Sept. 14 - The Southern Colonies and Slavery
(Handout: “S.C. Restricts the Liberties of Slaves”)

Sept. 16 - Political Change

Sept. 18 - Social and Economic Change: Witchcraft at Salem
(Handout: Boyer and Nissenbaum, “Salem Possessed”)

3. Cultural Change in the 18th Century
(Nash, 102-142)

Sept. 21 - Whitefield and the Great Awakening
(Boller, 55-59: Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”)

Sept. 23 - Franklin and the American Enlightenment
(Masur, Autobiography of Ben Franklin, 1-157)

Sept. 25 - Franklin and the American Enlightenment/ Summary and Review
(Masur, Autobiography of Ben Franklin, 1-157)

Sept. 28 - Examination #1

Part II: The New Republic

4. Creating a Nation
(Nash, 146-218, 222-243, A3-A11)

Sept. 30 - Causes and Outbreak of the Revolution
(Handout: “Royal Proclamation on North America”)

Oct. 2 - Revolutionary Ideology
(Boller, 60-70: Henry, “Speech to the Virginia Convention”; Paine, “The Crisis: Number One”)

Oct. 5 - Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention
(Handout: “Articles of Confederation”)

Oct. 7 - Constitutional Ratification
(Boller, 65-87: Madison, “The Federalist, Number Ten,” “Virginia Recommendations for a Bill of Rights,” “Congressional Resolution on a Bill of Twelve Rights”)

5. Politics and Constitutionalism, 1790-1820
(Nash, 246-316)

Oct. 9 - Hamilton and Jefferson

Oct. 12 - Parties, Politics, and Foreign Policy
(Boller, 100-105: Jefferson, “First Inaugural Address”)

Oct. 14 - Marshall and the Supreme Court

6. Expansion and Reform, 1820s-1840s
(Nash, 322-357, 396-430)

Oct 16 - Social Change and the Market Revolution
(Johnson, Shopkeeper's Millennium, 3-78)

(Oct. 19 - Fall Recess)
Oct. 21 - Second Great Awakening and Reform
(Johnson, Shopkeeper's Millennium, 79-141)

(Oct. 23 - No class)

Oct. 26 - Jackson and Indian Removal
(Boller, 127-130: “Appeal of the Cherokee Nation”; Handout: State v. Foreman)

Oct. 28 - Nullification, the Bank War, and the Rise of the Whigs

Oct. 30 - Women’s Rights/ Summary and Review
(Boller, 178-182: Stanton, “Seneca Falls Declaration of 1848”; Video: “Women’s Suffrage”)

Nov. 2- Examination #2
Part III: The Union Divided and Reunited, 1846-1877

7. Slavery and the Sectional Crisis, 1846-1860
   (Nash, 360-392, 434-502)

   Nov. 4 - Manifest Destiny and Territorial Expansion
   (Boller, 137-143: Benton, “Destiny of the Race”)

   Nov. 6 - The Old South - MAP QUIZ

   Nov. 9 - Slave Life
   (Blight, Narrative of Life of Frederick Douglass, 1-67)

   Nov. 11 - Slave Culture and Community
   (Blight, Narrative of Life of Frederick Douglass, 67-109)

   Nov. 13 - Slavery and the West
   (Video: “The West”)

   Nov. 16 - Dred Scott and John Brown
   (Handout: Dred Scott v. Sandford)

   Nov. 18 - Secession
   (Boller, 191-199: “Mississippi Resolutions on Secession,” Lincoln, “First Inaugural”)

8. Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877
   (Nash, 506-572)

   Nov. 20 - Lincoln and the War
   (Boller, 203-207: Lincoln, “Emancipation Proclamation,” “Gettysburg Address”)

   (Nov. 23-27 - Thanksgiving Holidays)

   Nov. 28 - Why They Fought
   (Handout: McPherson, “The Holy Cause of Liberty and Independence”)

   Dec. 2 - Victory, Defeat, Emancipation
   (Boller, 214-217: Lincoln, “Second Inaugural”)

   Dec. 4 - Reconstruction
   (Boller, 226-229: “Report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction”; Nash, A9: 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments)

   Dec. 7 - Redemption and Reunion
(Boller, 230-234: “What the Centennial Ought to Accomplish”)

Dec. 9 - Summary and Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 1:00-3:30 P.M.**