

History 151.2  
MWF, 11:30-12:30  
301  
Palmer 205

Dee Garceau  
Office: Clough

Ofc Hrs: MWF, 2-4pm

## **THE AMERICANS: FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO 1877**

Beginning with encounters between Native Americans and the first Euro-American colonists, we will examine trade, diplomacy, conflict, and cultural exchange on North American shores. In addition, we will explore socio-economic distinctions and ties between the developing colonies.

The emergence of popular self-government forms the next unit of the course. Enlightenment thought, colonial political institutions, and the colonies' gradual alienation from Great Britain will be addressed as factors shaping eighteenth-century Republicanism, which culminated in the American Revolution. All wars have repercussions beyond their immediate purpose; we will consider how the Revolutionary War changed relations between men and women, as well as between white and African-American.

Moving into the nineteenth century, we will examine how Americans began to form a national identity, both political and cultural. We will explore the ways that territorial expansion, industrialization, and conflict over slavery shaped American life. The struggles between Native Americans and whites over sovereignty and land, the search for community in a rapidly changing society, and the drift toward sectionalism form crucial parts of this story. Lastly, we will investigate the great conflict that pitted brother against brother, the American Civil War and its aftermath, Reconstruction.

### Course Structure

The course is arranged both thematically and chronologically. Class time will include both lecture and discussion. Periodically, guest speakers, workshops and films will break routine and add further dimension.

### Required Texts

James Henretta et al., America's History; Volume I, To 1877 Third Edition (New York: Worth Publishers, 1997)

Robert Marcus & David Burner, America Firsthand; From Settlement to Reconstruction Vol.I, Fourth Edition (New York: Penguin, 1986)

Benjamin Franklin, Autobiography and Other Writings (1771-89; Rpt., New York: Viking Penguin, 1986)

Laurel Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812 (New York: Random House, 1990)

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave (1845; Rpt., New York: Viking Penguin, 1982).

Michael Shaara, The Killer Angels (New York: Ballantine Books, 1991).

Course Packet: A small collection of primary sources, available at the History Office, Clough 308.

Reading Assignments should be completed on the day they are listed. The Henretta text provides a chronological outline of events, while Marcus and Burner provide vivid first-person accounts of events and conditions that shaped everyday life.

The Franklin, Ulrich, Douglass, and Shaara readings will allow you to explore some topics in more depth. Benjamin Franklin's autobiography brings to life Enlightenment thought; Martha Ballard's story, gender and community in rural New England; Frederick Douglass' narrative, African-American views on slavery; and Michael Shaara's novel, the meanings of the Civil War to those who fought it.

Exams will give you practice developing an interpretation and sustaining it with argument and illustration. There will be two in-class essay exams, and one take-home essay exam. Grades will be based upon the following:

1st exam: 25%

2nd exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Class Participation: 25%

Class Participation is important. Discussions, workshops, and student presentations will require your full attention. Missed workshops and discussions cannot be made up. Over three absences will cause your course grade to drop by a full letter. Varsity athletics, severe illness, or family tragedy are the only exceptions to this rule.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

W Aug 26 Introduction to the Course

### INVASION, CONTACT, AND COLONIZATION

F Aug 28 Lecture/Discussion: European Expansionism and the Idea of the "Indian."

Reading: Bartolome de Las Casas, "The Destruction of the Indies," Ame

Father Paul LeJeune, "Encounter with the Indians," America Firsthand, pp.38-43.

Henretta, pp.3-7, 11-23.

M Aug 31    Exercise in Historical Investigation: The Mystery of Roanoke

Reading: John White, "The Lost Colony of Roanoke,"  
America Firsthand, pp.22-30. [Handout]

Henretta, pp.37-42.

W Sept 2 An Intact Society: The Seneca Nation

Reading: Chief Elias Johnson, "On the Founding of the Iroquois  
Henretta, pp.8-11.

F Sept 4 Workshop: Cross-Cultural Encounters

Reading: "Revolt of the Pueblo Indians," America

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M Sept 7 **Labor Day Holiday**

W Sept 9 New England: The Algonquians

Reading: William Bradford, "The Pequot War," America  
Firsthand, pp.33-7.

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Henretta, pp.63-66.

F Sept 11 New England: The Puritans

Reading: Hetty Shepard, "Diary of a Puritan Girl,"

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Henretta, pp.26-34, 52-63.

M Sept 14 The Chesapeake: Powhatans and Englishmen

Reading: John Smith, "Description of Virginia,"  
America Firsthand, pp.29-32.

Henretta, pp.43-52.

W Sept 16 Slavery in the New World

Reading: Oloudah Equiano, "The African Slave

Henretta, pp.78-92.

F Sept 18 Preindustrial Arts Workshop

Reading: Henretta, pp.92-94, 104-08.

# AMERICAN REVOLUTION

M Sept 21 Enlightenment Thought in America

Reading: Benjamin Franklin, Autobiography.  
Film Clip, "The Romantic Horizon."

W Sept 23 Discussion: Enlightenment Thought in America

Reading: Benjamin Franklin, Autobiography.  
Henretta, pp.116-22.

F Sept 25 Discontent in the Colonies

Reading: Henretta, pp.94-100, 108-15, 122-34.

M Sept 28 Imperial Crises

Reading: Thomas Preston, "A British Officer's  
"Colonial Accounts of the Boston Massacre,"  
America Firsthand, pp.100-07.  
Henretta, pp.137-55.

W Sept 30 Approaching Revolution

Reading: Henretta, pp.155-64.

F Oct 2 Discussion: Revolutions Within the War

Reading: "A Spy's View of Washington's Army, 1775," pp.143-45. [

Joseph Martin, "A Soldier's View of the Victory

"Unruly Women: Jemima Wilkinson and  
Deborah Sampson Gannett," pp.288-89.  
[Handout]

**\*\* Start reading Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale \*\***

M Oct 5 War and Social Change: African-Americans and the American

Revolu



Reading: Landon Carter, "War in the South," America

Henretta, pp.187-88; 190-92.

**\*\*FIRST EXAM QUESTIONS HANDED OUT\*\***

W Oct 7 War and Social Change: Anglo Women and the American Revolution

Reading: Eliza Pinckney, "A Republican Woman," America Firsthand, p

Abigail Adams, "Letters of a Republican Wife and Mother," America Firsthand, pp.117-23.

Henretta, pp.187-90, 200-01.

F Oct 9 Discussion: Women in the Early Republic

Reading: Laurel Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812, pp.3-35; 72-101; 134-161.

M Oct 12 **\*\*FIRST ESSAY EXAM\*\***

### THE NEW NATION

W Oct 14 The Constitution of 1787

Reading: Mr. Parsons et al., "Ratifying the Constitution," America Firsthand, pp.131-37.

Henretta, pp.198-99, 201-03, 206-17.

F Oct 16 National Identity in American Painting

Reading: Henretta, pp.246-48, 273-78.

Peter Cartwright, "Autobiography of a Circuit Rider," America Firsthand, pp.161-68.

M Oct 19 **FALL RECESS**

## AN EXPANDING NATION

W Oct 21 Early Industrialization

Reading: Harriet Robinson, "The Lowell Textile Workers,"  
America Firsthand, pp.223-30.

Henretta, pp.218-19, 293-303, 306-24.

F Oct 23 Politics in the Age of Jackson

Reading: Henretta, pp.327-36, 347-54.

M Oct 26 Ideology of Separate Spheres

Reading: Henretta, pp.278-87, 367-69, 372-73.

W Oct 28 Antebellum Reform: Temperance and Other Forms of Salvation

Reading: Timothy Shay Arthur, "Ten Nights in a Barroom,"  
America Firsthand, pp.244-51.

Henretta, pp.357-67, 370-71.

F Oct 30 Antebellum Reform: Abolitionism

Reading: "Points of View, Nat Turner's Rebellion," (1831)  
America Firsthand, pp.198-214.

Henretta, pp.373-80.

M Nov 2 Native American Dilemma: Sovereignty vs. Wardship

Reading: John Ross, "The Trail of Tears," America  
Firsthand, pp.169-75.

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Henretta, pp.337-39.

**\*\*SECOND EXAM QUESTIONS HANDED OUT\*\***

W Nov 4 Discussion: The Overland Trail: Myth and Reality

Reading: John Faragher, "Women and Their Families on the Overland Trail," p.246-67. [Handout]

Glenda Riley, "The Specter of a Savage: Rumors and Alarmism on the Overland Trail," p.427-44. [Handout]

Henretta, pp.407-12.

F Nov 6 Westward Migration: Religion and Gold

Reading: Edward Buffum, "Six Months in the Gold Mines," America Firsthand, pp.176-83.

Priscilla Evans, "Pulling a Handcart to the Mormon

M Nov 9 **\*\*SECOND ESSAY EXAM\*\***

### THE CIVIL WAR

W Nov 11 Sectionalism, State's Rights, and the Expansion of Slavery

Reading: Henretta, pp.249-56.

F Nov 13 Plantation Society

Reading: Charles Ball et al., "Life Under the Lash," America Firsthand, pp.231-37.

Henretta, pp.383-92.

**Begin reading Douglass and Jacobs.**

M Nov 16 Discussion: African-American Abolitionists

Reading: Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave.

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Harriet Jacobs, "Life of a Female Slave," America

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Henretta, pp.424-25.

W Nov 18 Conflict Over Slavery

Reading: Henretta, pp.415-23, 426-28.

F Nov 20 A House Divided

Reading: Henretta, pp.429-43.  
Michael Shaara, The Killer Angels.

M Nov 23 Civil War

Reading: Henretta, pp.443-55.  
Michael Shaara, The Killer Angels.

Nov 25-29 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

M Nov 30 Film: The Civil War ("Bottom Rail on Top", "Lincoln at  
"Surrender at Appomattox," "Legacy").

Reading: George Nichols, "Marching With Sherman's Army,  
America Firsthand, pp.254-60.

Pauline Heyward, "A Southern Women's Wartime  
Henretta, pp.478-82.

W Dec 2 Discussion: The Soldiers' Story

Reading: Michael Shaara, The Killer Angels.

Clara Barton, "Nursing on the Firing Line,"  
America Firsthand, pp.267-75.

F Dec 4 Lincoln and Wartime Reconstruction

Reading: Felix Haywood et al., "African-Americans'  
Firsthand, pp.294-99.



Henretta, pp.485-88.  
M Dec 7 Johnson and Congressional Reconstruction

Reading: Henry William Ravenel, "A Slaveowner's Journal at

the

Henretta, pp.488-94.

W Dec 9 Radical Reconstruction

Reading: Grimes Family Papers, "A Sharecrop Contract,"  
pp.286-88. [Handout]

Caleb Forshey et al., "White Southerners'  
Reactions to Reconstruction," America Firsthand,  
pp.300-07.

Henretta, pp.494-507.

**\*\*TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT\*\***

T Dec 15 **FINAL EXAM DUE:** Hand in at Clough 301, by Noon.

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