**US HISTORY 2201.08 (FALL 2022):**

**Syllabus and Course Information**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**COURSE NAME:** History 2201 (Section 8)

**SUBJECT:** US History: Origins to Reconstruction

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2022

**MEETING TIME:** MW, 7:00-8:15 PM

**CLASSROOM:** Building 15, Room 1808

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** James Ciment

**BOOK:** Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History* (Seagull Edition), Volume 2, 6th edition

**WEBSITE:** Cimenthistory.com

**EMAIL:** [jdciment@cpp.edu](mailto:jdciment@cpp.edu)

**OFFICE NUMBER:** Building 94, Room 354

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday, 1:15-2:15 (Zoom link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/86970174050>); Monday, 4-5 PM (Zoom link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/85420624049>); Wednesday, 4-5 PM (Zoom link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/86885786635>). Come in person or via Zoom; Waiting Room function is on for all Zoom office hours.

**WEBSITE AND CANVAS**

This class is based in TWO online spaces: Canvas and on my dedicated website at cimenthistory.com. All readings, visual and video materials will be available there. To find them, first click on the “2201” tab, then the “Course Materials” tab, and then on the week in question. Once there, look for the “Required” section on the top right. There is also supplemental materials section below week for those of you interested in exploring the subject time period further but it is NOT required for the class.

Everything else will be found on Canvas. This includes all class announcements, quizzes/exams, writing assignments, recorded lectures, textbook, and, of course, grades.

**ONLINE CLASSES**

Please note that there will be two online classes over the course of the semester, each corresponding to a holiday: the classes on Monday, October 31 (Halloween) and Wednesday, November 23 (Thanksgiving eve). You can attend the synchronous class at the usual time or you can watch it asynchronously at a later time (I will be recording it and it will be available on Canvas, under the Modules tab).

**OVERVIEW**

This course will cover American history from the pre-European contact, or the Pre-Columbian era, through the Reconstruction period following the Civil War, roughly 1000 CE to 1877 CE.

While the course takes a more or less chronological approach, we will be tackling seven broad subject areas. Not necessarily in order of importance, they are:

Politics and Governance

Business and Labor

Diplomacy and War

Religion and Faith

Society and Culture

Race and Ethnicity

Gender Relations

The course is divided into 3 rough chronological periods:

Pre-Contact and Colonial America. Pre-History-1750s (Weeks 1-5)

Revolutionary and the Early Republic: 1750s-1840s (Weeks 6-10)

Antebellum and Civil War Eras: 1830s-1870s: (Weeks 11-15)

Some of the questions we will be asking and trying to answer in this course include:

Why are America’s racial relations so complicated and tortured?

What are the origins of American democracy?

What lies behind this country’s gender relations?

Why and how did America come to embrace capitalism and industrialization?

Why is America the most religious of all developed Western countries?

What are the origins of America’s relationship with the rest of the world?

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 0—INTRODUCTION TO COURSE**

**Lecture:** Monday, August 29

**Reading:** This syllabus, plus familiarize yourself with the website, the textbook, and Canvas

**Writing and Discussion Assignment:** None  
**Topic:** Introduction to the course

**PART I: PRE-CONTACT AND COLONIAL AMERICA (Prehistoric-1750s)**

**WEEK 1--BRAVE NEW WORLD: PRE- AND POST-CONTACT AMERICAS, EUROPE AND WORLD (Pre-History to 1500s)**

**Lectures:** Wednesday, August 31, Wednesday, September 7 (Monday, September 5 is Labor Day, no class)

**Reading:** Text: Chapter 1: A New World (in full)

**Writing and discussion assignment #1:** How Should We (Not) Remember Columbus?

**WEEK 2—BEYOND POCAHONTAS: SETTLEMENT AND EUROPEAN/NATIVE AMERICAN INTERACTION IN JAMESTOWN AND THE CHESAPEAKE (1600s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 12; Wednesday, September 14

**Readings:** Text: Pages 46-64 (Beginnings of English America in Chapter 2); Website: Exchange between John Smith and Powhatan

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #2**: Treaty between Native Americans and English at Jamestown

**WEEK 3—A CITY UPON A HILL: SETTLEMENT AND EUROPEAN/NATIVE AMERICAN INTERACTION IN NEW ENGLAND (1600s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 19; Wednesday, September 21

**Reading:** Text: Pages 64-87 (in Chapter 2)

**Film:** The Pilgrims

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #3:** The Meaning of a “City Upon a Hill”

**WEEK 4—SO ENORMOUS, SO DREADFUL: THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE ORIGINS OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA (1500s-1800s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 26; Wednesday, September 28

**Readings:** Text: Pages 98-107 (in Chapter 3); 132-149 (in Chapter 4); Website: Olaudah Equiano on Slave Trade and Slavery

**PowerPoint and Discussion Assignment #4**: Timeline of the Slave Trade

**PART II: REVOLUTION AND EARLY REPUBLIC (1750s-1840s)**

**WEEK 5—SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS: THE REVOLUTION (1750s-1780s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 3; Wednesday, October 5

**Readings:** Text: Pages 149-178 (in Chapter 4); Chapters 5 and 6 (in full); Page A-15: Preamble to Declaration of Independence (up to “To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world…”); Website: Tom Paine’s *Common Sense*

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #5:** The Common Sense of Tom Paine’s *Common Sense*

**WEEK 6—WE THE PEOPLE: THE CONSTITUTION (1770s-1790s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 10; Wednesday, October 12

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 7 (in full); Bill of Rights, Amendments I-X, Pages A-30-A31; Website: Federalist #10; Patrick Henry’s Anti-Federalist Argument

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #6:** Bill of Rights and Patrick Henry’s Concerns OR Federalist #10 and Today’s Politics

**WEEK 7—ERA OF THE COMMON (WHITE) MAN: THE RISE OF POPULAR DEMOCRACY (1800s-1840s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 17; Wednesday, October 19

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 10 (in full); Website: Andrew Jackson, Veto of Bank Bill; Appeal of Cherokee Nation

**Film:** Trail of Tears

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #7:** Democracy—the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

**WEEK 8—IRON HORSES: THE COMMERCIAL, TRANSPORTATION, AND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS (1810s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 24; Wednesday, October 26

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 9 (in full); Website: Complaint of a Lowell Factory Worker; Freedom and Necessity at Lowell

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #8:** Wage Slavery

**WEEK 9—A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE AGE OF REFORM (1820s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 31 (On Zoom, link to come); Wednesday, November 2

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 14 (in full); Website: Catherine Beecher on “Duty of American Females”; Angelina Grimké on Women’s Rights (both are in the same PDF document)

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #9:** A Cross-Gender Look at Women’s Rights

**PART III: ANTEBELLUM ERA AND CIVIL WAR (1820s-1870s)**

**WEEK 10—THE PECULIAR INSTITUTION: SLAVERY AND THE SOUTH (1800s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 7; TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8: BE SURE TO VOTE!; Wednesday, November 9

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 11 (in full); Website: Rules of the Highland Plantation; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #10:** Slavery and Literacy

**WEEK 11—MANIFEST DESTINY: WESTWARD EXPANSION**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 14; Wednesday, November 16

**Readings:** Text: Pages 476-488 (in Chapter 13); Website: Manifest Destiny

**Film:** The Gold Rush

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #11:** The First Multi-Cultural Society: Gold Rush California

**WEEK 12—A HOUSE DIVIDED: SECTIONAL CONFLICT AND THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 21; Wednesday, November 23 (On Zoom, link to come)

**Readings:** Text: Pages 376-378 (in Chapter 10); Chapter 13 (all sections not previously read in Week 11, though you might want to review what you already read); Website: William Seward’s Irrepressible Conflict; Alexander Stephens’ Cornerstone of the Confederacy; Lincoln-Douglas Debates

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #12:** Why the War Came

**WEEK 13—TO PURGE THIS LAND WITH BLOOD: THE CIVIL WAR**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 28; Wednesday, November 30

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 14 (in full); Website: Letter of a Civil War Soldier; Letter from a Mother of a Black Soldier; Defense of the Confederacy

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #13:** Making Sense of the Civil War

**WEEK 14-15—A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM: RECONSTRUCTION**

**Lectures:** Monday, December 5; Wednesday, December 7

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 15 (in full); Website: Texas Black Code; Freedmen’s Petition

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #14:** Reconstruction Theater

**WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM—**Monday, December 12, 7-8:50 PM

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Readings:** You are expected to have all the readings and the writing/discussion assignment completed by midnight on Sundays before the week in question.

**Writing and Discussion Assignments:** It is very important to complete the short assignments connected to each week’s readings (these will be available on each week of the website and the Assignments tab of Canvas), as this will be the basis for our discussions that week (I will be calling on people at random to present their assignments). Submit all assignments on Canvas by midnight on the Sunday prior to the first synchronous lecture for that week. So, for example, the week 2 assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, September 11.

REMEMBER: You must always be looking to the week ahead to see what is due that week. For example, if we are in week 1, you should be looking to week 2 to see what is due the next week.

**Longer Assignments for Each of the 3 Parts of the Course:** There will be 3 longer writing assignments related to the three parts of the course: Pre-Contact and Colonial America. Pre-History-1750s (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, October 2); Revolutionary and the Early Republic: 1750s-1840s (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, November 6); Antebellum and Civil War Eras: 1830s-1870s: (Paper due: Sunday, December 4); Details about the assignments to come. When ready, the assignments will be found under the Assignments tab on Canvas. Submit all assignments on Canvas.

**Final:** There will be a final, exam during finals week, from 7-8:50 PM on Monday, December 12. Details to come later in the semester. (Note: there is NO MID-TERM for this class.)

**GRADES**

**Weekly Assignments:** 30 percent of grade

**Papers:** Each is worth 15 percent of your grade, for a total of 45 percent

**Final Exam:** 25 percent of grade

**ABSENCE AND TARDY POLICY**

**Absences:** One unexcused absence, no penalty. Every absence after that counts for 2 points off your total grade score.

**Tardy Arrivals:** Two unexcused tardies, no penalty. Every tardy arrival after that counts for 1 point off your total grade score, so long as you arrive within 15 minutes of the beginning of class. After that, you will be marked as absent.