

Course Syllabus
HIS 315K TTh 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
United States History
1492 to 1865
Fall 2012

Instructor: Kathleen Barr

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Office Hours: TTh 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; TTh 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. or by appointment

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Office Hours and Office Numbers for TAs will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description

This course examines the history of the U.S. from the Colonial Period through the Civil War. We will focus on major political and social events that occurred during this period and examine how those events fit into a broader world perspective.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- the colonization of North America
- the causes, events, and results of the American Revolution
- the constitutional period and nation-building
- the social, political, and economic issues that led to the Civil War and the Reconstruction period following the war

Required Readings:

Bozeman, Theodore Dwight, “The Puritans ‘Errand into the Wilderness’ Reconsidered” (available on *Journal of American History* website)

The Monroe Doctrine (available on Blackboard)

“United States Policy” from *The Cherokee Removal* (available on Blackboard)

Reséndez, Andrés, “National Identity on a Shifting Border: Texas and New Mexico in the Age of Transition” (available on *Journal of American History* website)

Fitzhugh, George, “Slavery Defended as Moral and Beneficial” (available on Blackboard)

Weeks, William E., *John Quincy Adams and American Global Empire*, 1st ed., Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

There is no assigned textbook for this course. If you feel the need, you may purchase any recent college-level textbook to give you an understanding of the core narrative of U.S. history during the time period under study.

Blackboard

You should check Blackboard for announcements on a regular basis. You can access Blackboard through UT Direct, using your UT EID.

Evaluation

There will be two examinations during the course of the semester and a final examination. Exams will consist of an objective section and an essay section. Questions will come from lecture notes, classroom discussions, and any assigned readings. Each examination will be worth 25% of the final grade.

There will be no make-up examinations without documentation. Students have two (2) class days to arrange makeup exams. **Make-up examinations will be all-essay.**

Writing Assignment:

Students will write a **four (4)** page paper based on William Weeks’ *John Quincy Adams and American Global Empire*. The paper will constitute 25% of the total grade. There will be a 10-point deduction per day for each day a paper is turned in late.

The specifics of the assignment will be forthcoming.

Grading

100%– 90%	A
89% – 80%	B
79% – 70%	C
69% – 60%	D
59% and below	F

Attendance

It is the responsibility of each student to attend class, take notes, and participate in class discussions. Your class attendance will not affect your grade unless you miss an examination; **however**, missing lectures will have a definite impact on your performance on examinations.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

Students need to consult the University's information regarding plagiarism. This information can be found at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses materials taken in whole or in part from someone else's research or writing including that which **may** be found on web sites, books, magazines, journals, newspapers, or other students' papers. If you are unsure of the meaning of plagiarism, please see the professor. The academic community takes plagiarism very seriously. Committing plagiarism will result in receiving an F for the assignment, **may** lead to an F in the course, and **may** result in expulsion from the university.

Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodation for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, or the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6441.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers **must be turned off** before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class.

Course Outline

All readings should be completed at the beginning of the week in which they will be discussed.

Week of Aug. 27

Topic: Introduction; Contact of Civilizations

Week of Sept. 3

Monday – September 3 – Labor Day

Topic: Founding of the Colonies

Read: “The Puritans ‘Errand into the Wilderness’ Reconsidered”

Week of Sept. 10

Topic: The Role of Colonies in Empire

Week of Sept. 17

Topic: The Road to Revolution

Week of Sept. 24

Topic: The Revolution

Exam 1 – Tuesday, Sept. 25

Week of Oct. 1

Topic: The Federalist Republic

Week of Oct. 8

Topic: A New Century and New Challenges

Week of Oct. 15

Topic: The Era of Good Feeling

Read: The Monroe Doctrine

Week of Oct. 22

Topic: The Jacksonian Era

Read: “United States Policy” from *The Cherokee Removal*

Week of Oct. 29

Topic: Growth and Reform

Exam 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 30

Week of Nov. 5

Topic: Westward Expansion and the Mexican War

Read: “National Identity on a Shifting Border”

Paper Due – Thursday, Nov. 8

Week of Nov. 12

Topic: The Old South: Myth and Reality

Read: "Slavery Defended as Moral and Beneficial"

Week of Nov. 19

Topic: The Politics of Sectionalism

Thanksgiving Holiday: No class Thursday – Friday

Week of Nov. 26

Topic: The Politics of Sectionalism (cont'd.)

Week of Dec. 3

Topic: The Civil War

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 18

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.