

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 1978-79

| <u>COURSE NO.</u> | <u>COURSE TITLE</u> | <u>INSTRUCTOR</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 101 | America to 1877 | Mr. Archdeacon |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The lecture course is divided into 3 parts, each of which conveys a general interpretation of a major segment of American history. The 1st describes the almost two centuries between 1607 and 1800, during which the settlers attempted to recreate European society in the New World, came to recognize the impossibility of the endeavor, and ultimately established a unique political and social order and a new nation. The second attempts to revitalize the old themes of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy by discussing the American interpretation of their national identity in terms of social equality and economic opportunity. The shift from the deferential first party system to the democratic second provides a major focus. The third portion of the survey deals with the Civil War both as an outcome of earlier American history and as an entry point to the modern age. Beginning with the maturation of a balanced two party system, the bloc examines the disastrous effects of introducing the moral issue of slavery into a politics designed for practicality and accommodation, and concludes with a look at the new industrial order which emerged in the Civil War era.

LECTURES

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

No written assignments other than tests. There will be three tests; each will have short answer and essay questions. The essay questions will be given out beforehand; depending on the requirements, they will be turned in at the time of the test or written out in class during the test.

GRADING SYSTEM

The three tests will be weighted equally, with sympathy shown to those who show improvement over the course of the term.

REQUIRED READINGS

Bernard Bailyn et al., The Great Republic, Vol. I, (A list of study guide questions will be used in class).
Edmund S. Morgan, The Puritan Dilemma
Robert A. Gross, The Minutemen and Their World
Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood
Oscar Handlin, Boston's Immigrants