

Department of History
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN -- MADISON
Semester II, 1991-92

History 101
History of the American Colonies and of the United States until 1877

MWF 1:20-2:10

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5133 Humanities

History 101 covers a large expanse of time. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America, which is among the first topics treated. English settlements in those portions of North America that became the United States began nearly 400 years ago, with the founding of Jamestown in 1607. Indeed, the part of the course dealing with colonial era, which lasted from that date to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, covers a period almost four-fifths as long as the history of the nation since 1776. The remainder of the course examines the first 100 years of U.S. history.

Historians cannot recount all the events of yesterday, let alone of a time so far gone. They focus, instead, on themes that will reveal the past in ways that help us better understand our own times. That endeavor is challenging, because it requires historians to keep in balance two competing obligations: respect for the unique character of the past and responsibility to the present and future.

The textbook used in this course takes, as its grand theme, the growth of America as a "republic." Discussing what that term means will be part of the work of the course. The text also uses sub-themes that divide the chronological span to be examined into four segments of unequal length; those end, respectively, in 1760, 1820, 1860, and 1877. The sub-themes refer to the Shaping, Framing, Expanding, and Uniting of the republic. Let us look more closely at each of them.

Shaping the Republic describes how, regardless of the plans of the founders or the expectations of the original settlers, changes in the basic conditions of life in the wilderness of colonial America helped produce a society different from those found in Europe. *Framing the Republic* discusses how the American Revolution created a government consistent with the genius of that society and ultimately gave rise to an ideology that combined democracy, egalitarianism, and liberal nationalism. *Expanding the Republic* considers various aspects of the rapid growth of the United States in the period before the Civil War, and it also focuses on that era's remarkable impulse to reform and perfectionism. Finally, *Uniting the Republic* analyzes the Civil War and its aftermath, as events involving, on several levels, conflicts between majority interests and minority rights.

In addition to the text, students will read three monographs, or books on specialized topics. Every paragraph in a text rests on the foundation of one or more such studies. Monographs reveal the nature of historical argumentation and use of evidence. Moreover, the books assigned share an important characteristic in that they all deal creatively with history as ordinary people experienced it.

The organization of the course follows roughly the outline of the textbook. The lectures will highlight information found in the chapters of the text, but they will also introduce other material and examine some ideas in greater depth. Some lectures will focus on the monographs and on the topics treated in those books. The conscientious student will pay careful attention to the lectures, the text, and the monographs.

History 101 will entail three formal examinations, including two mid-terms and an end-term. Students will take the mid-terms during the normal class periods on the dates noted in the schedule. They will take the end-term on Monday, May 11, at 12:25 PM, in a room to be announced late in the semester. The exams will combine short answers and essays, but they will not be cumulative.

Discussion sections for History 101 will be held weekly, and students are required to attend them. The teaching assistant will clarify points made in the lecture and will answer whatever questions arise regarding the content and the operation of the course. Your participation is necessary to the success of the section meetings, and the teaching assistant's evaluation of it will have an impact on your final grade.

Readings:

Textbook:

Bernard Bailyn, *et al.*, *The Great Republic*, vol. I

Monographs:

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed*

Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work*

Dale T. Knobel, *Paddy and the Republic*

Grading:

Exams	30 points each
Participation	10 points

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Shaping the Republic

- 20 Jan. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- No Class Scheduled
- 22 Jan. Introduction to the Course
- 24 Jan. The Age of Exploration
Text, ch. 1
- 27 Jan. Founding Virginia
Text, ch. 2
- 29 Jan. Founding Massachusetts
- 31 Jan. Founding the Other Colonies
- 3 Feb. The Colonial Economy
Text, ch. 3
- 5 Feb. The Glorious Revolution in America
Text, ch. 4
- 7 & 10 Feb. Witchcraft at Salem
Boyer & Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed*
- 12 Feb. The Growth of the Colonial Population
Text, ch. 5
- 14 Feb. The Structure of American Society
- 17 Feb. The Origins of American Politics
- 19 Feb. The Anglo-American Empire
Text, ch. 6
- 21 Feb. **Examination 1**

Framing the Republic

- 24 Feb. The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1770
Text, ch. 7
- 26 Feb. The Coming of Independence: 1770-1776
Text, ch. 8

- 28 Feb. The War for Independence
- 2 Mar. The Articles of Confederation
Text, ch. 9
- 4 Mar. The U.S. Constitution
- 6 Mar. The Administrations of Washington and Adams
Text, ch. 10

Spring Break

- 16 Mar. The Jeffersonian Revolution
Text, ch. 11
- 18 Mar. The War of 1812

Expanding the Republic

- 20 Mar. Economic Expansion
Text, ch. 12
- 23 & 25 Mar. Work and Workers
Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work*
- 27 Mar. Shaping the American Character
Text, ch. 13
- 30 Mar. & 1 Apr. Slavery
Text, ch. 14
- 3 Apr. **Examination 2**
- 6 Apr. The Role of Politics Parties
Text, ch. 15
- 8 Apr. Jacksonian Democracy
- 10 Apr. The Politics of Slavery
- 13 Apr. Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War
Text, ch. 16
- 15 Apr. The Crisis of the 1850s
Text, ch. 17

17 Apr.	Good Friday -- No Class Scheduled
20 & 22 Apr.	Immigration and American Identity Dale T. Knobel, <i>Paddy and the Republic</i>
24 Apr.	The Election of 1860
<i>Uniting the Republic</i>	
27 Apr.	Secession and the Early Years of the Civil War <i>Text</i> , ch. 18
29 Apr.	Wartime Politics
1 May	The Final Years of the Civil War <i>Text</i> , ch. 19
4 May	The End of Slavery
6 May	Reconstruction <i>Text</i> , ch. 20
8 May	Path to the Future