

Department of History
University of Wisconsin -- Madison
Intersession, 1992

History 101
The American Colonies & the United States until 1877

MTWRF 9:30-12:30

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5133 Humanities

History 101 covers a large expanse of time. Columbus's voyage to America, which is among the first topics treated, occurred 500 years ago. English settlement 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 colonial era of U.S. history, measured from that date to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, forms 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 help us to know the past in ways that will make our own times more understandable. That dual goal 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 is Norman K. Risjord's *America: A History of the United States*, volume I. In addition to the text, students will read two monographs, or books on specialized topics. Every paragraph in a text rests on the foundation of one or more such studies. It is through the monographs that the nature of historical argumentation and use of evidence should become clear.

The lectures will follow roughly with the order of topics established in the textbook. Most will highlight the information found in those chapters, but they will also introduce other information and examine some ideas in greater depth. The remaining lectures will center on examinations of the monographs and of the topics on which they are based. The conscientious student will follow the text, the monographs, and the lectures with care.

History 101 will have two formal examinations, including a mid-term and an end-term. Students will take all exams during the normal class periods on the dates noted in the schedule. The kinds of questions on the tests will include multiple-choice, identification and significance, and essays. The examinations, however, will not be cumulative.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- May 26 The Age of Exploration
 Pre-Columbian America
 Spanish and English Explorers
 Founding Virginia
Risjord, *America*, ch. 1
- May 27 Pilgrims, Puritans, Dissidents, and Traders
 Founding Massachusetts
 Founding the Other Colonies
 The Glorious Revolution
Risjord, *America*, ch. 2
- May 28 Witchcraft in Massachusetts
 History and Interpretation
Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed*
- May 29 American Society and Politics in the Eighteenth Century
 Growth of the Colonial Population
 The Colonial Economy
 The Structure of Politics
Risjord, *America*, chs. 3 and 4
- June 1 The Imperial Crisis
 The Anglo-American Empire
 The French and Indian War and Its Aftermath
 The Coming of Independence
Risjord, *America*, ch. 5
- June 2 The American Revolution
 The War of Independence
 The Articles of Confederation
 The U.S. Constitution
Risjord, *America*, chs. 6 and 7
- June 3 *Mid-Term Examination*
 Conclusion and Review of Preceding Lectures
 Examination (75 minutes)
- June 4 The New Nation
 The Administrations of Washington and Adams
 The Jeffersonian Revolution
 The War of 1812
Risjord, *America*, chs. 8 and 9

- June 5 Political Party Systems
The Era of Good Feelings
The Second Party System
Jacksonian Democracy
Risjord, *America*, ch. 10
- June 8 A People in Motion
Expansion
Immigration
Displacement
Risjord, *America*, ch. 11
Duane Schultz, *Over the Earth I Come*
- June 9 Slavery in an Age of Reform
Slavery
Abolitionism
Other Aspects of Reform
Risjord, *America*, ch. 12
- June 10 The Coming of the Civil War
Manifest Destiny
The Crises of the 1850s
A House Dividing
Risjord, *America*, chs. 13 and 14
- June 11 The Civil War and Reconstruction
Secession
From Bull Run to Appomattox
Reconstruction
Risjord, *America*, chs. 15 and 16
- June 12 *End-Term Examination*
Conclusion and Review of Preceding Lectures
Examination (75 minutes)