Course Description: In order to fully understand the United States and its culture today an appreciation of the past is essential. This course will begin with the interaction of indigenous, European, and African peoples beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing to the late nineteenth century. This span of time will include the initial peopling of the Americas, European colonization, the beginning and expansion of chattel slavery, the war for independence, the establishment of a new nation, economic development, rising sectionalism over slavery and the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Student Learning Outcome Statement: Upon the successful completion of this course students will be able to discuss (verbally or in writing) the political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of U.S. History to 1877. The assigned texts include primary and secondary sources. Comprehension of this material will enable you to persuasively argue and support a historical thesis. Please note: Attached to the syllabus is a copy of the course objectives for History 1A. They serve both as a statement of the goals we are committed to in this class, as well as, an outline of the various topics we will be covering.


Note regarding texts: The three texts come in one package. This was done to save money. By packaging the texts the publisher was able to include the writing text for free and to charge only $5.00 for the documents text.

Course Requirements: Students are required to attend class, read the assigned material, participate in classroom discussions, and take three examinations. Each exam is worth 100 points. Thus: 270 to 300 points = A, 240 to 269 points = B, 210 to 239 points = C, 180 to 209 points = D, 179 points and below = F.

Important information: Cheating will not be tolerated, if you must withdraw from class it is YOUR responsibility and the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus.
Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Examination Date

I  2/17, 2/19  Introduction, European Contact, Read Chapters 1 and 2 in Oakes

II  2/24, 2/26  Jamestown, Massachusetts Bay Read Chapter 3 in Oakes

III  3/3, 3/5  Mercantilism, New York, Penn’s Woods, Carolinas Read Chapter 4 in Oakes

IV  3/10, 3/12  Religious Revival, Economic Growth, The Enlightenment Read Chapter 5 in Oakes

V  3/17, 3/19  Imperial War, British Victory, Cracks in the Empire Read Chapter 6 in Oakes

VI  3/24, 3/26  Exam #1, 3/24(chs.1-6), The War for Independence Read Chapter 7 in Oakes

VII  3/31, 4/2  Creating an Effective Government Read Chapter 8 in Oakes

VIII  4/7, 4/9  The Jeffersonians in Power, The War of 1812 Read Chapter 9 in Oakes

IX  4/14, 4/16  SPRING BREAK

X  4/21, 4/23  Slavery and the Nation, Exam #2, 4/23(chs.7-9) Read Chapter 10 in Oakes
XI  4/28, 4/30  Jacksonian Democracy  
     Read Chapter 11 in Oakes

XII  5/5, 5/7  Reform and Conflict  
      Read Chapter 12 in Oakes

XIII 5/12, 5/14  Manifest Destiny 1836-1848  
       Read Chapter 13 in Oakes

XIV  5/19, 5/21  The Politics of Slavery 1848-1860  
      Read Chapter 14 in Oakes

XV  5/26, 5/28  A War for Union and Emancipation  
       Read Chapter 15 in Oakes

XVI  6/2, 6/4  Reconstructing a Nation 1865-1877  
       Read Chapter 16 in Oakes

XVII 6/9  Final Exam, (chs.10-16)