**The Indiana Academy**

**Soc 203 (HIST 201)**

**American History, 1492-1877 (Fall 2025)**

Professor: Dr. Mark Myers Office Location: B009D Elliot

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Class Time: MWF 11:00 Office Hours: MF 9-11, 2-4; TR 9-10

*Course Description:*

This course surveys the American historical experience through 1876. Students will examine key events, ideas, personalities and movements from before European exploration to the end of Reconstruction.

Students who are enrolled in this course may receive dual credit through Ball State University for 3 credit hours in HIST 201. For more information, please consult the Academy course catalog.

*Course Objectives:*

1. Knowledge Objectives: Students will be able to:

* **identify** and **recognize** the basic events, issues, ideas, and patterns necessary to the study of American history to 1876.
* **recognize** some of the key interpretations connected with early American history.

B. Skill Objectives: Students will be able to:

* **identify** methods historians use to gather historical evidence.
* **apply** these methods to **evaluate** historical evidence and use them to support persuasive arguments.
* **explain** specific historical issues from a variety of perspectives.
* **apply** historical understanding to contemporary issues and events
* **explain** their own ideas and interpretations of early American history in organized, logical, persuasive fashion, both orally and in written form

*Course Requirements:*

1. AI Assignments: There will be four major AI assignments that will allow students to use AI technology in an ethical way. Students will use an AI program to generate responses to an essay question and will then use their knowledge to score the generated essay. More information will be provided. These assignments will be worth 100 points each.
2. Daily Assignments: There will be a variety of short daily writing assignments. I anticipate that most class days will be seminar style (discussion). For these days, each student must submit a “lab notebook.” The lab notebook consists of two sections. First, select ONE of the documents assigned and analyze it thoroughly. Who is the author (race/ethnicity, sex, and region of residence are categories to think of here), and who is her/his intended audience? What are the major claims the author is making, or points she’s trying to convince her readers of? Briefly summarize the piece and conclude by discussing how persuaded you were by the author’s arguments. Second, write a paragraph connecting the entire set of documents to the course as a whole. How do these documents complement, challenge, or complicate what we’ve been talking about? How do they change your perspective on a historical event or concept? The second possible class activity will be in-class activities in which students will be expected to read a set of primary sources and discuss the sources within groups. Each group will submit a report by the end of the class. Each daily assignment will be worth 10 points. I will drop the four lowest grades at the end of the semester.
3. Participation: For each day that there is a seminar discussion, each student will earn a participation grade. I consider a seminar to be a “team activity,” therefore there will be a class “baseline grade” for the seminar. However, if you do not participate or if you act in a disruptive way, your score will be adjusted accordingly. Excused absences will not harm you seminar grade, but unexcused absences will earn no participation credit. Each participation grade will be worth 10 points. No participation scores will be dropped.

Percentage of total points earned:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: Below 70%

(Note: plus/minus may be used at my discretion.)

*Late Policy:*

All AI assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Lab notebooks are due by class time on the due date. Late AI assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per week late. Lab notebooks cannot be accepted late except in extraordinary circumstances. If you know that you will be absent prior to the day of class, the lab notebook must be submitted early. **No extension will be granted because a student is busy.** The absolute deadline for any late AI assignment will be Thursday, December 18 at noon.

*Attendance Policy:*

Attendance is mandatory. Students may receive excused absences at the professional discretion of the school nurse, the associate director of mental health services, the associate director of college counseling and student engagement, the director of academic affairs, and the executive director of the Indiana Academy. Unexcused absences occur when students miss class without prior approval from the aforementioned designated school officials. Continued absences (both excused and unexcused) from Academy classes increase the likelihood of unsuccessful completion.

Alongside steady attendance, students are expected to maintain consistent healthy habits of decorum, respect, and kindness towards their classmates, instructors, and teaching assistants. When students fail to meet these classroom behavioral standards and academic habits, it is the expectation faculty engage appropriately to bring quick and immediate resolution. When students consistently fail to meet these behavioral standards and academic habits in the classroom, an administrative consequence ladder will be adopted, and recorded, in attempt to administratively address, engage, and rectify ongoing challenges.

*IA Wireless Device Policy:*

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science,  
Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication  
devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all  
portable wireless devices, that have the capability to provide voice, messaging,  
or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for  
academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational  
task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic  
accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval  
permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health,  
safety, and/or well-being.

The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject  
to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, a verbal warning, temporary

seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class  
in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated  
consequences for repeated improper use.

*Canvas:*

Reading assignments and handouts will be posted on the class Canvas site. It is imperative that you check this frequently. All AI assignments and lab notebooks will be submitted via Canvas as well.

*Ball State University Benificence Pledge:*

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains outstanding faculty, staff, and students. Ball State is committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the varied experiences and worldviews of the people whom we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State’s commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, inclusiveness at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive.

*Content Statement:*

As with many history classes, the lectures, readings, and discussions [in this course] will include a range of topics that may be triggering, emotionally distressing, and difficult for some students. Engaging with topics such as slavery and human suffering is essential to this discipline. History seeks to understand the experiences and thought processes of former generations, whether for good or ill. Sometimes the language and word choices used by people in the past may be insensitive or politically incorrect today. Nevertheless, the goal of history is to understand the past within its own context and time. If a reading, image shown in class, or discussion is truly troubling to anyone, please do not hesitate to talk to your instructor. In some circumstances, an alternative reading can be assigned

*Disclaimer:*

I reserve the right to make changes to the course calendar at my discretion. I will give notice to the class as soon as possible after making any change.

*Course Schedule of Topics:*

Week 1: 8/11 Introduction to the Course/Historical Thinking

8/13 Early American Cultures

8/15 The Spanish Empire & Columbian Exchange

Week 2: 8/18 The Spanish in North America

8/20 Settling the English Colonies

8/22 Native Peoples & English Settlers

Week 3: 8/25 Servitude & Slavery in the Colonies

8/27 Women in the Colonies

8/29 Society & Economy in the Colonies

Week 4: 9/1 Extended: No Class

9/3 Race-Based Slavery

9/5 Colonial Warfare

Week 5: 9/8 Increased British Control

9/10 Road to the Revolution

9/12 **AI Assignment #1**

Week 6: 9/15 The Early Revolution

9/17 Setbacks for the British

9/19 War & Change

Week 7: 9/22 The Constitution

9/24 Ratification & the Federalist Era

9/26 Crisis

Week 8: 9/29 Jeffersonian Republicanism

10/1 The War of 1812

10/3 **AI Assignment #2**

Week 9: 10/6 Extended: No Class

10/8 PSAT: No Class (Tentative: If this changes, the schedule will be adjusted)

10/10 The Market Revolution

Week 10: 10/13 Industrial Development

10/15 Immigration & Organized Labor

10/17 A New Nationalism

Week 11: 10/20 Era of Good Feelings

10/22 The Rise of Jackson

10/24 Jacksonian Democracy

Week 12: 10/27 Nullification & Native American Policy

10/29 Political Battles

10/31 The Cotton Kingdom

Week 13: 11/3 Unequal Society in the South

11/5 Enslaved Community

11/7 Democratic Religion

Week 14: 11/10 Reform

11/12 The Anti-Slavery Movement

11/14 **AI Assignment #3 Due Today**

Week 15: 11/17 Western Expansion

11/19 The Mexican-American War

11/21 The Emergence of the Republican Party

Week 16: 12/1 Mobilizing for Civil War

12/3 Emancipation & Home Front

12/5 The End of the War

Week 17: 12/8 Political Reconstruction

12/10 Black Society Under Reconstruction

12/12 The End of Reconstruction

Week 18: TBA **AI Assignment #4 Due (This will be due on the day the other**

**American History sections take their final)**