**The Indiana Academy**

**SOC 203 (HIST 201)**

**American History, 1492-1877 (Fall 2023)**

Instructor: Dr. Mark Myers Office Location: B009D Elliot

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Office Hours: MF 9-1, TR 3:30-4:30

*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.

*Required Texts:*

*The American Yawp* (Y) **Note: This is an open source, collaborative textbook that is available both online and as a pdf. I will post both the link and the pdf on Canvas.**

*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. Essays: You are required to complete three take-home essays that will test your ability to construct an argument and to defend that argument with evidence from class readings. More information will be forthcoming. Each exam is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points.
2. Final Essay: You are required to write a comprehensive final research essay that will be due at the end of the semester. As with the exam essays, you are expected to construct an argument and defend it with evidence (both primary and secondary sources). More information will be forthcoming. The final essay is worth 60 points.
3. Participation/Labs: Most of our class sessions will consist of seminar discussions. These seminars may either be open conversations or led by a student discussion leader. I hope to convey to you the importance of collegial discussion. 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, your score will be adjusted accordingly. I will be providing documents on Canvas to help you prepare for the seminars. Excused absences will not harm your seminar grade. The second part of your participation grade will be the history lab sessions. You will be provided a number of documents to work with and will produce a 1-2 page report on the primary sources. Specific instructions will be given. I will score you daily on these activities and will average the scores at the time of each exam. Each grading period will be worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points.
4. Reading Journals: Each student will submit a daily journal on the assigned readings. The journals will be posted to Canvas. These journals are designed to give you an opportunity to prepare for the discussion and should be two full paragraphs long. The only requirement is that you provide enough detail from the reading to show that you read the assignment. As with the participation score, I will average the daily journal scores and enter them at the time of each exam. Each grading period will be worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

*Grade Distribution:*

Exam Essays: 50% (150 points)

Final Essay: 20% (60 points)

Participation/Labs: 20% (60 points)

Reading Journals: 10% (30 points)

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 major written assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Reading Journals are due by class time on the due date. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 5% for every 24 hours the assignment is late (up to a 50% penalty). Extensions will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. No extension will be granted because a student is extremely busy. I will accept late assignments until noon on Wednesday, December 20.

*Attendance and Tardies:*

Attendance is required, per Academy policy. Unexcused absences will result in a grade deduction in participation. Late arrivals may be counted tardy, with late arrivals of more than ten minutes subject to being counted absent for the day.

*Academic Dishonesty:*

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to the Academy’s policies on academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of this process and possible sanctions, please refer to the student handbook.

*Behavior and Computer/Electronic Device Policy:*

This class is expected to be a positive learning experience based on open communication and respect. You are expected to be collegial and to respect the rights of the other seminar participants. On that note, I expect you to be engaged with the class conversation, with no side conversations, sleeping, or playing on your cell phones or computers. Doing so will lead to a significant reduction of your seminar grade, as well as a potential unexcused absence. Furthermore, although you may use computers and electronic devices to access documents and your journal, using computers for non-academic purposes could lead to a banning of computers for all students. Continued disruptive activity can lead to removal from class (which would be an unexcused absence) and the sending of an APR.

*Canvas:*

Reading assignments and handouts will be posted on the class Canvas site. It is imperative that you check this regularly. You will also submit all written work via Canvas.

*Diversity Statement:*

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

*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 Calendar:*

Week 1: Indigenous America

8/16 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 1, Sections I-III

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

8/18 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 1, Sections IV-V

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

Week 2: Colliding Cultures

8/21 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 2, Sections I-IV

Linked Secondary Source on Canvas

8/23 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 2, Sections V-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

8/25 History Lab, “Jamestown” **Report Due 8/29**

Week 3: British North America

8/28 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 3, Sections I-III

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

8/30 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 3, Sections IV-VI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/1 History Lab, “King Philip’s War” **Report Due 9/9**

Week 4: Colonial Society

9/4 No Class: Extended Weekend

9/6 History Lab, “Runaway Slave Advertisements **Report Due 9/12**

9/8 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 4

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

Week 5: The American Revolution

9/11 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 5, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/13 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 5, Sections V-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/15 **Essay #1 Due Today**

Week 6: A New Nation

9/18 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 6, Sections I-V

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/20 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 6, Sections VI-XI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/22 History Lab, “Opposition to the Constitution” **Report Due 9/27**

Week 7: The Early Republic

9/25 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 7, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/27 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 7, Sections V-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

9/29 History Lab, “Lewis and Clark Expedition” **Report Due 10/3**

Week 8: The Market Revolution

10/2 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 8, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/4 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 8, Sections V-VI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/6 History Lab, “Early American Elections” **Report Due 10/14**

Week 9: Writing Workshops (As Needed)

10/9 No Class: Extended Weekend

10/11 Writing Workshop

10/13 Writing Workshop

Week 10: Democracy in America

10/16 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 9, Sections I-VI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/18 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 9, Sections VII-XI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/20 History Lab, “Native American Removal” **Report Due 10/24**

Week 11: Religion and Reform

10/23 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 10, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/25 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 10, Sections V-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

10/27 **Essay #2 Due Today**

Week 12: The Cotton Revolution

10/30 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 11, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/1 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 11, Sections V-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/3 History Lab, “Slave Narratives” **Report Due 11/7**

Week 13: Manifest Destiny

11/6 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 12, Sections I-III

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/8 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 12, Sections IV-VII

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/10 History Lab, “Texas Revolution” **Report Due 11/14**

Week 14: The Sectional Crisis

11/13 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 13, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/15 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 13, Sections V-VI

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

11/17 History Lab, “Brown’s Raid” **Report Due 11/30**

11/20-11/24 No Class: Extended

Week 15: The Civil War

11/27 Writing Workshop

11/29 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 14

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

12/1 **Essay #3 Due Today**

Week 16: Reconstruction

12/4 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 15, Sections I-IV

Linked Primary Sources on Canvas

12/6 Read: American Yawp, Chapter 15, Sections V-VIII

Kolchin, Chapter 7 & Afterward

12/8 History Lab, “Teenagers in the Civil War” **Report Due 12/12**

Week 17: 12/11 Writing Workshops (as needed)

12/13 Writing Workshops (as needed)

Week 18: 12/18 **Final Essay Due Today**

12/20 @ Noon **All Late Assignments are Due**