



Beijing Jiaotong University

2019 Summer Session

HIS 105 Introduction to American History

Course Outline

Term: July 08-August 09,2019

Class Hours: 12:00-14:00 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: HIS 105

Instructor: Alexander Angelov

Home Institution: College of William and Mary

Office Hours: TBA

Email: aangelov@wm.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 10 lecturer office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

The goal of this introductory survey course is to give students a strong understanding of the broader trends of American history and to prepare them for further study in the field. In each class we will discuss texts, visual arts, music, or films. The student will be introduced to some of the major debates on our political, social, cultural, and economic future.

Course Objectives:

This course improves analytical reasoning, evidence-based argumentation, and teaches close reading. Students will also learn how to interpret and write historical and ethnographic studies.

Required Textbooks:

Maier, Pauline, Merritt Roe Smith, Alexander Keyssar, and Daniel Kevles. *Inventing America: A History of the United States*, vol. I. New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2002. ISBN: 0393974359.



Grading & Evaluation:

Attendance 10%
Mid-Term 30%
Paper 20%
Final Exam 40%

Grading Scale

A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77),
C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-60), F (below 60).

Course Schedule

Week 1: **Settlement and Colonization**

Day 1 **Native Americans and Europeans**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Pauline Maier. *Inventing America*. Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 3-79.

Day 2 **Economies and Power Relations**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Virginia DeJohn Anderson. "King Philip's Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England." *The William and Mary Quarterly*. 51.4 (Oct., 1994), pp. 601-624.

Day 3 **Africans and Americans**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) John Thornton. *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*. Chapter 6.
- 2) Steven Mintz, ed.. *African American Voices*, Selections:
An Employee of Britain's Royal African Company Describes the Workings of the Slave Trade (1738)
Olaudah Equiano, an 11-Year-Old Ibo from Nigeria, Remembers His Kidnapping into Slavery (1789 account of events of ~1756)

Day 4 **Religion in America**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Ramón A.Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1991), 3-36.

Week 2: **Revolution and Society**

Day 1 **Men and Women**



Assigned Reading:

- 1) Linda Kerber, ed.. *Women's America: Refocusing the Past*, 7th edition, selections: Annette Gordon-Reed, "The Hemings-Jefferson Treaty: Paris, 1789" Linda K. Kerber, "The Republican Mother and the Woman Citizen: Contradictions and Choices in Revolutionary America" "The ladies going about for money exceeded everything..." (1780) Rachel Wells, "I have Don as much to Carrey on the Warr as maney..." (1786)

Day 2 **America in the World of Empire**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 81-154.

Day 3 **Independence**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapter 5, pp. 157-192.

Day 4 **The American Republic**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapter 6, pp.195-243.

*****Mid-Term Exam*****

Week 3: **An Enlightened Nation**

Day 1 **The Founding Fathers and Their Views**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Thomas Jefferson. *The Works of Jefferson*. On Indians in Virginia.
- 2) Thomas Jefferson. *The Works of Jefferson*. On Religion.

Day 2 **Politics and Struggles**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapters 8 and 9, pp. 249-314.

Day 3 **Financing a Society**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapters 9 and 12, pp. 283-314, 373-405.

Day 4 **Controlling Labor and Controlling Identities**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. Chapters 11 and 13, pp. 343-371, 407-432.

Final Paper DUE

Week 4: **Federalism, Government, and Civil Sphere**



Day 1

Expansion and Secession

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*. pp. 465-474, 476-494, and pp. 497-502.

Day 2

Civil War

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*, pp. 502-533.

Day 3

Reconstruction

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Maier et. al.. *Inventing America*, pp. pp. 535-553.

Day 4

Race and Racism

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Nell Irvine Painter. "What is Whiteness?" 2015.
- 2) Jennifer Silva. "Working Class Growing Pains." *Contexts* (2014) 13 (2):26-31.

Week 5

The Global America

Day 1

World War I

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Henretta et al.. *America's History*. Chapter 22.

Day 2

Global War

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Henretta et al.. *America's History*. Chapters 24-25.

Day 3

Cold War

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Henretta et al.. *America's History*. Chapter 26

Day 4

America Today and Tomorrow

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Clifford R. Backman. *The Cultures of the West: A History*. Vol. 2 (Oxford, 2013). Chapter 30.
- 2) Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (1961), Chapter 1, "On Violence," pp. 1–52.

*****Final Exam*****