

**US History I (To 1865)  
Dr. Kevin M. Boylan, PhD  
Fitchburg State University**



**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Semester:** Summer 2019

**Credits:** 3 undergraduate credits

**Class Hours:** 2 hours per day, Mon-Thursday, July 1 to August 2, 2019

**Classroom:** Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

**Instructor:** Kevin M. Boylan, PhD

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Email:** [kboylan@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:kboylan@fitchburgstate.edu)

**COURSE CONTENT**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course is a survey of United States History beginning with colonial times and continuing through the era of Reconstruction following the Civil War. It covers the political, economic and social development of the United States, including the role of economics and religion in colonial America, the institution of slavery, the struggle for independence, formation of a national government, Jacksonian democracy, westward expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

**COURSE GOALS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** After students have completed this course, they should be able to:

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- Comprehend and explain the key people, groups, events and institutions that shaped American life from colonial times to Reconstruction.
- Describe how Americans understood and engaged in civic life through politics, public service, social and labor activism, journalism, and other means.
- Be familiar with key historical struggles, campaigns, and social movements to achieve the full promise of democracy in the United States.
- Understand how communities can exclude, judge, and restrict individuals.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions and is essential for success in the course since a large portion of your grade depends upon class participation. The instructor will record attendance at every class session, and shall excuse absences only for documented emergencies, required military service, jury duty, or observance of a religious holiday. In all cases involving non-emergency absences, the instructor must be notified in advance of the missed class session(s).

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Frederick Binder and David Reimers, *The Way We Lived: Essays and Documents in American Social History (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, Vol I (Boston: Cengage, 2013)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING**

**Tests (75%):** There will be three in-class, closed book tests. It will have a large essay component and will also include short-identification, multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.

**Classroom Participation (10%):** Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings and to be ready to contribute meaningfully to discussions on them and other subjects raised in class. The instructor will determine whether or not to award each student 1 point for each unit of the course based upon the quantity and quality of his/her participation.

Grading Scale			
95-100	A	74-76	C+
92-94	A-	71-73	C
89-91	B+/A-	69-70	C-
86-88	B+	67-68	D+/C-
83-85	B	64-66	D+
80-82	B-	60-63	D
77-79	C+/B-	0-59	F

**Essays (15%):** Each student will write two essays based on the assigned readings and additional material provided by the instructor. Each essay accounts for 7.5% of the final grade and must be handed in as a hardcopy on the indicated date.

**Essay Rubric**

	<i>Good to Excellent</i>	<i>Acceptable</i>	<i>Unacceptable</i>
<b>Assignment</b>	Follows assignment directions, answers all the questions asked, and shows a high level of effort.	Follows assignment directions and answers the questions asked.	Shows minimal or no effort to follow the assignment directions.
<b>Evidence</b>	Answers are well supported with specific examples.	Answers are supported with specific examples.	Answers are not supported with specific examples.

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<b>Written Expression</b>	Writing is virtually free of sentence-level errors, stylistic problems, and formatting problems.	Writing does not contain errors or stylistic problems that seriously detract from the quality of the writing.	Writing contains numerous errors and/or stylistic problems, making it difficult to read.
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**COURSE OUTLINE**

The instructor will assign readings from *'The Way We Lived'* for each regular class session

WEEK 1	July 1-2	The American Colonies
	July 3-4	The American Revolution
	July 5	TEST #1
WEEK 2	July 8-9	The Constitution
	July 10-11	The Early Republic
	July 12	ESSAY #1
WEEK 3	July 15-16	The Jacksonian Republic
	July 17-18	The Economic Revolution
	July 19	TEST #2
WEEK 4	July 22-23	The Jeffersonian Republic
	July 24-25	The Slave Question
	July 26	ESSAY #2
WEEK 5	July 29-30	A House Divided
	Jul 31-Aug 1	Civil War
	Aug 2	TEST #3

**CLASS POLICIES**

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments will not be accepted.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:** each student is responsible for completing all course requirements and for keeping up with all activities of the course.

**CLASSROOM DECORUM:** Everyone is expected to act in a mature and responsible manner. Respect for the rights of others, openness to new and challenging ideas, civility, and courtesy are examples of these expectations. Failure to contribute positively to the learning environment constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Examples of inappropriate behavior include but are not limited to using cellular devices; using laptops for non-class related purposes; arriving late or leaving while class is in session; sleeping in class; unsolicited talking in class; and using derogatory, vulgar, or insulting language. Students who behave in an inappropriate manner will be asked to stop the behavior and shall be asked to leave the classroom if they refuse. Students whom persist in inappropriate behavior may earn an F in the course and be subject to disciplinary actions by the Office of Student Conduct, Mediation, and Education. Additional information about classroom decorum can be found in the Academic Policies section of the Student Handbook.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Students may not listen to music, or use computers or recording devices during class sessions. Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight, and text messaging is prohibited. Students expecting emergency calls may be permitted to leave their phones on vibrate at the discretion of the instructor – whose permission must be sought before class begins. If the instructor observes a student using a prohibited device, he will collect it as quietly as possible and return it at the end of the class session.

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**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:** If a student is found to have committed plagiarism or cheated on an assignment, he/she will automatically be given a grade of zero (not F) for the assignment.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**POLICY ON DISABILITY:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me. It is important that the issues relating to disabilities be discussed with me as soon as possible.

**GRADE APPEAL:** If you disagree with the evaluation of your work or believe an improper grade has been assigned, an appeal may be followed. Please discuss the matter with the instructor and refer to the Fitchburg State University Grade Appeal Policy in the university catalog.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** The faculty at Fitchburg State University require that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual candidate and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

**DISTANCE LEARNING & EXTENDED CAMPUS LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Gallucci-Cirio Library at Fitchburg State University provides a full range of library services including borrowing privileges; document delivery (books and articles mailed to your home); Interlibrary Loan; reference assistance via: phone, email, IM, Blackboard's Collaboration and Elluminate tools, Skype and in-person; library instruction; research help and more. Any questions relating to library services should be directed to the Linda LeBlanc, Access Services Librarian, at 978-665-3062 or [dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:dllibrary@fitchburgstate.edu). There is also a special section for Distance Learning and Extended Campus Services at <http://fitchburgstate.libguides.com/dlservices> outlining the wide range of services available to you and how to access them.