

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

History 405
Fall 2020
M-W 2:10-3 pm
Horton 210

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Office Hours: MW 3 to 4:30 pm
and by appointment

Teaching Assistants: TBD

The History of Early America — Discovery HP Attribute

This course explores the history of America from the first English settlements in the early 1600s to the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. We will explore a number of crucial issues in American history, including the impact of European colonization on the native peoples of North America, the significance of slavery in American history, and the changing social and economic condition of ordinary men and women. We will also spend a considerable amount of time discussing the American Revolution and the Civil War and the various ways in which those two great events influenced the political, economic, and social history of the United States.

Assigned Readings. (Available at the University Bookstore and Durham Book Exchange.)

Nancy Hewitt and Steven Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, 3^d edition, vol. 1 [hereafter *EAH*], available as an e-book or paperback. Whichever format you buy, you must also purchase access to LaunchPad. See note below.

Note about LaunchPad and Canvas

The textbook in this course is the second edition of Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories* (listed as *EAH* in the course outline below). It is available both in hardcopy and as an e-book. Whichever format you purchase, you will also need access to LaunchPad. LaunchPad is MacMillan's proprietorial web portal where you will find the e-book version of *EAH*, the auxiliary reading assignments for class discussions and response papers, and the weekly LearningCurve assessments (indicated by LC in the course outline). If you buy a used copy of the text, you will need to buy LaunchPad access separately. The University Bookstore and the Durham Book Exchange sell access cards. LaunchPad is also available at the Macmillan Student Store at this [link](#).

IMPORTANT: Access to LaunchPad is through the HIST 405 Canvas website. Before the first lecture, everyone should register for LaunchPad and connect it to Canvas website. Instructions can be found in item 1 on the HIST 405 Canvas Home page.

Course Requirements

As the syllabus indicates, this course involves a substantial amount of reading. You are expected to complete all the reading assignments no later than Tuesday evening of the week when they are assigned (and earlier if possible). These readings will provide background both for the course lectures and for discussions during weekly section meetings. You are also expected to participate actively in discussions in smaller sections. Attendance at both the lectures and section meetings is mandatory, and it is your responsibility to find out what occurred in any class you miss. You must also complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

Grades. The Teaching Assistants and I will determine your grade using the following scale:

Class participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
First Response Paper	15%
Second Response Paper	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Class Participation, Quizzes, and Discussion Questions

The class participation portion of your grade reflects your attendance record over the course of the semester, your participation in weekly section meetings, and the reports that you make on the weeks that your Response Papers are due (explained below). In order to perform well in class participation, you need to come to every section meeting having done all the reading and prepared to discuss the assignments in a constructive manner. Anyone who misses either the lectures or section meetings repeatedly will be penalized accordingly, and anyone who stops attending class altogether may fail the course.

Every Tuesday, you must complete a LearningCurve online reading comprehension assessment (LC in the course outline below) for each chapter from the LaunchPad/*EAH* website. The easiest way to access LC is through the link in the Weekly Assignments tab under Modules on the HIST 405 Canvas site. The LearningCurve assessment poses a series of multiple choice questions that test how well you understood the reading. The assessment awards points based on how quickly you choose the correct answer. If you get the

question wrong the first time, you can still get points if your second answer is correct. You keep taking the assessment until you have compiled 600 points. Assessments must be completed by midnight on Tuesday evening. Please note that some weeks there are two assigned chapters in the book. When that happens, you must take the LC assessments for both chapters. LC assessments will be counted as part of class participation.

There will be a short quiz at the start of each section (except for the week of the midterm exam). These are designed to test you on how well you comprehended the assigned reading for that week. Your cumulative grade for this portion of the course will be based on the average of the letter grades you receive for each of the weekly quizzes. Anyone who repeatedly comes late to section — or misses section altogether — without a note excusing the absence will not be permitted to make up the quiz and will receive a failing grade for that week.

Response Papers

Over the course of the semester, you must each write two short papers of between two and three typed, double-spaced pages on the assigned reading for a particular week. Although you may draw on the *EAH* textbook, including the various primary documents, your papers' primary focus should be the reading flagged as "Response Papers" in the Weekly Assignments on Canvas. You may not use sources from the Web to research or write your papers. All papers should be uploaded at the First or Second Response Paper module on Canvas before the class when the papers are due, and the hard copies are due at the start of class. Late papers will be penalized a third of a grade per calendar day that they are late, including weekends.

On one of the weeks when your Response Paper is due, you will make a short (no more than 5-minute) presentation to your section meeting. Most weeks, only one student will make a report in each section, and there will be weeks in the smaller sections when no one writes a paper or makes a report. Your Teaching Assistant will circulate a sign-up sheet at the start of the semester with designated slots for each week. Each student must sign up for one slot when he or she will make a presentation, and one slot for a paper without a presentation. If for some reason you need to change a paper deadline, you must clear it with your Teaching Assistant no later than a week before the paper is due.

As with all your written assignments, you should concentrate in your papers on making cogent, well-organized arguments and writing with a clear, simple style. Although mature writing styles can be quite distinctive, I strongly recommend that you pick up a copy of *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E.B. White to familiarize yourself with the basic rules of composition. (A resident of Maine for most of his life, White will be familiar to many of you as the author of *Charlotte's Web* and several other children's books.) The book is widely available in used bookstores and contains a wealth of useful rules and words of advice for both beginning and experienced writers.

In writing your Response Pieces, you must be very careful to submit work that is the product only of your own individual effort. Look over the section on Academic Honesty in the UNH Student Handbook. The relevant pages are at this link: [Academic Honesty](#). Anyone who submits work that was written by someone else — or who incorporates the work of other students or authors into his or her own paper without making the appropriate acknowledgment — will automatically fail the particular assignment and, if the violation is serious enough, may be in danger of failing the course altogether, and/or face expulsion from the University.

Midterm and Final Exams

There will be a midterm exam in place of the lecture on the day indicated below, and a final exam during the regularly scheduled time in the UNH *Time and Room Schedule*. For students with scheduling conflicts, there will be an alternate final exam during the time indicated in the course outline below. Students may take either exam (but not both). All exams will be in Horton 210 and will consist of a combination of short identification questions and longer essays, all based on the material covered to date. (That means that the final exam covers everything from the start of the semester.) Everyone must bring a blue book to the midterm and two blue books to the final. (Blue books can be purchased at both bookstores, as well as Town and Campus on Main Street.)

Please Note: Because of the large size of this course, there is no way we can make separate arrangements for anyone who has an academic or extracurricular conflict on these days. If you are on an athletic team, your coach will have to understand that you cannot make the scheduled events on those dates. Likewise, students should not plan departures for the spring break or the summer until after the final exam. Anyone who misses either the midterm or final exam without notifying either Prof. Gould or one of the Teaching Assistants in advance and without obtaining a note excusing the absence will automatically fail the test.

Office Hours

You will inevitably have questions both about the material covered in the readings, lectures and discussion sections, and about the overall requirements. When you have questions, please come see either your Teaching Assistant or Prof. Gould during our office hours. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours, please set up an appointment so we can meet at another time.

Course Outline

Week 1 — Getting Started

Aug 31 Introduction
Reading: LaunchPad: Welcome to LaunchPad

Week 2 — First Encounters

Sep 2 The Americas in 1600
Sep 9 English Exploration
Reading: *EAH*, ch. 1, complete LearningCurve online assessment by Jan 28; LaunchPad: “Guide to Analyzing Primary Sources,” “Indian and Spanish Encounters in the Americas” (Primary Source Project [PSP] 1).
Response Papers: “Spanish and Indian Encounters”

Week 3 — The Chesapeake

Sep 14 The Old Dominion
Sep 16 The Rise of Slavery
Reading: *EAH*, ch. 2 and 3, complete LC by Feb 4; LaunchPad: “Tobacco and Slaves (PSP 3).
Response Papers: “Tobacco and Slaves”

Week 4 — New England

Sep 21 Massachusetts Bay Colony
Sep 23 Colonial Women and the Family
Reading: LaunchPad: “Comparing Va. and Mass. Bay Colonies” (Thinking through Sources [TS] 2) and “Trial of Anne Hutchinson.”
Response Papers: “Trial of Hutchinson”

Week 5 — An Imperial World

Sep 28 The British Empire in 1714
Sep 30 The Refinement of America
Reading: *EAH*, chs. 4, complete LC by Feb 18; LaunchPad: “Awakening Religious Tensions” (PSP 4) and “A New Commercial Culture in Boston” (TS 4)
Response Papers: “A New Commercial Culture in Boston”

Week 6 — The American Revolution

Oct 5 War with France and the Coming of the American Revolution
Oct 7 The Revolutionary War
Reading: *EAH*, chs. 5-6, complete LC by Feb 25; LaunchPad: “Boston Massacre” (PSP 5), “Women in the American Revolution,” (PSP 6), and “Loyalists in the American Revolution” (TS 6), and Declaration of Independence
Response Papers: Declaration, with “Women in the American Revolution” or “Loyalists in the American Revolution”

Oct 12 FALL BREAK — NO CLASS

Week 7 — Midterm Exam

Oct 14 MIDTERM REVIEW
Oct 19 MIDTERM EXAM — Bring one blue book with you to exam!

Week 8 — The Creation of the United States

Oct 21 Making the Constitution
Oct 26 Washington’s Presidency
Reading: *EAH.*, ch 7, complete LC by Mar 3; LaunchPad: “Debating the Constitution in New York” (PSP 7), including Articles of Confederation, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.
Response Papers: “Debating the Constitution in New York,” with Articles of Confederation, Constitution, and Bill of Rights

Week 9 — The Early Republic

Oct 28 A Republican Empire

Nov 2 Making Citizens

Reading: *EAH*, ch 8, complete LC by Mar 24; Supplemental Reading: “American Citizenship and the Louisiana Purchase (1803)” [Canvas].

Response Papers: “American Citizenship”

Week 10 — Democracy and the Indians

Nov 4 Jacksonian Democracy

Nov 9 Conquering the West

Reading: *EAH*, ch, 9, complete LC by Mar 31; LaunchPad: “The Election of 1828” (PSP 9) and “The Cherokee Removal” (TS 11)

Response Papers: “The Cherokee Removal”

Week 11 — Work and Faith

Nov 10 Industrialization

Nov 16 The Second Great Awakening

Reading: *EAH*, chs 10-11, complete LC by Apr 7; LaunchPad: “Religious Faith and Women’s Activism” (PSP 10) and “Lowell Mill Girls,” [Canvas]

Response Papers: “Lowell Mill Girls”

Weeks 12 & 13 — Abolition and Civil War

Nov 18 Abolition

Nov 23 The Civil War

Reading: *EAH*, ch 12, complete LC by Apr 14; LaunchPad: “Lives in Slavery” (PSP 11), “Visions of John Brown” (PSP 12), and “Sectional Politics and the Rise of the Republican Party” (TS 12).

Response Papers: “John Brown” and/or “Republican Party”

Nov 30 Film: *Glory* (I)

Dec 2 Film: *Glory* (II)

Reading: *EAH*, ch 13, complete LC by Apr 21; LaunchPad: “First-Hand Accounts of the Civil War” (PSP 13) and “Home-Front Protest during the Civil War” (TS 13).

Response Papers: “Civil War Letters” and/or “Home Front”

Week 14 — Reconstruction

Dec 7 Reconstruction

Dec 8 The United States in 1877

Reading: *EAH*, ch 14, complete LC by Apr 28; LaunchPad: “Reconstruction Amendments,” “Testing and Contesting Freedom” (PSP 14) and “Reconstruction in South Carolina” (TS 14)

Response Papers: Reconstruction Amendments” and on or both of the following “Testing and Contesting Freedom” and “Reconstruction in SC”

Week 15 — Final Review and Exam

Dec 14 FINAL REVIEW

Dec [—] FINAL EXAM — TBD