Course Introduction and Objectives
This course is a survey of American History from the colonial origins of the modern-day United States through the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. We will be dealing with a number of broad themes throughout the semester such as the interaction of Native American, African, and European peoples in North America, the creation of the United States, the development of American society during the eighteenth and nineteenth century, and the turbulent political struggle of the Civil War and Reconstruction years.

After completing this course, students should have a familiarity with the broad scope of American history through the Reconstruction Era. In addition to gaining this historical knowledge, students will engage in an analysis of primary and secondary source material in order to gain a firsthand perspective on the historian’s craft. Finally, this course will allow students to hone their writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills in ways that should help them regardless of their major or chosen career.

There are lecture and discussion components for this class, and each student will be expected to attend both components. Attendance in both lecture and discussion is mandatory. Check with your Teaching Assistant (TA) for more details regarding your discussion section’s requirements. In the lecture period, please be respectful to your fellow students by turning off all cell phones, arriving on time, and avoid making excessive noise. Students who do not abide by these simple rules of courtesy will be asked to leave. You may use personal computers or tablets to take notes, but please also bring some paper and a writing instrument of choice to class.

Required Texts
The readings of this class are designed to complement lecture material and will provide the primary topics of discussion sections. It is therefore of great importance that you complete the assigned
readings by the discussion section of the designated week. Otherwise, you run the risk of getting lost as you try to catch up with the rest of the class. Knowledge of the readings will be important for your performance on papers and exams. The core readings will come from the texts listed below, but there may be some supplemental readings added to the course readings over the course of the semester. All of the following three (3) textbooks are available for purchase at the UF Bookstore in paperback form or online from various vendors.


There will be other readings available online at the Sakai e-learning site, which you can access at:

https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

**Assignments and Grading**

This class will have one in-class midterm examination and an in-class final examination that will consist of both objective and essay components. You will need to provide your own blue book for these exams, so please secure them in advance of the exam day. The midterm will be held during the class period on October 16, and the final examination will be held during the final exam period on December 13. Make-up exams will only be offered in extraordinary circumstances if accompanied by official documentation and a 250-word personal statement. Please note that since notice of all exams and paper deadlines are given well in advance, there will be no make-ups given for travel reservations or non-emergency situations.

Another portion of the grade will be determined by a series of brief writing assignments and quizzes. There will be ten (10) of these exercises over the course of the semester and they will be graded on a five (5) point scale. Quizzes will occur in both lecture and discussion sections at unscheduled times. The best way to perform well on these activities is to keep up with the reading and attend lecture. You may drop the lowest two (2) of the grades on the assignment, which means that your performance on eight (8) will constitute your grade in this area. Since many of these will be impromptu exercises in lecture and discussion section, you will need to bring paper and a writing instrument to each class.

AMH2010 is a 2,000-word Gordon Rule Course, and so students will turn in two 1,000 word formal essays on September 30 and November 25. These essays will address a specific question relating to the readings concerning *Common Sense* and the Emancipation Proclamation. There will be more discussion of the expectations of this essay in the lecture period and discussion sections.
In addition to the scheduled exams, a significant portion of your grade will be determined by your performance in discussion section. Since the lecture component of this class is in a large classroom setting, discussion sections offer you the opportunity to interact with a Teaching Assistant in a less crowded environment. Every discussion section has the same reading requirements and workload. Your TA will give you more specific information regarding the section grades.

Expectations for grades will be discussed in more detail in both lecture and discussion section, and both the instructor and TAs will be available for assistance during office hours. Please note that the grades are weighted towards the end of the semester; this is designed to reward improvement over the course of the semester. Determination of the final grade in the course, the scale, and the value of grades will all be subject to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Calculation</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Brief Essay: 15%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A=4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam: 15%</td>
<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Assignments/Quizzes: 20%</td>
<td>89-87=B+</td>
<td>B+=3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Brief Essay: 20%</td>
<td>86-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essay Exam: 20%</td>
<td>82-80=B-</td>
<td>B-=2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Section Grade: 10%</td>
<td>79-76=C+</td>
<td>C+=2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75-72=C</td>
<td>C=2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>71-69=C-</td>
<td>C-=1.67</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68-66=D+</td>
<td>D+=1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65-62=D</td>
<td>D=1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61-60=D-</td>
<td>D-=0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59-0=E</td>
<td>E=0.00</td>
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Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don’t justify the risk! All students must conform to
UF’s honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

Your formal essays will be turned in via the Sakai e-learning website and monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service, so please keep in mind that cheating on the assignments in this course will be much more difficult than actually doing the work.

Lecture and Readings Schedule (Subject to Change)
This schedule of readings and the due dates are subject to revision as the semester progresses. Please make use of the outlines provided in lecture to help you organize your notes and your reading of the texts.

Introduction
August 21 What is History and Why Should You Care?


Week One: First Contacts
August 26 Two Worlds on a Collision Course
August 28 The Meaning of Contact

Core Readings: Hewitt and Lawson, Exploring American Histories, pp. 3-33

Week Two: American Freedom, American Slavery
September 2 Labor Day Holiday—No Lecture
September 4 The English in America

Core Readings: Hewitt and Lawson, Exploring American Histories, pp. 34-63

Week Three: Becoming American
September 9 The Colonies in the Atlantic World
September 11   A Great Awakening

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, pp. 64-127

**Week Four: The British Empire in Crisis**

September 16   Seven Years/French and Indian

September 18   Resistance and Rebellion in American Cities

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, pp. 128-159; Thomas P. Slaughter’s Introduction to Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, pp. 1-56

**Week Five: The Birth of a New Nation**

September 23   Independence?

September 25   A Shot Heard Round the World


**Week Six: Challenges**

September 30   The Founding Generation

Final Deadline for First Essay on September 30 at 8:00 p.m.  (via Sakai)

October 2   From Dambargo to War

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, Exploring American Histories, pp. 192-257

**Week Seven: The Early American Republic**

October 7   Fresh Oysters, Spinning Jennies, and Blue Mondays

October 9   Old Hickory, Hard Cider, and Torchlight Parades

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, pp. 258-291

**Week Eight: Remaking the New Nation Again**

October 14   Why Removal?
October 16  In-Class Exam

**Week Nine: The Expansion of American Slavery**

October 21  The Making of the Old South

October 23  Reforming Body, Spirit, and Nation

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, pp. 292-359.

**Week Ten: Slavery and the West**

October 28  Manifest Destiny and the War With Mexico

October 30  The Political Crisis of the 1850s

**Core Readings:** Hewitt and Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, pp. 360-391

**Week Eleven: Crisis and War**

November 4  A House Dividing

November 6  On to Richmond, On to Washington


**Week Twelve: Civil War**

November 11  Veteran’s Day Holiday—No Lecture

November 13  From War to Crusade

**Core Readings:** Vorenberg, *The Emancipation Proclamation*, pp. 40-78.

**Week Thirteen: The Meaning of Freedom**

November 18  The Many Levels of Emancipation

November 20  Slavery, Freedom, and American Memory

Core Readings: Vorenberg, *The Emancipation Proclamation*, pp. 79-151.
Week Fourteen: Reconstruction I

November 25    New Beginnings: The Promise of Reconstruction

Final Deadline for Second Essay on November 25 at 8:00 p.m. (via Sakai)

November 27    Thanksgiving Holiday—No Lecture

Core Readings: Hewitt and Lawson, Exploring American Histories, pp. 424-439

Week Fifteen: Reconstruction II

December 2    Old Problems: The Death of Reconstruction

December 4    America in 1877

Core Readings: Hewitt and Lawson, Exploring American Histories, pp. 440-457

Final Exam: Friday, December 13, 2013, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Contact Information

It’s always a good idea to meet with an instructor to track your progress in a college course. I am happy to meet with you in person to discuss grades, assignments, or other course-related concerns during my regular office hours or appointments. If you have a brief question about the course, feel free to drop me an e-mail at spadams@ufl.edu. However, I cannot accept assignments as e-mail attachments in this course without prior arrangement. I also cannot discuss grades over e-mail or the phone, as student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html