

# AMH2010: U.S. History to 1877 Syllabus

## Instructor Information

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## Course Information

- AMH2010 online
- U.S. History to 1877

## Course Overview and Goals

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 and critical thinking skills in ways that should help them regardless of their major or chosen career.

## Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Explain why European, Native American, and African cultures came into contact in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Explain why contact between Native American and European peoples had both short and long-term implications for both worlds.
3. Explain the different motives and objectives for the European colonization of North America.
4. Explain how British American colonists adopted both free and enslaved labor in building an economy.
5. Explain how the British American colonies developed a political, social, and cultural identity.

6. Explain why some British American colonists sought to form an independent, republican state.
7. Explain how the principles of republican government were put into place in the United States.
8. Explain why the United States expanded economically and geographically, and how both free and enslaved labor played a role in that expansion.
9. Explain why the expansion of slavery became an issue of political contention in the 1840s and 1850s. Explain why political compromise failed in 1861, which resulted in war.
10. Explain why political compromise failed in 1861, which resulted in war.
11. Explain how the Civil War triggered massive changes in American society, including but not limited to the end of slavery.
12. Explain how the home and battle fronts of the Civil War were linked and why that was significant.
13. Explain the challenges facing Americans in both the North and South during Reconstruction.
14. Explain the mixed record of Reconstruction in the American South.

## Course Requirements

### Readings

The readings of this class are designed to complement the online lectures and will help you with the discussion sections. It is therefore of great importance that you complete the assigned readings by the final day of the module. 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 American Yawp*, a textbook that is free and online. There will also be some **supplemental** online readings added to the course readings over the course of the semester. These readings are usually chapters from larger works; you might find them challenging and I would recommend completing the textbook chapter first before tackling them. These readings are **required**.

The online readings and assignments will always be free of charge, but they will also vary from week to week. So be sure to check each module closely for additional readings.

## **Quizzes**

You will answer a brief, five-question quiz at the end of each module. You will have 15 minutes to complete these quizzes, so please plan accordingly.

## **Discussion Posts**

At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to a discussion group that has up to four other students. There is no difference between the groups, you will be randomly assigned a group at the beginning of the course.

These discussions will be graded as a collective—in other words, everyone that participates in the discussion will receive the same grade from 1 to 5 points. It is therefore in your individual interest, as well as those of your classmates, to participate. If you do not participate in the discussion at all, or only provide a perfunctory post of a few words, you will receive a grade of 0 for that week.

Detailed instructions for discussion, including the grading rubric, can be found on the Start Here page under Course Materials, or following this link:

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/354751/files/38613112/download>

## **Essays**

There will also be short essays (400-500 words) that you will complete throughout the semester, each of which is worth 15 points. Although there are six (6) listed assignments, the grades will only count for four (4) of these brief essays. If you elect to write more than 4, the lowest scores will be dropped. Pay attention to the rubric on the assignment page. Your essays will be turned in via the Canvas e-learning website and monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service.

While these essays are short, they will be graded based on the argumentation, the use of the source material, and the clarity of writing. This means you should take the necessary time to plan, draft, and proofread your essays.

## **Midterm and Final**

This class will have one midterm examination and a final examination that will include multiple choice questions, identifications, and an essay response to a broad question. The exams will use the ProctorU online examination service. You can get acquainted with the system here:

<http://www.proctoru.com/forstudents.php>

Make sure to not leave scheduling your proctor appointment to the last minute!

## **Grading of Assignments**

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<b>Assignments/Activities</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Quizzes (15 x 5 pts)	75
Discussion Posts (15 x 5pts)	75
Midterm	40
Brief Essays (4 x15 pts)	60
Final Exam	50
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>300</b>

## Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grading Scale</b>	<b>Grade Value</b>
A	300-277	4.0
A-	276-269	3.67
B+	268-260	3.33
B	259-245	3.00
B-	244-239	2.67
C+	238-227	2.33
C	226-215	2.00
C-	214-206	1.67
D+	205-197	1.33
D	196-186	1.00
D-	185-180	0.67
E	178-0	0.00

## View Grades

Grades can be viewed in the "Grades" tab of the Canvas course page.

## Course Schedule

This schedule of the modules should help you track your progress as the semester progresses. The expectation is that you complete the work during the date range of the module, especially given the importance of the discussions as a group activity. However, each module will open as soon as you complete the requirement for the previous one, therefore you can complete them earlier than the listed week though not later. Each Module includes readings, a quiz and a discussion that must be completed before you can move on to the next. If there is a possible essay assignment that week, you must at least view the assignment page to move on. Please consult the Canvas site for more specific information about the readings and assignments for each module.

## Topics and Assignments

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Week 1, Aug. 22-25	Module 1: First Contacts	
Week 2, Aug. 27-Sept. 1	Module 2: Early Colonization and Resistance in North America	Module 2 Essay
Week 3, Sep. 4-8	Module 3: The American Colonies	
Week 4, Sep. 10-15	Module 4: Colonial Life	Module 4 Essay
Week 5, Sep. 17-22	Module 5: The British Empire in Crisis	Module 5 Essay
Week 6, Sep. 24-29	Module 6: Resistance to Revolution	<i>Schedule your appointment for the midterm</i>
Week 7, Oct. 1-6	Module 7: Challenges to the Republic	Module 7 Essay
Week 8, Oct. 8-13	Module 8: The New Nation at Work	
Week 9, Oct. 15-20	<b>MIDTERM WEEK</b>	
Week 10, Oct. 22-27	Module 9: American Slavery	
Week 11, Oct. 29-Nov. 3	Module 10: American Politics in Crisis	Module 10 Essay
Week 12, Nov. 5-10	Module 11: Why Secession?	
Week 13, Nov. 12-17	Module 12: Civil War	Module 12 Essay
Week 14, Nov. 19-24	Module 13: From War to Revolution?	
Week 15, Nov. 26-Dec. 1	Module 14: The Many Meanings of Emancipation	
Week 16, Dec. 3-5	Module 15: The Problem of Reconstruction	Optional Assignment on the Election of 1876
December 8-14	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

## **Course Policies**

Requirements for course participation, make-up exams and essays, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## **Communications**

I can be reached either by e-mail or Canvas messages. Please have a clear title so that it is easier for me to quickly address issues (for example if a link is not working, I will try to fix that ASAP regardless of the hour, other issues, however, I will address during regular working hours). Please be professional in your communications.

If you have a problem with the Canvas system, contact E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. You can then e-mail me to notify me, including the transaction number from the help desk.

On Thursdays, I will be available via Canvas Chat from 10 am -12 pm.

## **Late Assignment**

As notice of all exam, quiz, and paper deadlines are given well in advance, there will be no make-ups given for travel reservations or non-emergency situations. Pay attention to the due date and time for each assignment on canvas.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

Incomplete grades will be granted only in rare circumstances and require the approval of the instructor. Students who have not completed all the requirements prior to the last day of class will need to talk with the instructor about how this will be rectified.

## **Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

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 essays will be turned in via the Canvas 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.

## **University Resources**

### **Disability Services**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Health and Wellness**

U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 352 392-1575; and the University

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### **Academic Resources**

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601.

Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess>