

AMH 2010  
U.S. History to 1877

Fall 2019

MWF Per. 4 (10:40 – 11:30 a.m.)

McCarty G186

Instructor: Jon Sensbach, Dept. of History

Office: 233 Keene-Flint, office hours MWF 2-4:30 and by appt.

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This course will explore major themes in the political, social and cultural development of the United States from the pre-Columbian epoch through the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Topics include the multiple roots of American society during the age of European colonization; encounters between Europeans and Native Americans; the movement for independence and the forging of a new nation; slavery and the plantation system; the struggle for African-American and women's rights; sectional strife and the causes of the Civil War; and the deferred promise of Reconstruction. Through a combination of textbooks and primary documents we will develop skills in critical thinking to focus on the competing visions of power that have defined evolving American identities. The course will focus on the many conflicting meanings that America—as a place, as a nation, and as a set of ideas—has had to the people who have lived its history.

Please obtain these required texts at the campus bookstore or online:

James West Davidson, *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Vol. 1 (McGraw-Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2011). (U.S. text)

James Kirby Martin, ed., *Ordinary Courage: The Revolutionary War Adventures of Joseph Plumb Martin* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009).

Philip Paludan, *Victims: A True Story of the Civil War* (Tennessee, 1981).

Melton McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave* (Georgia, 1993).

Andrés Reséndez, *A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca* (Basic, 2007).

## Course requirements

**1. Class attendance and participation.** The class consists of two weekly lectures as well as one discussion on Friday led by the teaching assistants (TA's). Please attend these sessions regularly, since lectures and discussions are designed to complement each other and neither makes full sense without the other. Participation in the smaller sections is important, since those discussions depend on as wide a range of opinions as possible. Those discussions will revolve around the main points from the lectures and the textbook as well as supplemental short "primary sources," namely diaries, letters, newspapers, and the like that give direct insight into the thoughts and actions of historical participants. The TA's may give

occasional pop quizzes on these primary documents to ensure students keep up with the reading. In addition, there will be in-class quizzes on two of the required books, *A Land So Strange* and *Victims*, drawn from pre-assigned questions, on the dates specified in the syllabus. **Attendance policy.** You will be allowed three absences, after which each subsequent absence will result in a drop of half a letter grade in your final average (students who are forced to miss classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor). No texting or other use of cells in class, please.

**2. Two writing assignments.** You will write essays of four pages each on the books *Ordinary Courage* and *Celia, A Slave*. The essay will address a specific question or questions to be assigned later in the semester and will be evaluated for content, style, grammar, and spelling.

**3. Exams.** There will be one midterm and a cumulative final exam, both consisting of short identifications and several essay questions.

Your final grade (10-point scale) will be determined as follows:

Participation/quizzes	20%
Midterm	20%
Two essays	30 (15% each)
Final exam	30

### **Additional information**

**Students with disabilities** requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://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.

**Honor policy.** On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is implied: “On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” For more information, see the university honor code at [sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)

**Course evaluations.** Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF’s CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_ufl.bluera.com\\_ufl\\_d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=iqtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVuoF\\_ty9jxk4wI-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHpd3olzGps63zooAo&s=2ryilk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E\\_HUO3wQ&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=iqtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVuoF_ty9jxk4wI-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCQMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHpd3olzGps63zooAo&s=2ryilk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e=) . Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu><<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>> . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

## Schedule

**Week 1.** Aug. 21-23. Introduction to American history

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 1

**Week 2.** Aug. 26-30. The Making of the New World

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 2

**Week 3.** (Labor Day Holiday Mon., Sept. 2). Sept. 4-6. Colonization and Conflict

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 3

**Week 4.** Sept. 9-13. Errands into the Wilderness?

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 4

***Land So Strange* quiz in section, Sept. 13**

**Week 5.** Sept. 16-20. Colonial Cultures

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 5

**Week 6.** Sept. 23-27. Road to Revolution

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 6

**Week 7.** Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 (Homecoming holiday Friday, 10/4). Age of Revolution

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 7

**Week 8.** Oct. 7-11. ***Ordinary Courage* 4-p. paper due Monday, Oct. 7.** Review for midterm Wed. 10/9

**Midterm Friday, Oct. 11**

**Week 9.** Oct. 14-18. A New Nation and the Struggle for Power

Reading: U.S. text, Chaps. 8-9

**Week 10.** Oct. 21-25. Strains of Democracy

Reading: U.S. text, chaps. 10-11.

**Week 11.** Oct. 28 – Nov. 1. Age of Reform

Reading: U.S.: Chap. 12

**Week 12.** Nov. 4-6. Slavery and the Antebellum U.S.

Reading: U.S. text, Chap. 13

**4-page paper on *Celia, A Slave* due Nov. 8**

**Week 13.** (Monday, Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day holiday) Nov. 13-15. The West and the Roots of Secession

Reading: U.S. text, chaps. 14-15.

**Week 14.** Nov. 18-22. Civil War

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 16

**Quiz in section on *Victims*, Nov. 22**

**Week 15.** Nov. 25. From Slavery to Freedom

Thanksgiving 11/28

**Week 16.** Dec. 2-4. Age of Reconstruction; review for final

Reading: U.S. text, chap. 17

**Final Exam: Wed., Dec. 11, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**