Course Description: This course will examine how the United States emerged from an array of competing cultures and colonial empires as an independent nation with its own unique social and political institutions. We will analyze how American society and political culture developed and responded to both internal and external challenges during the first century of national existence. In order to encourage familiarity with a broad range of historical approaches, we will at various times cover aspects of social, political, economic, diplomatic, and military history.

Course Goals: In addition to acquiring the basic information described above, you will learn basic principles of historical thinking, including how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources, how to develop your own ideas based on historical evidence, and how to communicate those ideas effectively in both written and oral form.

Expectations: Success in this course requires regular attendance, prompt completion of all reading assignments, active class participation, and a solid effort on all exams and writing assignments. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Attendance will be taken frequently and used to help assess your level of effort. Students who demonstrate consistent effort may have their final grade adjusted upward. If you miss a lecture class, you should get the notes from a classmate. Should you miss a discussion and wish to receive partial credit, you must explain your absence to me in person and complete a makeup assignment. Makeup exams are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances, subject to verification of the reason for absence and my approval.

Required Texts:

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following criteria:
- Mid-Term Exam – 25%
- Final Exam – 30%
- Short Paper – 10%
- Research Paper – 20%
- Discussion and Related Writing Assignments – 15%
Discussion is an important part of class and can affect your final average by as much as two letter grades. Each discussion is the equivalent of a quiz and should be treated as seriously.
Extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester.

**Course Schedule and Assignments:**
(Subject to Change)

Jan. 12: Introduction  
Readings: None

Jan. 14: Background of European Expansion  
Readings: None

Jan. 19: No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 21: Native Peoples of Central and South America; The Spanish Conquest  
Readings: Henretta, 6-10, 25-29

Jan. 26: The Spanish Conquest; Discussion – Native/Spanish Encounters  
Readings: Kennedy, 2-6; 9-15

Jan. 28: Native Peoples of North America; France in America  
Readings: Henretta, 10-14, 41-43

Feb. 2: Background of English Colonization; The Chesapeake  
Readings: Henretta, 44-53

Feb. 4: The Chesapeake; Discussion – Chesapeake Society  
Readings: Kennedy, 31-35; 65-70

Feb. 9: No Class – Instructor has Speaking Engagement

Feb. 11: Puritan New England  
Readings: Henretta, 53-63

Feb. 16: New England; Discussion – New England Society  
Readings: Kennedy, 42-43, 45-50, 55-58, 81

Feb. 18: Other North American Colonies; Colonial Politics and Society  
Readings: Henretta, 91-96, 100-103

Feb. 23: Colonial Politics and Society; Discussion – Becoming American  
Readings: Kennedy, 20-26; 73-77; 85-89; 91-92

**First Paper Due**
Feb. 25: Imperial Warfare; The Revolutionary Crisis
   Readings: Henretta, 119-122, 132-153

Mar. 2: The Revolutionary Crisis; Discussion – Origins of the Revolution; Review
   Readings: Kennedy, 129-138

Mar. 4: **Mid-Term Exam**

Mar. 9, 11: No Class – Spring Break

Mar. 16: The American Revolution
   Readings: Henretta, 153-158, 166-184

Mar. 18: The American Revolution; Discussion – Revolutionary America
   Readings: Kennedy, 143-153; 159-163

Mar. 23: Creating the Constitution
   Readings: Henretta, 207-215

Mar. 25: The Early Republic; Discussion – Shaping the New Nation
   Readings: Kennedy, 188-194; 198-199; 201-202

Mar. 30: The Market Revolution
   Readings: Henretta, 292-314

Apr. 1: Discussion – The Effects of Economic Change
   Readings: Kennedy, 291-298; 303-308

Apr. 6: The Jacksonian Era; Westward Expansion
   Readings: Henretta, 330-342, 386-393

Apr. 8: Westward Expansion; Discussion – Jackson’s Presidency/American Expansion
   Readings: Kennedy, 265-266; 280-283; 386-394

Apr. 13: The Antebellum South and Slavery
   Readings: None

Apr. 15: The Sectional Crisis and the Civil War
   Readings: Henretta, 275-277, 393-406

Apr. 20: The Civil War; Discussion – Slavery and the Civil War
   Readings: Kennedy, 351-356; 362-367; 478-483; 486-493

Apr. 22: Reconstruction and the South to 1890
   Readings: Henretta, 442-470
Apr. 27: Discussion - Reconstruction
  Readings: Kennedy, 504-509; 526-537

Apr. 29: Postwar Industrialization in the North
  Readings: None
  Research Paper Due

Final Exam Monday, May 4, at 9:30 a.m.

Miscellaneous

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

Assignments: Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

Problems and Personal Matters: If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course. Please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.