Instructor: Dr. William C. Nicholson  
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Office Hours: By appointment

Telephone: 770-423-6294 (History & Philosophy Department)  
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Textbooks:  

Course Objectives: The main objective of this course is to present a broad overview of American history from the beginning of European exploration and colonization through the American Civil War and reconstruction period. This goal will be accomplished by utilizing a textbook (which gives a general narrative account of American history), a supplemental reader (which gives alternative viewpoints of familiar themes and events in American history), and a workbook of primary sources (which gives students access to first-hand accounts of key historical issues and events). Traditional political, military, and diplomatic history will provide a general framework within which a number of social, cultural, and urban themes will also be explored. Due to the time period covered, lectures by necessity will be rather general in scope. Lectures will be enhanced and supplemented, however, by outside readings, class discussions, student presentations, and video excerpts which will provide more in-depth coverage and analysis of specific historical themes and events. It is crucial, therefore, that the assigned reading will be completed before class.

Tests and Project: There will be FOUR, non-cumulative, 75 minute tests given during the semester. These tests will consist of multiple choice, short answer/listing type questions and an essay. In addition to the four major tests, each student will complete a primary document project that will entail a 7-8 minute oral presentation in class accompanied by a one-page electronic summary handout for the class. (See “project guidelines” on Web CT Viata for specifics)
Class Participation: Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class. Student participation in class discussions makes for a far more interesting and lively class and enhances one's grasp of the material and its nuances. Class participation and attendance will be taken into consideration at the end of the course in determining borderline grades.

Attendance: Attendance is regulated by the University’s policy found in the University catalog. Students should recognize that classroom interaction, both among peers and between instructor and student, provides the best forum for learning and intellectual development in general. Therefore, regular class attendance is required and will be used in determining final grades in borderline cases. For students who achieve perfect attendance, one point will be added to their final average. On the other hand, students who miss more than TWO classes will be penalized one point for each class over two they miss. There are no “excused” absenses.

Tardiness: Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, please notify the instructor in advance if possible. Also, if you leave early or arrive late, it is the instructor’s discretion whether or not to count you present for the day.

Grades: Student grades will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tests</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 Tests</td>
<td>80% (20% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Grading Scale: 90-100 (A); 80-89 (B); 70-79 (C); 60-69 (D); 60 and below (F)

Withdrawal from the Course: Withdrawal before the midpoint of the semester (June 26) entitles the student to receive the grade of "W" if performance up to that point has been satisfactory. A student doing failing work will receive the grade "WF" and students who withdraw after June 26 will receive the grade of “F.” Any exception must be approved by the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty: This course adheres to the policy on cheating and plagiarism found in the University catalog. Simply put, DON'T DO EITHER. This instructor has ZERO TOLERANCE for both.

Make-Ups: Generally speaking, there are NO MAKE-UP tests. Only extreme extenuating circumstances will excuse you from a test and for any make-up tests given, both the time and format, will be at the instructor’s discretion.

Extra Credit Work: Students may submit written responses to the discussion questions for TWO of the Loewen chapters we cover to replace their lowest test grade. This assignment must be e-mailed to me by Monday, July 27.
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<td>Early America</td>
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<td>6-2</td>
<td>Colonial Lifeways</td>
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<td>“The Truth about the First Thanksgiving”</td>
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<td>6-9</td>
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<td>Building a New Government</td>
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<td>“Debates on Slavery”</td>
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<td>Henry &amp; Mason, “Arguments Against Ratification”</td>
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<td>Madison, The Federalist Papers</td>
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Note: There will be no final exam.

Note: This syllabus is merely a guide to this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.