HIST 211.04: U.S. History to 1877
Summer 2016
Willingham Hall 125
Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-4:45pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert Desrochers
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Office: Starbucks Café, Social Sciences Building
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2pm, and by appointment

Course Description: This course explores major themes in the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the peoples of North America to 1877. Topics include the intersections of cultures in colonial America; the origins and development of the American republic; the evolution of democratic ideas and institution; western expansion; slavery, sectional conflict, emancipation and its aftermath.

Learning Objectives: HIST 211 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements. It addresses the U.S. Perspectives learning outcome, which states that students will demonstrate a broad understanding of the history, political systems, or culture of the United States:
http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=24&poid=2668

Required Reading:

ISBN: 978-0-393-92030-7


Course Work and Evaluation Criteria:

- **Think Pieces:** Each student will submit written responses to any four (4) of the eight assigned chapters in *After the Fact*. These “Think Pieces” must be typed, and should be no longer than one single-spaced page. They will form the basis of student-centered class discussions, and will not be graded in the conventional sense: everyone who submits all four, on time, will receive full credit. You should view these assignments as opportunities to analyze and discuss important ideas, events, developments, and historical debates in early American history. You do not have to agree with everything you read; you do have to think about it and strive to convey your thoughts in clear, concise, logical prose. **With the exception of our first class meeting, Think Pieces are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed below. Please note that I will not accept electronic submissions.**

- **Mid-Term (June 27) and Final Exam (July 25):** Each exam will draw from lectures, readings, class discussions, and other course materials. The format for each exam may include: chronologies, matching, identifications, and multiple choice questions. The final exam is not cumulative.
Grading:

Think Pieces: 20%
Mid-Term Exam: 40%
Final Exam: 40%
Final: 100%

Grading Scale: Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 60

Incompletes will be awarded only when a student has done satisfactory work up to the last week of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is expected of each student, as is appropriate participation in class discussions. I am proceeding from the assumption that you signed up for this class knowing what that commitment entails. Since we will meet just fourteen times, more than TWO absences will result in the lowering of your final grade by a full letter.

Makeup Exams: Permitted only with excused absences and at the discretion of the instructor.

Electronic Communications: Kennesaw State University provides all students with an email account containing the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” Federal laws protecting educational information and other data require you to use this account when communicating with your instructors and other university officials. As a matter of policy, I will not respond to emails sent via non-KSU accounts. Also, please remember that emails for this course are professional communications, not tweets or texts. In my correspondences with you, you can expect punctuality, courtesy, and respect at all times. I expect the same from you.

ADA Compliance: Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Academic Honesty: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5.C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be
handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

**Civilility and Technology:** Please observe rules of common courtesy and classroom etiquette. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Arriving on time and staying until the end of class.
- Turning off smartphones and other electronic devices. If I see you staring at a screen during class, I will remind you once about this rule; the second time, you will be asked to leave.

**Laptops, Tablets, etc.:**

- Laptops and similar electronic devices will not be allowed during class. Studies have shown that taking notes on a laptop does not lead to better learning outcomes: http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/.

**Suggestions and Advice:**

- If you do not understand a course requirement or any of the course material, please do not hesitate to talk with me. My job is to help you learn.
- In order to get the most out of class time, it is vital that you keep up with the reading assignments.
- Dates and deadlines below are subject to change. Be alert to in-class announcements and electronic communications from the instructor. Neither absence from class, nor failure to check email, will be accepted as a valid excuse for being unprepared.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**Week 1:**

**June 1**  
*A New World*  
Read: Foner, chapter 1;  
*After the Fact*, chapter 1.

**Week 2:**

**June 6**  
*Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660*  
Read: Foner, chapter 2;  
*After the Fact*, chapter 2.

**June 8**  
*Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750*  
Read: Foner, chapter 3;  
*After the Fact*, chapter 3.

**Week 3:**

**June 13**  
*Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire*  
Read: Foner, chapter 4.

**June 15**  
*The American Revolution, 1763–1783*  
Read: Foner, chapter 5;  
*After the Fact*, chapter 4.

**Week 4:**

**June 20**  
*The Revolution Within*
Read: Foner, chapter 6.

June 22  *Founding a Nation, 1783–1791*
Read: Foner, chapter 7.

**Week 5:**

June 27  ***Mid-Term Exam***
*Securing the Republic, 1791–1815*
Read: Foner, chapter 8.

***Last day to withdraw without academic penalty***

June 29  *The Market Revolution, 1800–1840*
Read: Foner, chapter 9;
*After the Fact*, chapter 5.

**Week 6:**

July 4  ***Independence Day – No Class***

July 6  *Democracy in America, 1815–1840*
Read: Foner, chapter 10;
*After the Fact*, chapter 6.

**Week 7:**

July 11  *The Peculiar Institution*
Read: Foner, chapter 11.

July 13  *An Age of Reform, 1820–1840*
Read: Foner, chapter 12.

**Week 8:**

July 18  *A House Divided, 1840–1861*
Read: Foner, chapter 13;
*After the Fact*, chapter 7.

July 20  *A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861–1877*
Read: Foner, chapters 14-15;
*After the Fact*, chapter 8.

***Final Exam: Monday, July 25, 2-4pm***