

HIST 2111A: Investigations in U.S. History to 1877

Georgia Institute of Technology, Spring 2019

DM Smith 105, T and R, 1:30-2:45

Professor Carla Gerona

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Office hours: T 10-10:55 and R 11-11:45, or by appointment -- Old CE., G 19

Graduate Teaching Assistant Sooa Lee

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Office hours: T and R, 3-4 PM, or by appointment -- Old CE. G 42 (Graduate Student Lounge on the ground floor level of Old CE)

Course Purpose:

Welcome to "United States to 1877." My goal is to give you a high quality course about American history that teaches you important historical content, while also helping you to hone your critical-thinking skills and develop an appreciation for the historian's craft. More than an unchanging series of important facts, or a commemoration of heroic people and events, history is an art and a science that can shed light on how the world works in a lot of different ways. Early American history provides an especially interesting period to explore the past, as it is the first time that American, African, and European peoples came together. It is also a particularly important period, because this is a time in which Americans first developed new forms of government that are still in place today.

Course Overview and Central Themes:

The content of the class surveys American history from its beginnings to 1877, and is divided into four units. (1) We begin with Native America and look at early encounters between America, Africa, and Europe. (2) Then we will explore the ways in which early Americans built colonies, provinces, and eventually, the independent United States. (3) Next we turn to increasing industrialization and development during the first half of the 1800s. (4) Finally, the course culminates by exploring the tensions that led to Civil War and Reconstruction.

Above all, this course focuses on the different people that came together to create America. I hope that you will enjoy getting to know America's founding mothers and fathers; these ancestors were amazing people -- and you will see that they did not always share one way of thinking!

Here are some mystery pictures. Can you identify any of these people?



Goal E:

In this class you will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior through course tests, and you will apply this knowledge during various in-class activities, including quizzes, discussions, and group work.

Required course readings and materials (available at Barnes and Nobles Bookstore):

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty* (Brief Volume -- Fifth Edition), Volume 1.
- James West Davidson and Mark Hamilton Lytle, *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, Volume 1, Sixth Edition
- Personal response clicker – Turning technologies clickers are available at Barnes and Noble (you can buy a clicker or use your cell phones and laptop for clicking). Either way, you will need to register your device in Canvas. Early in the semester we will do an initial check and let you know if you are not on, but it is your responsibility to make sure that your clicker is working and remains in working condition.

Course Work and Evaluation Criteria:

- **Class Participation (10%):** This class encourages active engagement in various ways, including participation with a turning point technologies personal response clicker. You are expected to come to class and be present for lectures, class discussions, and group work. If you come to class and participate effectively you will receive a total of 90 points. In addition, students who make outstanding contributions to group and class meetings can make a total of 100 points. Absences, or coming late/leaving early and so on, will adversely affect your class participation grade. Having said that, everyone is allowed two absences – no questions asked.
 - Definition of excused absences (beyond your allotted two). Valid absences include: school athletic or academic trips, hospitalizations, unexpected illness (with a hospital or doctor's note). I will also accept letters from the dean's office for any other reasons.
- **Quizzes (10%):** There will be about 30 pages of reading for each class – be sure to read the full text and featured documents. After you have done this you should be prepared to take the quiz. Quizzes will help you to check your reading comprehension, encourage you to think about historical ideas, and prepare you for the tests. Quizzes will generally be delivered via Canvas and due at 12:05 PM before class meets on the day the reading is due – and they are open book. Quizzes will generally be timed for 20 minutes – and you have one chance to revise incorrect answers.
 - For Canvas quizzes there will be no makeups – you must complete them during the open window.
 - I will drop the two lowest quiz grades.
- **Exams (80%):** We will have four tests to coincide with each of our four units. The last test will take place on exam week, but will not be cumulative. Class attendance IS REQUIRED ON TEST DAYS. All missed exams lead to a zero, unless you have cleared

a make-up and have an excused absence beforehand. At the professor's discretion, you may in some cases be allowed to take a make-up (for which you may receive a late point deduction).

Course Notes and Policies:

Civility and Technology: Please observe rules of common courtesy and classroom etiquette. Arrive to class on time and turn off smartphones and other electronic devices. If you have to leave class early, please let me know at the beginning of class; do not leave class and come back unless you have an emergency. There will be designated lap-top sections at the back of each section and on the left side of the room. However, if the instructor or TA deem that laptop use is too disruptive to the classroom, we reserve the right to change this policy. Choose wisely!

For discussions: We are lucky to have so many different people in this class, which is a great opportunity to hear different ideas. Be open to people with different opinions, and be thoughtful about your responses to others.

Academic Integrity: Students must adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Issues of academic honesty will be governed by the Georgia Tech Honor Code:
<http://osi.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=46>.

Special Needs: We will follow Georgia Tech guidelines to provide accommodations for students with documented special needs.

Suggestions and advice for how to succeed in this class:

- Come to class – be present *physically and mentally*.
- Ask questions of the history you are learning! About readings and presentations. Being curious will help you to better understand history.
- Print the syllabus and keep it in a safe place. It is your roadmap to the course and you will need to refer to it throughout the semester.
- If you do not understand a course requirement or any of the course material, please do not hesitate to talk with us. Our job is to help you learn. And don't wait till the last minute to ask!
- In order to get the most out of class time, it is vital that you keep up with the reading assignments. Make sure to do readings before class.
- Finally, please note that dates and deadlines are subject to change. Be alert to in-class announcements.

Class Calendar

Date	Unit Topic	Reading Assignment	Quizzes and Tests
T Jan 8	Unit 1: Pre-Contact and the Early Colonies		

R Jan 10			
T Jan 15		Give Me Liberty (hereafter, GML), Chapter 1: A New World	Quiz (all quizzes due 12:05 PM BEFORE CLASS)
R Jan 17		GML, Chapter 2, Beginning of English America	Quiz
T Jan 22		<u>ATE</u> , Chapter 2, Serving Time in Virginia	Quiz
R Jan 24		<u>GML</u> , Chapter 3, Creating Anglo America	Quiz
T Jan 29		<u>ATE</u> , Chapter 3, The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem	Quiz
R Jan 31			Test 1 – in class
T Feb 5	Unit 2: Maturing Colonies and Revolution	No reading	
R Feb 7		<u>GML</u> , Chapter 4, Slavery Freedom and the Struggle for Empire	Quiz
T Feb 12		GML, Chapter 5, The American Revolution	Quiz
R Feb 14		<u>ATE</u> , Chapter 4, Declaring Independence	Quiz
T Feb 19		<u>GML</u> , Chapter 6, The Revolution Within	Quiz
R Feb 21		GML, Chapter 7, Founding a Nation	Quiz
T Feb 26			Test 2
R Feb 28	Unit 3: The early Republic and further Expansion	No reading	
T March 5		GML, Chapter 8, Securing the Republic	Quiz
R March 7		GML, Chapter 9, The Market Revolution	Quiz
T March 12		GML 10, Democracy in America	Quiz

R March 14		<u>ATF</u> , Chapter 5, Material Witness	Quiz
T March 19		No class	Spring Break
R March 21		No class	Spring Break
T March 26		GML 11, The Peculiar Institution	Quiz
R March 28		GML 12, An Age of Reform	Quiz
T April 2			Test 3
R April 4		No reading	
T April 9	Unit 4: Mid-Century Tensions, War, and Reconstruction	GML 13, A House Divided	Quiz
R April 11		ATF 7, The Madness of John Brown	Quiz
T April 16		GML 14, A New Birth of Freedom	Quiz
R April 18		<u>ATF</u> , Chapter 8, The View from the Bottom Rail	Quiz
T April 23	Make-up day and/or final review	No reading	
R May 2 (During the Final Exam Period)	2:40-5:30		Test 4