

HSTY 112: Introduction to American History

Fall, 2009
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Teaching Assistants, Elise Hagesfeld and Erik Miller

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:00, or by appointment, in Mather 304

Overview:

This course introduces major themes, questions, and approaches in the study of American History.

Major topics include: European colonization, the Revolution and early state building, the development of American democracy, innovations in markets and technology, westward expansion, sectional conflict, the Civil War and Reconstruction, American foreign policy and empire building, the Great Depression and World War II, the emergence of the Cold War and a consumer economy, Vietnam, social change in the 1960s, the resurgence of conservatism, and America after 9/11.

Primary emphasis is placed on reading and discussing historical documents—including books, essays, memoirs, legal documents, Congressional hearings and government reports, fiction, speeches, diaries, letters, sociological studies, and oral history interviews.

Class Structure:

Class meets for lecture twice weekly, Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 2:50 in Clapp Hall, room 108. Discussion sessions meet in two sections, either Friday 2:00 to 2:50 in Kent Hale Smith, room 123 (with Elise) or Friday 11:30 to 12:20 in Kent Hale Smith 119 (with Erik). Lectures will include interactive elements. Attendance is required.

Weekly readings are listed on the course calendar below. You are expected to read **all** of the original sources. There is a fair amount of reading, but just going by page numbers is a bit deceptive; some of the longer sources are also ones that read most quickly.

Friday discussions will focus on these readings. Please come to class prepared to ask questions, agree, disagree, and otherwise engage with the readings at a critical level. Who wrote them? Why? Under what circumstances? For what kind of audience? What historical processes do they illuminate? Obscure? How could a historian use them to understand the past? **PARTICIPATION IS EXPECTED AND REQUIRED**—be prepared to speak up in class!

Weekly assignments from the textbook, *Inventing America*, are also listed on the syllabus. (Don't forget, much of the book includes images, maps, etc., so even these readings are not really as long as the page numbers suggest.) The book will provide background and context to material we are unable to get to in lectures and discussions.

Assignments:

All students will complete two writing assignments of 5-6 pages each, due on September 25th and October 30th, respectively. More details to follow.

For remaining assignments, students will have the option (option 1) to write either a final, 10-12 page essay (due December 4th) or (option 2) write a third 5-6 page essay (also due December 4th) plus take a final exam during the regular exam week. You must tell me your preference by November 6th.

Requirements:

The objective of the course is to engage with the past. For this, discussion and participation are necessary. Your participation grade counts for 25% of your final grade. Essay 1 counts 15%, essay 2 counts 20%, and for option 1, the final essay is 40%, and for option 2, final essay and final exam are each worth 20%.

DISCLAIMER: Plagiarism in any form will not be permitted in this course. Plagiarism consists of appropriating others' work as your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, cited or not. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please let me know.

Readings:

Required readings are listed in the syllabus below. Required books are available at the Case Western Reserve University Bookstore or on reserve at the Kelvin Smith Library circulation desk (ask a staff person for the book you are looking for). Also, see attached "Guide for Purchasing Books On-Line" for advice on tracking down less expensive copies of books. Other readings—essays, books sections, and other materials, will be made available on our Library course reserve site, <http://library.case.edu/ksl/reserves>.

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- Books at the CWRU Bookstore and on course reserve at the KSL Reserves Desk:

Douglass, Frederick, *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, written by himself*. New York: Signet Classics, 2005 [1845]. (You may purchase and read any edition.)

Maier, Pauline, et al, *Inventing America: A History of the United States*, 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2006.

Topics & Readings:

• Readings marked [R] on syllabus below available on Reserve through our Library course reserve site. **PLEASE** print electronic readings and bring to Friday's discussion classes, **or** bring laptops (or other readers) so you can consult the readings during discussions.

Week 1: Introduction

MON 8/24: Introduction: Thinking about the Past

WED 8/26: The World Before Contact: The Pre-Columbian Americas

- *Inventing America*, pp. xxiii-xxxi (getting to know your textbook); pp. 2-15
- Excerpt from "Jacques Cartier's First Account of the New Land, Called New France, Discovered in the Year 1534," in *New American World*, vol I, David B. Quinn, ed. New York: Arno, 1979, 298-302. [R]
- Excerpt from Paul Le Jeune, "Relation de ce qui s'est passé en La Nouvelle France, en l'année 1633," in *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents: Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791*, vol. V. Ed. Reuben Gold Thwaites. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Co., 1897, 119, 121. [R]
- Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert, "A Journal into Mohawk and Oneida Country, 1634-1635" in *In Mohawk Country: Early Narratives about a Native People*. Ed. Dean R. Snow, et al. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996, 2-13. [R]

FRI 8/28: Discussion 1

Week 2: Globalization I: Colonization

MON 8/31: People, Plants, Animals, and Disease: The Spanish and French Empires

- *Inventing America*, pp. 15-34
- Excerpts from "Pedro de Castañeda's account of the expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado," in *New American World*, vol I, David B. Quinn, ed. New York: Arno, 1979, 365-7, 372-8, 390-8, 404-6. [R]

WED 9/2: Enter the English: Jamestown, St. Marys, Plymouth, and Boston

- *Inventing America*, pp. 37-71
- Thomas Harriot, *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. London: 1588, **READ** pdf pages 3-5; **SKIM** pdf pages 5-18; **READ** pdf pages 18-25. [R]

- Examine the images from http://www.virtualjamestown.org/images/white_debry_html/jamestown.html of both the original watercolors of John White (who visited Virginia) and the engravings based on them made by Theodore de Bry (who did not). [R]
- John Winthrop, "The Project for New England," in *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings* 8 (1864-5): 417-27. [R]
- John Dane, "John Dane's Narrative, 1682," in *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* VII (1854): 147-56. [R]

FRI 9/4: Discussion 2

Week 3: Colonial Wars, Imperial Crisis, and Revolution

MON 9/7: **NO CLASS, LABOR DAY**

WED 9/9: Colonial Wars, Imperial Crisis, and Revolution

- *Inventing America*, pp. 73-101, 141-73
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*. Philadelphia: R. Bell, 1776. [R]
- Thomas Jefferson's original draft of the Declaration of Independence, with Congress's revisions, in Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*. New York: Knopf, 1997, 235-41. [R]

FRI 9/11: Discussion 3

Week 4: The New Nation

MON 9/14: Establishing the New Nation

- *Inventing America*, pp. 175-236
- The Articles of Confederation, in *Inventing America*, appendix A-3—A-6.
- The Constitution of the United States, in *Inventing America*, appendix A-7—A-11.
- Ratification of the Constitution by the State of Virginia; June 26, 1788, in *Documentary History of the Constitution of the United States of America*, vol. II (1894), 145-6, 160, 377-85. [R]
- Ratification of the Constitution by the State of New York; July 26, 1788, in *ibid*, 190-203. [R]
- The Bill of Rights (first ten amendments), in *Inventing America*, appendix A-12.

WED 9/16: Farms, Industry, and Markets in Antebellum America

- *Inventing America*, pp. 236-43, 259-62, 280-6, 291-302, 341-65
- Thomas Jefferson, "Query XIX" in *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Ninth American Ed. Boston: H. Sprague, 1802, 225-7. [R]
- Alexander Hamilton, "Prospectus of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures," in *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. IX. New York: Columbia University Press, 1965, 144-53. [R]

- Herman Melville, "The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, vol. X, no. LIX (April, 1855): 670-8. [R]

FRI 9/18: Discussion 4

Week 5: Innovation and Reform: Politics and Technology

MON 9/21: The Age of Jackson: Democracy, Revival, and Reform

- *Inventing America*, pp. 302-38, 367-92
- Lyman Beecher, "The Nature and Occasions of Intemperance," in *Six Sermons on the Nature, Occasions, Signs, Evils, and Remedy of Intemperance*, 4th ed. Boston: T.R. Marvin, 1828, 5-23. [R]
- "Adopted Citizens, To Your Posts!" (broadside, 1829) Library of Congress, Printed Ephemera Collection; Portfolio 117, Folder 16. URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.11701600> (accessed 8/10/09). [R]
- William Lloyd Garrison, "Declaration of the National Anti-Slavery Convention," in *The Abolitionist*, vol. I., no. XII (December, 1833): 178-80. [R]
- William Leggett, "Rich and Poor," in *A Collection of the Political Writings of William Leggett*, vol. I. New York: Taylor & Dodd, 1840, 106-10. [R]
- "Declaration of Sentiments: Put forth at Seneca Falls, N.Y., July, 19th and 20th, 1848," in *Proceedings of the National Women's Rights Convention*. Cleveland: Gray, Beardsley, Spar, & Co., 1854, 70-3. [R]

WED 9/23: Nineteenth-Century Networks: Communications and Transportation

- Daniel Webster, "Opening of the Northern Railroad to Grafton, N.H." and "Opening of the Northern Railroad to Lebanon, N.H." in *The Writings and Speeches of Daniel Webster*, vol. IV. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1903, 107-17. [R]
- Entry for April 28, 1842 in *The Diary of Philip Hone, 1828-1851*, vol. II, Bayard Tuckerman, ed. New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1889, 127-8. [R]
- "The Magnetic Telegraph," in *Littell's Living Age*, vol. IV, no. 34 (January 4, 1845): 21 [reprinted from the *Albany Argus*]. [R]
- Henry David Thoreau, "Sounds," in *Walden*. New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1993 [1854], 92-106. [R]

FRI 9/25: Discussion 5

- **Writing Assignment 1 DUE.**

Week 6: Expansion and Sectional Conflict

MON 9/28: Manifest Destiny I: New Lands, New Conflicts

- *Inventing America*, pp. 397-420
- George Catlin, *North American Indians*, ed. Peter Matthiessen. New York: Penguin, 1989 [1844], 1-48, 60-62, 235-266, 297-300. [R]

WED 9/30: Prelude to War: The Sectional Crisis

- *Inventing America*, pp. 423-49
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, written by himself*. New York: Signet Classics, 2005 [1845].

FRI 10/2: Discussion 6

Week 7: The Civil War and Reconstruction

MON 10/5: The Civil War

- *Inventing America*, pp. 451-83
- Abraham Lincoln, "First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861," in *Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings*. Ed. Roy P. Basler. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo, 2001 [1946], 579-90.
- James M. McPherson, *The Negro's Civil War: How American Negroes Felt and Acted During the War for the Union*. New York: Pantheon, 1965, 245-70.
- Mary Boykin Chesnut, *A Diary from Dixie*. Ed. Isabella D. Martin and Myrta Lockett Avary. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1905, 1-41, 216-28, 344-83.
- Ulysses S. Grant, *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*, 2 vols. New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885, 1: 229-41, 330-52; 2: 31-43, 483-512.

WED 10/7: Reconstruction

- *Inventing America*, pp. 485-508
- Booker T. Washington, excerpt from *Up From Slavery: An Autobiography*. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1919 [1901], 80-91.
- W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*. Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co., 1907 [1903], 13-40.
- The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, in *Inventing America*, appendix A-12.

FRI 10/9: Discussion 7

Week 8: Post-Bellum: Rebuilding and Reinventing the Nation

MON 10/12: Manifest Destiny II: The "Winning" of the West

- Randolph B. Marcy, *The Prairie Traveler: A Hand-book for Overland Expeditions*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1859, **read at least one chapter of your choosing**. [R]
- Young Joseph, "An Indian's View of Indian Affairs," *North American Review*, no. CCLXIX (April, 1879): 412-433. [R]

WED 10/14: The New Industrial Society

- *Inventing America*, pp. 513-67

- Henry Adams, "The Dynamo and the Virgin (1900)," in *The Education of Henry Adams*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971 [first privately circulated, 1906], 379-90. [R]
- Russell H. Conwell, "Acres of Diamonds," in *Acres of Diamonds*. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1915, 3-59. [R]
- William Graham Sumner, *What Social Classes Owe to Each Other*. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1911 [1883], 7-27, 72-80. [R]

FRI 10/16: Discussion 8

Week 9: Globalization II: Immigrants Arrive, Soldiers Depart

MON 10/19: Immigrants Remake America

- Anna Yeziarska, "How I Found America," in *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* vol. CI (Nov, 1920): 73-80. [R]

WED 10/21: The New Empire and a Series of Brutal, Forgotten Wars

- *Inventing America*, pp. 598-622
- U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Philippines. *Affairs in the Philippine Islands: Hearings before the Committee on the Philippines of the United States Senate*. 57th Cong., 1st sess., February 4, 1902, 68-79 (testimony of Governor William H. Taft). [R]
- Excerpts from Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., "*Smoked Yankees*" and the *Struggle for Empire: Letters from Negro Soldiers, 1898-1902*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1971, 25-33, 49-55, 60-1, 62-5, 74-9, 82-4, 92-7, 106-8, 128-37, 249-55, 257, 262-4, 279-82, 284-90, 300-9. [R]

FRI 10/23: Discussion 9

Week 10: Politics and Culture in the early 20th Century

MON 10/26: In Search of Progressivism: The Politics of Reform

- *Inventing America*, pp. 627-55
- Lincoln Steffens, "Pittsburg: A City Ashamed," in *McClure's Magazine*, vol. XXI (May, 1903): 24-39. [R]

WED 10/28: Jazz Age America: War, Revolution, and Mass Culture

- *Inventing America*, pp. 657-98
- Robert S. Lynd & Helen Merrell Lynd, *Middletown: A Study in American Culture*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1956 [1929], v-vii, 3-17, 225-312. [R]

FRI 10/30: Discussion 10

- **Writing Assignment 2 DUE.**

Week 11: Depression and War

MON 11/2: The Great Depression

- *Inventing America*, pp. 700-32
- Letters in Robert S. McElvaine, *Down & Out in the Great Depression: Letters from the "Forgotten Man."* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1983, 34-48, 51-65, 67-77, 79-94, 123-31, 143-54. [R]

WED 11/4: World War II

- *Inventing America*, pp. 737-88
- Studs Terkel, *"The Good War": An Oral History of World War II.* New York: The New Press, 1984, 19-37; 59-97; 108-85; 505-57. [R]

FRI 11/6: Discussion 11

Week 12: Postwar/Cold War: Politics and the New Economy

MON 11/9: Postwar/Cold War: Living in the Shadow of the Bomb

- *Inventing America*, pp. 790-800, 807-16, 818-33,
- NSC-68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security, "A Report to the President Pursuant to the President's Directive of January 31, 1950," draft as of April 7, 1950 [final draft completed on April 15, 1950]. [R]

WED 11/11: Cultures of Consumption

- *Inventing America*, pp. 800-807, 833-50
- John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Affluent Society.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1958, 251-3. [R]
- "The 'Kitchen Debate' (July 24, 1959)," in *Richard Nixon: Speeches, Writings, Documents*, Rick Perlstein, ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008, 88-96. [also watch on-line.] [R]
- Lose yourself for half-an-hour or so at www.plan59.com. [R]

FRI 11/13: Discussion 12

Week 13: The Long 1960s

MON 11/16: "American Tragedy": The War in Vietnam

- *Inventing America*, pp. 852-8, 871-7
- Tim O'Brien, "On the Rainy River," in *The Things They Carried.* New York: Broadway, 1998 [1990], 39-61. [R]

WED 11/18: Social Upheaval: Civil Rights, Women's Rights, the New Left, and the Counter-Culture

- *Inventing America*, pp. 858-71, 877-86
- Decision of *Brown vs. Board of Education*:
<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=347&invol=483> [R]

- Oral History with Franklin McCain, "February 1, 1960: The South's First Sit-in," in *My Soul Is Rested: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South*, ed. Howell Raines. New York: Penguin, 1983 [1977], 75-82. [R]
- "The Port Huron Statement" (1962) [R]
- Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name," in *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1963, 15-32. [R]

FRI 11/20: Discussion 13

Week 14: The Age of Reagan

MON 11/23: The Politics of Crisis: From Watergate to Energy to the Fall of the Shah

- *Inventing America*, pp. 891-910
- Richard Nixon, "Address to the Nation About Policies to Deal with the Energy Shortages," November 7, 1973, available at <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=4034> [R]
- William K. Stevens, "Rush to Smaller Cars Spurs Detroit to Alter Assembly Lines," *New York Times*, December 3, 1973. [R]
- "The Second War Between the States," *Business Week*, May 17, 1976, 92-8, 108-112, 114. [R]

WED 11/25: The Rise of Conservatism: The Reagan Revolution

- *Inventing America*, pp. 910-9, 921-43
- Phyllis Schlafly, "Interview with the *Washington Star*, January 18, 1976," in *The Rise of Conservatism in America, 1945-2000*, Ronald Story and Bruce Laurie, eds. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008, 103-7. [R]
- Paul Weyrich, "Building the Moral Majority," *Conservative Digest*, vol. 5, no. 8 (August, 1979): 18-19. [R]
- George Gilder, "The Nature of Poverty" and "The Moral Hazards of Liberalism," from *Wealth and Poverty*. New York: Basic Books, 1981, 64-74, 105-13. [R]
- "Common Sense and the Common Danger: Policy Statement of the Committee on the Present Danger," in *Alerting America: The Papers of the Committee on the Present Danger*, Charles Tyroler, II, ed. Washington; Pergamon-Brassey's, 1984, 3-5. [R]

FRI 11/27: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Week 15: Globalization III: Your America

MON 11/30: Globalizing America

- *Inventing America*, pp. 945-92
- Eric Liu, "The Accidental Asian: Variations on a Theme," in *The Accidental Asian*. New York: Vintage, 1998, 57-84. [R]
- Robert Reich, *The Work of Nations: Preparing Ourselves for 21st-Century Capitalism*. New York: Knopf, 1991, 81-6, 98-153, 243-51. [R]

WED 12/2: Your World: America Post-9/11

- *Inventing America*, pp. 994-1018
- *The 9/11 Commission Report*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004, xi-xviii, 1-73, 108-43, 254-77. [R]

FRI 12/4: Discussion 14

- **Writing Assignment 3 DUE** (10-12 page paper for option 1, 5-6 page paper for option 2)