

## **History 120: United States History to 1865**

Fall, 2008

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History 120 through Maple Woods Community College is a survey course in United States history and the evolution of American society from before the Age of Discovery and colonial settlement to the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War. Course content includes the following major topics:

- Native-American life and culture
- colonial settlement by European powers
- the American Revolution
- creation of the first national government under the Articles of Confederation and the subsequent framing of the Constitution
- the early years of the federal Republic
- the expansion of the new nation during the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- frontier life on the western frontier
- the interaction among various cultures during the first half of the 1800s
- the development of the capitalist market economy
- the growth of popular movements to reform society and the economy caused by social and economic inequity
- the causes, results, and impacts of the Civil War
- the Reconstruction Era

This is a course that asks the student to reach an understanding of the basic facts, dates and events of the history of the United States, how these are all related to one another, and how this has influenced American society, today. Special consideration will be given to making the connection between "then and now," analyzing history's influence on the present.

### **Textbook**

Foner: *Give Me Liberty! An American History* Volume I

## Course Objectives

At the completion of History 120, a student should be able to:

- Compare and contrast major historical figures, groups and movements from the periods of American history from pre-colonial years to the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Recognize, identify and analyze significant recurring patterns, major trends, and the important developments that shaped American society through the Civil War era
- Assess the experiences of specific groups of people, and evaluate how diversity contributes to the development of American culture from pre-Columbian times through the Civil War era
- Explain and demonstrate the historical mode in inquiry
- Identify the major factors leading to the American Revolution
- Identify the major factors leading to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the ideology reflected in the document, and analyze the development of both the United States and Missouri constitutions
- Demonstrate an understanding of how history influences present day ideas, tendencies, politics and policies

## Class Sessions

Class sessions will be primarily lectures and presentations. Student participation and questions/answers/discussion are important to increasing an understanding of the nation's past. Reading of textbook materials before class sessions is very important, as is keeping up with additional readings suggested by your instructor. The content in the textbook will be supplemented by your instructor through presentation of alternative interpretations of historic events and their influences. Videos, film clips, newspaper reports from the era, and other media (including Web-based information) will be utilized to enhance the discussion of some topics, particularly those which are historically controversial.

## Grades

1. At the end of the first two 6-week grading periods, there will be a test over the basic content of the material in the textbook and the additional discussions/presentations in class. These tests will include multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions.
2. At the end of the semester, there will be a final exam that will include questions that cover mostly the last 6-week section of the course material. There will be at least one comprehensive question that covers a theme(s) that runs through the entire semester course content.
3. Students will choose a theme from the period under study, read a book that is relevant to that theme from the period, and write a book

review/critique using the directions supplied by their instructor; a total of two book reviews will be required, one to be completed during the first six-week grading period, the next to be completed during the second six-week grading period. *All books must be selected with the prior agreement of your instructor – absolutely no exceptions.*

Any make-up test will be granted only for a legitimate, excused absence from school. **All course work must be completed by the last day of the Maple Woods fall semester, Tuesday, December 16, 2008.**

The grading scale is based on a student earning a percentage of the total points at the end of the semester –

- A = 90% - 100%
- B = 80% - 89%
- C = 70% - 79%
- D = 60% - 69%
- F = 59% or below

### **Weekly Readings and Course Outline**

August 18 – 29: Introduction to History 120, Begin lecture/discussion America before European discovery and settlement – Discovery of the New World, Spanish and French America, Background to English Settlement  
Foner Chapter 1

September 1 – 5: The Southern Colonies, Puritanism, establishment of New England  
Foner Chapter 2

September 8 – 12: Continue Northern colonial development  
Foner Chapter 3

September 15 – 19: Settlement and development of middle colonies; maturing colonies in 18<sup>th</sup> century; colonial lives and families; government and economies of colonies  
Foner Chapter 4

September 22 – 26: The British Empire and the coming of the American Revolution  
Foner Chapters 5 and 6

### **First 6-week Examination**

**First 6-week Book Review due on or before September 19 (no exceptions)**

## **6-week grading period ends September 26**

September 29 – October 3: The War for Independence; front lines and home front; Confederation government and writing of the Constitution  
Foner Chapter 7

October 6 – 10: Trials of the Young Republic; rise of the two-party system; Federalists, Jeffersonians, and the Supreme Court  
Foner Chapter 8

October 13 – 17: The Second War for Independence  
Foner Chapter 9

October 20 – 24: Post-war nationalism, expansion, the market economy; the “Era of Good Feelings” and rise of sectionalism; 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the North; the changing market economy and impact on agriculture, industry, trade, labor  
Foner Chapter 10

October 27 – 31: 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the North; a changing society, rise of reform movements; new roles for women and families  
Foner Chapter 12

## **Second 6-week Examination**

**Second 6-week Book Review due on or before October 24 (no exceptions)**

## **12-week grading period ends Friday, October 31**

November 3 – 7: 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the South; myth versus reality; the southern economy and the white man’s world  
Foner Chapter 11

November 10 – 14: 19<sup>th</sup> century life in the South; King Cotton and slavery; southern attitudes and the defense of slavery; paranoia and the growth of “abolitionist conspiracy” ideas; popular democracy, egalitarian myths, Jacksonian Democracy  
Foner Chapter 11

November 17 – 21: Manifest Destiny, popular politics, growing sectionalism  
Foner Chapter 13

Thanksgiving break, no school November 26, 27, 28

December 1 – 5: the 1850s and coming of the Civil War; the Civil War; the classic war in the East, the decisive War in the West; war on the home fronts; economic policies and the changing of America  
Foner Chapter 14

### **December 8 – 12: Final Exam**

*The Metropolitan Community Colleges comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need any accommodations due to a documented disability, or if you have any emergency medical information to share, please contact the Maple Woods' ACCESS office, or call Janet Weaver at 437-3095. All information is strictly confidential and released only with your permission.*

*Sexual harassment is prohibited by Federal and State law, as well as by MCC's Board of Trustee policy. If you feel that you, as a student, have been subjected to sexual harassment, please discuss this with the Dean of Students.*

*The Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects your student records. Under the law, I cannot, and will not, release your student ID, grades, or other personal information to anyone but you or your parents without written permission. This also means I cannot discuss your grades over any unsecured method of communication.*

*Attendance in class communicates acceptance of, and intended compliance with the requirements of the syllabus.*