

## **HIST 2111: The United States from European Settlement to 1865**

T/Th 2-3:15, SLC 101

Prof. Melissa Estes Blair ([mblair@uga.edu](mailto:mblair@uga.edu))

Office Hours: M/W 10:15-11:45, LeConte 310

### **Course Description**

This course will focus on the development of America from initial settlement to a series of thriving British colonies to a fragile republic to the consolidation of federal power in the midst of war. The central theme in this course will be how Americans struggled to define the shape and character of the American polity. How much power should the federal government wield? What should a democracy look like and who should be included? How should different regions and states settle their differences without the new nation coming apart at the seams? We will examine these themes through the eyes of the people who experienced them. We will also consider what everyday life was like for Americans in these years, considering how culture and society changed as political life changed, and how changes in society in turn created changes in politics.

This course consists of two large lectures per week. Students are *strongly* encouraged to come to the office hours of the professor or their TA if they have questions or need help. The requirements for this course are three five-page papers plus a midterm and a final exam.

### **A Note on the Readings**

There are four books required for this class. They are:

*Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner (textbook)

*The Sovereignty of Goodness and God* by Mary Rowlandson

*The Federalist Papers*

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs

These books are available at the UGA bookstore, and are also on reserve at the Main Library. Students will have regular reading assignments in the Foner text, and will write three papers using the three other books.

### **Attendance Policy**

It is simply impractical to keep track of attendance for 300 students. Attendance will therefore not be taken for this class. **However**, the assigned readings from the textbook are designed to complement and reinforce, not repeat, the lecture material. Only reading the textbook, and never coming to lecture, will result in poor performance on both the papers and the exams in this class.

### **Paper Assignments**

Over the course of the semester students will write 5-page reviews of the three assigned books. Students will be asked to read the book and, in some cases, the accompanying critical essays. They will then write a paper which places the work in the context established by class lectures and discuss how the ideas or events related in the book reflected key aspects of America in the colonial era, the Revolutionary period, and the nineteenth century. More details will be given as the first paper due date approaches.

### **Academic Integrity**

All members of this class are expected to abide by the University's Culture of Honesty. It is students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with these policies. Violations of the culture of honesty will result in a zero for the assignment. Please visit the following website for more information: [http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm)

### **Grade Breakdown:**

Paper 1: 10%  
 Paper 2: 20%  
 Midterm Exam: 20%  
 Paper 3: 20%  
 Final Exam: 25%

### **Schedule**

**Jan. 8:** Introduction: Why History Matters

**Jan. 13:** Native Americans Before and After European contact

**Reading:** Foner chapter 1

**Jan. 15:** From Starving in Virginia to a Region "founded wholly on Smoke"

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 43-62

**Jan. 20:** The City Upon a Hill

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 62-84

**Jan. 22:** Merchants, Slave Owners, and Farmers: Economic Growth in the American Colonies

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 85-94 and 102-124

**Jan. 27:** Slavery in the New World – **Paper One due on *The Sovereignty of Goodness and God* (parts I and II only)**

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 94-102 and 125-140

**Jan. 29:** Enlightenment and Great Awakening

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 150-154

**Feb. 3:** Armchair Patriotism and the Seven Years' War

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 140-150 and 154-166

**Feb. 5:** The Growing Crisis and the Revolutionary War

**Reading:** Foner chapter 5

**Feb. 10:** Federalism vs. Anti-Federalism

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 201-215

**Feb. 12:** How Revolutionary Was It?

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 215-234

**Feb. 17:** Federal authority and States' Rights in the Early Republic

**Reading:** Foner chapter 7

**Feb. 19:** Building a New Nation: Culture and Society in the Early Republic – **Paper Two Due on *The Federalist Papers* nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 23, 37, 39, 47, 49, 51, 62, 70, 78, 84, and 85 only**

**Feb. 24: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Feb. 26:** Foreign Powers: Britain, France, and the War of 1812

**Reading:** Foner chapter 8

**March 3:** The Era of Good Feeling and the Second Party System

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 338-359

**March 5:** “King Andrew”: The Presidency of Andrew Jackson

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 359-374

**March 10 & 12: Spring Break – No Class**

**March 17:** The Market Revolution

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 302-314

**March 19:** In the City, On the Farm: Nineteenth-century Lives and Labors

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 314-323 and 330-337

**March 24:** The Second Great Awakening and Perfectionist Reform

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 323-330 and 407-420

**March 26:** Hearth and Home: Domestic Ideology and the Emerging Middle-Class

**March 30:** Slavery in the Plantation South

**Reading:** Foner chapter 11

**April 2:** Abolitionism

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 420-431

**April 7:** The Birth of the Woman Movement - **Paper Three Due on *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl***

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 431-440

**April 9:** The Age of Manifest Destiny

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 441-448

**April 14:** The Growing Slavery Conflict

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 453-460

**April 16:** The Mexican War and the political crisis of the 1850s

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 448-453 and 460-471

**April 21:** Secession and War

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 471-490

**April 23:** The Road to Appomattox

**Reading:** Foner pgs. 491-519

**April 28:** Wrapping It Up/Final Exam Review

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday, May 5, 3:30 – 6:30pm