

History 3060 Early America
Syllabus / Prof. Hoffer / Fall 2009

This semester we will survey together early American history from the pre-contact period through the Revolution. In lectures I will provide a chronological account of the encounter of diverse peoples, the development of colonial institutions, and the movement toward American independence. The readings correspond to the lectures. In our discussions we will link topical themes in the primary and secondary source readers to the chronological narrative. We will build critical thinking skills and content mastery. Welcome.

Grades will be based on two hour examinations with multiple choice and short essay questions, and a final essay question examination. Informed and regular participation in class discussion can raise a borderline grade.

The books required for the course are: Hoffer, The Brave New World: A History of Early America 2/e (don't buy the first edition); Fischer and Hinderaker, ed., American Colonial History, and Brown, comp., Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution History, 2/e. All three are paperbacks and can be purchased at the university bookstore and off campus. The readings are not heavy so I expect you to read carefully.

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The university requires the following statements on the syllabus: "All academic work must meet the standards contained in A Culture of Honesty. Each student is responsible [for informing] ...themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."

A tentative list of topics, readings and assignments appears below. All assignments are subject to change. I'll announce changes in class.

- Week 1: The problem of defining early America. Read: Hoffer, introduction.
- Week 2: Native Americans. Read Hoffer, Ch. 1; Fischer and Hinderaker, Ch. 1
- Week 3: European and African backgrounds. Read Hoffer, Ch. 2.
- Week 4: Spanish America. Read Hoffer, Ch. 3
- Week 5: Empire in the North. Read Hoffer, Ch 4. First examination
- Week 6: Southern colonies. Read Hoffer, Ch. 5; Fischer and Hinderaker, Chs. 3 and 4
- Week 7: A New England. Read Hoffer, Ch. 6; Fischer and Hinderaker, Ch. 2
- Week 8: Middle colonies. Read Hoffer, Ch. 7
- Week 9: Critical period. Read Hoffer, Ch. 8
- Week 10: Empires. Read Hoffer, Chs. 9 and 12. Second examination
- Week 11: Colonial people and places. Read Hoffer, Ch. 10; Fischer and Hinderaker, Ch. 8
- Week 12: Colonial culture. Read Hoffer, Ch. 11; Fischer and Hinderaker, Chs. 6 and 7
- Week 13: French and Indian War. Read Hoffer, Ch. 13; Brown, Ch. 3
- Week 14: Revolutionary crisis. Read Hoffer, Ch. 14; Brown, Chs. 4 and 5
- Week 15: Independence. Read Hoffer, Ch. 15; Brown, Chs. 6 and 8.
- Week 16: Final Examination