

**History of the United States I
Syllabus and Calendar**

Course Description: This course is a study of the historical facts regarding the establishment and governance of the United States from the pre-Columbian times to 1877. We will also examine the social, political, and economic development of the United States. Through the course of the semester, we will focus on a number of trends, events, and personalities as we investigate the following topics: the forging of a new society from European, African, and native American cultures; the colonial period; the American Revolution and the creation of a new nation; the rise of democracy; expansion into the frontier west; sectionalism; the Civil War; and the Reconstruction era.

Textbook:

Jacqueline Jones, et al. *Created Equal*. (Brief Edition).

Supplemental Reading:

Thomas Paine. *Common Sense*. (Located on the CD included with the textbook).

Frederick Douglass. *The Narratives of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. (Located on the CD included with the text).

Major Learning Outcomes: Based on the National Standards for History (1994)

- I. The student will describe conditions that prompted interactions between previously unconnected peoples in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and discuss the nature of these interactions.
- II. The student will trace the evolution of settlement and the maturation of colonial societies in North America.
- III. The student will describe the revolutionary movement in the North American British colonies and the development of the American political system.
- IV. The student will trace the relationship of territorial expansion, westward movement, increasing immigration, and slavery on regional tensions during the first half of the nineteenth century.
- V. The student will describe the causes and nature of the American Civil War and the reconstruction efforts.

Methods of Evaluation: The student's mastery of the subject material will be determined through exams. An exam will be given on each scheduled test day. Do not be late—it will reduce the amount of time you have to complete the exam. The first three exams will each be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade. It will be given on May 9. The remaining 15% of your grade is based upon class participation. I determine this grade based upon class attendance and my evaluation of your participation in class discussions and behavior. Every absence after the third grace absence (the equivalent of one week of class time) is worth 10 points deducted from your class participation grade. Each exam will be based upon the content of lectures, discussions, and your readings. Test format will be discussed prior to the first exam. No electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, pagers, computers, cameras, etc.) will be used in the classroom once the exam has been passed out. In addition, once the first exam has been turned in to the instructor or his representative, no further exams will be handed out. Any student who enters following this event will be considered absent and will take the make-up exam on the make-up exam day.

Methods of Instruction: Lecture is the primary teaching method; however, class discussions, outside projects, and outside reading will be used.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class meeting. Failure to sign the class attendance roster is an absence. Students who come in late may be counted absent if the instructor believes the student missed too much of the class. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to religious observances are requested to inform the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class. Make-up exams will be given only to students with, in the opinion of the instructor, a valid reason for missing the exam, **AND** all make-up exams will be administered on Monday, May 5. Each student is only allowed one make-up exam, all other missed exams will receive a zero. Make-up exams will not receive the in-class benefits of bonus questions and/or a grade curve (if given). Failure to take the make-up on the assigned day will result in a zero for that exam.

Behavior: All students will maintain respect and courtesy for their classmates and for the instructor. Do not use pagers, cell phones, communicators, signal fires, or other disruptive communicative devices during class. Turn off such annoying hindrances to the learning process before class begins. Frequent violations of this rule will result in a lowered class participation grade and egregious violations may result in the instructor lowering the student's semester grade. No profanity, sleeping, talking that interrupts the instructor, lewd, rude, or socially unacceptable behavior (and even some socially acceptable behavior may not be allowed in class). "Free love" should not be practiced in this class—hands off others and yourself. Remember, although the United States practices democracy in the form of a representative constitutional republic, this class is a benevolent dictatorship. If student conduct becomes unacceptable, the instructor will ask the student to leave and not return.

Grade Replacement: If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog, p. 35)

Disability Support: If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579). Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>.