

"Nothing Capable of Being Memorized is History," R. G. Collingwood

Professor Michael Oberg
Office: 561 Agnes Arnold Hall
Hours: Tuesday, 1:00-2:00
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Teaching Assistants and Hours

Raevin Jimenez: Tues 1-230, Thursday, 4-530 (AH645) (rfjimenez@uh.edu)
 Cynthia Cowan : TTh, 1-230 (AH645)

Instructor for Break-Out Section

James Arlington (AH 645) (jarlington@hotmail.com)

Required Readings (Available at UH Bookstore)

David Blight, ed., *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Bedford Books Edition)
 Victoria Bissell Brown and Timothy Shannon, *Going to the Source: The Bedford Reader in American History*, (Volume 1: To 1877)
 Charles R. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*
 Peter Mancall, ed., *Envisioning America: English Plans for the Colonization of North America*
 Kevin M. Schultz, *HIST*, Volume 1.
 Documents on the Web, as directed.

Course Overview:

This course is a survey of American history from the time of the first European settlements in America through to the close of Reconstruction in 1877. Because I do not feel it is possible to cover every event which occurred during that massive period of time, I have chosen to focus on a number of themes that will enable me to familiarize you with the basic outline of Early American history and, what's more, how it is that historians approach the study of the past and why the study of that past is so important.

Your grade for the course will be based on a mid-term examination, a final examination, and four in-class writing assignments. **These assignments will be easier if you take seriously the worksheets in the Brown and Shannon reader and the documents and other resources referred to in the HIST textbook.** Exams will be handed out in class before they are due. You may consult all your notes and all your readings as you complete the examination. Normally, you will be asked to write two essays from a list of possible topics. Each exam should be no longer than 2500 words total, typed and double-spaced. I will hand out the final exam on the last day of class. It will be comprehensive, in that it asks you to draw upon all the material we cover over the course of the semester. **Exams must be turned in at the time specified. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances and will receive a failing grade.**

A copy of this syllabus is posted online at the History Department's website. Go to the following and click on "Class Listing": <http://www.class.uh.edu/hist/undergrad.asp>

I require that you complete a significant amount of reading in this course. You cannot expect to do well in this course if you fall behind in the reading. Please come to class with that day's reading assignment complete.

The grading scale is as follows:

Midterm	40 points	A	100-93	A-	92-90
Final Exam	40 points	B+	89-88	B	87-83
In-class Essays	20 points	B-	82-80	C+	79-78
Total	100 points	C	77-73	C-	72-70
		D	69-60	F	Below 60

The examinations and the writing assignments are discussed in detail below.

An additional note: this semester we will be offering a special "break-out" section of this course taught by James Arlington that will begin roughly half-way through the semester. This section, open only to highly motivated students who, based upon the judgment of the teaching assistants and I, are struggling with the material, will focus on helping students develop the study, research and writing skills that will help you succeed in this course and, we hope, in other courses you take in the future. We will extend invitations to students we feel will benefit from this special program over the course of the first few weeks of the semester. Only thirty-five students will be selected for this special program. Those invited will be expected to attend every class, and to actively involve themselves in class discussions.

Discussion Schedule

19 January	Introduction to the Course
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21 January	England Enters the Atlantic World Reading: Mancall, <i>Envisioning</i> , Introduction, Documents 1, 2, 4; Brown and Shannon, Chapter One; <i>HIST</i> , pp. 20-31
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26 January	The Virginia Company and Jamestown Reading: Mancall, <i>Envisioning</i> , Documents, 6-7; <i>HIST</i> , pp. 31-33
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28 January	Virginia and the Crisis of 1676 Reading: <i>HIST</i> , 48-53; and the following website: http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/film_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/bacon.html
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2 February	The Puritan Migration Reading: Mancall, <i>Envisioning</i> , Documents 8 and 10; <i>HIST</i> , 33-40; And http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/film_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/winthrop.html
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4 February	Instability in New England Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 2
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9 February	The Decline of the Puritans Reading: <i>HIST</i> , 57-62; and http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/SALEM.HTM
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11 February	Slavery in the English Atlantic World Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 3; <i>HIST</i> , 70-74
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16 February	The English and Empire Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 4; <i>HIST</i> , 53-70, 74-77
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18 February	The Coming of the American Revolution Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 5; <i>HIST</i> , Chapter 5; and http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/film_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/henry.html
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23 February	Winning Independence

Reading: *HIST*, Chapter 6; and

http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ilmr_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/paine3.html

http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ilmr_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/declarationindep.html

25 February The Critical Period and the Constitution
Reading: *HIST*, 112-124; and

http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ilmr_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/articlesconfed.html

http://wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ilmr_legacy/wash1c01c/content/amh1/readings/constitution.html

Hand-out Mid-term Examination

2 March The Ratification Debates
Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 6; *HIST*, 124-127
Mid-term Examinations DUE at BEGINNING OF CLASS

4 March The New Nation on Trial
Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 7; *HIST*, Chapter 8 and
<http://odur.lct.rug.nl/~usa/D/1776-1800/constitution/const1799.htm>

9 March The Market Revolution
Reading: *HIST*, Chapter 9 and pp. 156-169

12 March Andrew Jackson and the Politics of the Market Revolution
Reading: *HIST*, Chapter 11 and
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/ajveto01.asp

23 March The Politics of Indian Removal
Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 10

25 March Antebellum Reform
Reading: Blight, ed., *Frederick Douglass, (Narrative Only)*; Brown and Shannon, Chapter 8; *HIST*, pp. 169-175

30 March Southern Society and the Plantation Regime
Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 9; *HIST*, Chapter 12

1 April Slavery in the Old South
Reading: Blight, ed., *Frederick Douglass*

6 April The Slavery Issue and the Territorial Question
Reading: Brown and Shannon, Chapter 11; *HIST*, Chapter 13

8 April The Political Crisis of the 1850s
Reading: *HIST*, Chapter 14