

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

Department of History Fall 2020

HIST 211: United States History to 1877

Course Section: 003 Credit Hours: 3
Online

Instructor: Dr. O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight

Office Location: 370 Bancroft

Virtual Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:45-1:45pm

Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm

Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm

Or By Appointment

***I am only meeting with students virtually for Fall 2020.**

Email: dmcknightoj@winthrop.edu

Office Phone: 803-323-3701

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.” ~Langston Hughes

The Course

This course is designed to give you an opportunity to explore the American experience from the colonial era through the end of Reconstruction. We will approach the material chronologically as we address these major overarching themes: cause and effect over time, shifting meanings of freedom and American identity, social change, political evolution, and activism. These themes come to life through a focus on the developing nation and its people from the top down and the bottom up. Watershed moments and key individuals will help guide us through and expand our understanding of this American history.

The readings for this course are essential to your ability to comprehend the lectures and participate in discussion. The course readings come from two general categories. The scholarly materials offer you context and background for the various moments that we will cover. The primary documents, news articles, etc. give us an opportunity to explore history through those who experienced it firsthand.

Finally, this course is about certain processes of thinking that that you will practice. By the end of the semester, I expect you to have greater skill in interpreting facts, discerning historical contexts and marshaling those contexts to analyze change, also continuity, over time. Over the course of the term you will also hone your writing skills.

University-Level Competencies (ULCs)

This is a Constitution and Historical Perspectives course that contributes to the mastery of the following university-level competencies (ULCs):

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems.

Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. Winthrop graduates

consider the full context and consequences of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical thinking process, including the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

History Department Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome 1: History majors demonstrate an ability to comprehend major issues in historiography.

Student Learning Outcome 3: History majors demonstrate their understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present, by conducting independent research based on the critical assessment of both primary and secondary sources.

Student Learning Outcome 4: History majors communicate effectively core themes, ideas, and subject matter, in both written and oral form.

Required Texts

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*. Vol. 1. Seagull 6th ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2020.

Foner, Eric. *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*. Vol. 1. 6th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2020.

Resources

Chicago/Turabian Style Citation

- UNC-CH Library - <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/citing-information>
- Purdue OWL - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/chicago_style_introduction.html
- Chicago Manual of Style - <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/citation-guide.html>

Writing Resources

- History Writing - <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/history/>
- Thesis Statements - <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/thesis-statements/>
- Concise Writing - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/conciseness/index.html
- Appropriate Language - https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/using_appropriate_language/index.html
- Compare/Contrast Essays - <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/comparing-and-contrasting/>

Attendance/Participation

Blackboard and Zoom will be the main platforms for this course. Students should check Blackboard and student email accounts daily. You are responsible for any information and/or communication that is posted on Blackboard and/or sent via email. Any announcements pertaining to this class will be posted on Blackboard and/or sent via email.

This course includes mandatory Zoom sessions. The best way to access your Zoom account is to go to Winthrop's Zoom landing page at <https://winthrop-edu.zoom.us>. (Note the dash between "winthrop" and "edu".) Use your Winthrop username and password to sign in.

There is a participation component of your overall grade. To do well in this area, students should be actively engaged in the learning process: attend all scheduled meetings, maintain consistent participation, read the assigned materials and complete all assignments. You will not be able to fully grasp the topics or be successful in this course if you do not read, do the work and participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining any pertinent information.

Every unexcused missed meeting, will result in a **5-point** deduction from your overall Attendance/Participation grade. Each missed meeting will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Be sure to communicate with the professor if an issue arises that affects any aspects of your participation.

Virtual Classroom Expectations

- This is a virtual classroom, therefore, appropriate **classroom behavior** is expected.
- Log into your class from a distraction-free, quiet environment.
- Keep audio on mute until you want to speak to limit background noise.
- Close unneeded applications on your computer to optimize the video quality.
- If you would like to speak or answer a question, use the chat feature to alert me.
- Unmute yourself after you are called on by your teacher.
- If you use the CHAT, remember that it is public, and a record of the chat is kept and archived.
- Keep paper and a pen or pencil handy to take notes.
- Make sure your video is on (if you have camera capabilities) so your teacher and peers can see you.
- Be mindful of your background lighting.
- Please take care of your personal needs (appropriate dress, basic hygiene, eating, chewing gum, talking to others in your home, etc.) prior to entering a Zoom classroom.
- Please do not use profanity or inappropriate language.
- Remember to sign out or "leave the meeting" when the session is finished

Late Work Policy

Complete all assignments and exams on time!

Failure to turn in assignments on the scheduled due date will result in a full letter grade reduction for each day that the assignment is late. **No assignment will be accepted later than three days after the assignment is due.** Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances

and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Documentation will be required. The instructor reserves the right to provide limited feedback on assignments turned in late.

Students are expected to take/submit exams on the scheduled date. Make-up exams will only be allowed if you have proper documentation to explain missing the exam. Rescheduling the make-up exam will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

You must communicate with the instructor about late work/exams on or before the due date of the assignment/date of the exam.

You are responsible for keeping up with due dates and exam dates.

Masking Expectations

Winthrop requires that all students adhere to safety practices that will minimize the transmission of COVID-19 within the campus community. Accordingly, students are expected to engage in social distancing and wear a cloth face mask while on campus. Failure to comply with this requirement in the classroom will result in dismissal from the current class meeting. Repeated violations will be reported to the Dean of Students as a violation of the Student Conduct Code. Students with conditions that prohibit the wearing of a face mask should discuss this with their instructor and/or contact the Office of Accessibility to arrange appropriate accommodations.

Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

*In addition to the general guidelines listed below, there will be detailed instructions available on Blackboard for all assignments with specific expectations for how those must be completed.

*All writing assignments must include footnotes and a bibliography in Chicago/Turabian style.

Weekly Recitation - Each week you will be required to attend a one hour and fifteen-minute virtual recitation session via Zoom. **You will only need to attend one of the sessions each week.** Each session will include a brief lecture and class discussion. Attendance in these sessions is **mandatory** and a part of your overall Attendance/Participation grade.

There will be two time slots available each week:

Tuesdays - 9:30-10:45am

Thursdays - 12:30-1:45pm

Quizzes

You will have a quiz based on the assigned readings and lectures for each topic. Quizzes will be completed on Blackboard and consist of **10 questions** (Multiple Choice, True-False, Matching, etc.). Quizzes are open book/notes but you will only have **30 minutes** to

complete the quiz. You need to be prepared for the quiz before you begin. Quizzes will be due at the end of each topic section.

Current Event Discussions - Due Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 (Discussions due on the Thursday before these dates and your responses will be due on these dates)

Write a **three-paragraph** Current Event discussion. Your current event must relate to the topic we are covering that week. For example, if we are talking about the evolution of the United States Constitution, your Current Event must relate to that topic or some other aspect of that time period in some way. Use a current event that comes from a reputable news/media outlet such as newspapers, magazines, or online news outlets (CNN, MSN, BBC, etc.). **The current event cannot be more than two weeks old.**

In addition to your Current Event discussion, you will write a **one paragraph** response to at least one of your classmate's Current Events.

Current Event Discussion - Due on Thursday by 11:59pm
Response Post - Due on Sunday by 11:59pm

Primary Source Analysis - Due Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 8 & 22

You will complete an analysis of a variety of assigned primary sources. You will read three to four assigned sources (these are relatively short) and provide a **three-paragraph** response to a given question. These assignments will be due on **Sundays by 11:59pm.**

Reflection Essay - Due November 15 by 11:59pm

Write a **five to six paragraph** reflection on the topic you found most interesting in the course (i.e. abolitionism, Women's Rights Movement, Civil War, Sojourner Truth, etc.). Use specific details and examples from the reading to demonstrate your understanding of the topic and its place in history.

Final Exam - Due Monday, December 7 by 11:59pm

You will complete a final exam via Blackboard. I will provide a study guide for the exam at least one week prior.

Assignments	Weight
Attendance/Participation	15%
Quizzes	15%
Current Event Discussions/Reponses	15%
Primary Source Analysis	15%
Reflection Essay	20%
Final	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100 = A	Designates work of superior quality
	90-92 = A-	Class participation is voluntary, frequent, relevant, and reflects you have both read and thought about the material. Performance on exams is consistently strong; demonstrates complete mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is clear, well organized and thought provoking, and free of grammatical or mechanical errors.

B	87-89 = B+ 83-86 = B 80-82 = B-	Designates work of high quality Class participation is voluntary, frequent, and reflects you are keeping up with the assigned materials. Performance on exams is strong; demonstrates mastery of facts and concepts. Written work reflects a good understanding of the issues and concepts. Writing is clear with minimal errors.
C	77-79 = C+ 73-76 = C 70-72 = C-	Designates work that minimally meets the course requirements Class participation is occasional and/or rarely voluntary, with comments that reveal only a superficial grasp of issues and concepts. Performance on exams demonstrates acceptable degree of mastery of facts and concepts. Written work may contain arguments that are confusing, with minimal evidence of organization. Writing is marred by errors.
D	67-69 = D+ 63-66 = D 60-62 = D-	Reflects minimal clarity and comprehension Class participation is minimal, never voluntary, and reveals you have either not read the assigned materials or did not understand the readings. Performance on exams demonstrates minimal mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is confusing, contradictory, repetitive, and/or not supported by either your own ideas or your sources. Writing is marred by errors.
F	0-59 = F	Unsatisfactory performance along most (or all) measures.

Withdrawal or S/U

This semester, the deadline to withdraw from or S/U a course is **Thursday, December 3**. *Students may not withdraw from the course after this date without documenting extenuating circumstances to the Registrar*

Fall 2020 Grading System

Access the following link for information regarding grading that only applies to Fall 2020.
<https://www.winthrop.edu/recandreg/ug-grading-fall2020.aspx>

Course Schedule

Introduction

Week 1 - August 25-30

Read: Course Syllabus

Resource Information

“New World”/African Slavery

Weeks 2 & 3 - August 31 - September 13

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – Chapter 1; pgs. 132-139

English Colonialism

Weeks 4 & 5 – September 14-27

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – Chapter 2, pgs. 93-98, 148-158

Clash of Cultures

Weeks 6 & 7 - September 28 – October 11

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – pgs. 55-57, 98-120, 131-149, 169-178, 306-309, Chapter 11

American Revolution

Weeks 8 & 9 - October 12-25

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – pgs 108-109, Chapter 5

[Declaration of Independence](#)

New Nation

Weeks 10 & 11 - October 26 – November 8

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – Chapters 7 & 8

[Articles of Confederation](#)

[The Constitution of the United States](#)

[The Bill of Rights](#)

Westward Expansion and Indian Removal

Week 12 - November 9-15

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – Chapter 9, pgs. 393-397

Civil War and Reconstruction

Weeks 13 & 14 - November 16-December 3

Read: *Give Me Liberty* – pgs. 491-513, Chapters 14 & 15

Last Day of Classes – December 3

Study Day – December 4

Final Exam – Due Monday, December 7 by 11:59pm

Additional Information

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access

Winthrop University is committed to providing accessible learning experiences and equal access to education for all students. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

If you are a student with a disability (including mental health concerns, chronic or temporary medical conditions, learning disabilities, etc.) and you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to the condition, please contact The Office of Accessibility (OA) for information on accommodations, registration, and procedures. After receiving approval for accommodations through OA, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely manner.

OA contact information: accessibility@winthrop.edu; 803-323-3290; 307 Bancroft Hall Annex.

If you need to utilize the **Testing Center**, it is your responsibility to initiate contact and seek their assistance in making the necessary arrangements. Follow this link for Testing Center guidelines <https://www.winthrop.edu/hcs/default.aspx?id=23199>. For further information call (803) 323-3290 or via email at testcenter@winthrop.edu.

Code of Conduct

Students are expected to abide by the Winthrop Code of Conduct. Follow this link for more details: <https://www.winthrop.edu/studentconduct/>.

This includes academic integrity. Any academic misconduct such as cheating, plagiarism, or any other academic-related infraction is serious. Significant issues with documentation or plagiarism in your assignments will result in a zero.

Dacus Library

Use of Dacus Library will be an integral part of this course, particularly for your writing assignments. Dacus houses a wide array of scholarly materials in print and digital, including numerous online databases. For information call (803) 323-2362 or visit their website (<http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/dacus>).

The Writing Center

This course is writing intensive. I urge students to utilize the Writing Center located in **242 Bancroft Hall** to hone your writing skills. The center has staff that can work with you on writing assignments in any discipline and at any phase of your writing process. For information call (803) 323-2138 or visit their website <https://www.winthrop.edu/writingcenter/>.

Academic Success Center

Winthrop's Academic Success Center is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), and group/individual study spaces. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Tutoring for this specific course is offered through the office. If you wish to request a tutor, you must attend ONE Tutee Seminar, offered every Tuesday and Friday until mid-semester. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu if you have any questions. For more information on ASC services, please visit www.winthrop.edu/success.

Syllabus Updates

The syllabus and/or course schedule could change based on the progression of the course. These changes are at the discretion of the instructor; however, students will be notified via in-class announcements, email, and/or blackboard announcements when any changes/additions are made to the syllabus and/or course schedule.

Confidentiality of Course Discussion Statement

With the availability of hardware and software enabling audio and video capturing of material, lectures, courses, etc., and the use of social media, it is essential to be mindful of the following policies and considerations:

- Faculty and students need a safe space in which to discuss topics that can be difficult due to differing experiences and points of view. Students and faculty must agree that course discussions in any format are safe from the fear of being posted or shared with individuals outside of the course section.
- No recordings of any format (audio and/or video) may be captured without direct permission from the instructor.
- Recordings, even those approved by the instructor, may not be posted to any internet hosted location, copied/duplicated, or shared with others.
- Any approved recording is to be used as a learning resource only by the students in the specific section.
- At the end of the semester, any and all personal copies of recordings must be destroyed (deleted and removed from trash) from either university-provided storage resources or student-owned storage devices.
- Faculty should notify students prior to recording any in person or online class sessions, and allow students to disable video feed if desired.

**Any student enrolled in courses at Winthrop regardless of modality (traditional in-person, online, hybrid, telepathy, ...) is entitled access to all campus resources. These resources include, but are not limited to, admissions counseling, recreational facilities, and health, library, and academic services. Questions regarding access to these resources should be directed to the assigned academic advisor.*