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21H.101 American History to 1865
Fall 2005

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21H101. AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1865. Fall 2004.

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REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Class attendance, completion of the readings by the class in which they will be discussed, and participation in discussions. Normally the class will discuss the assigned portion of the textbook and the issues it raises on Tuesday and the other readings assigned for the week on Thursday.
- 2) Completion of two papers, due September 30 and November 9. Suggested topics are attached. The papers are based on assigned readings and require no outside research. Students may, however, write on topics of their own devising, and may do a research paper based on materials other than those assigned so long as they receive an instructor's permission before the due date of the paper. Papers should be about five to seven pages long. They must be typed, double-spaced, with adequate margins for comments and corrections. Any research paper must include footnotes and bibliography, and all papers must provide page citations for direct quotations.
- 3) A midterm examination on October 21 and a final examination during finals week.

READINGS:

Pauline Maier et al., Inventing America: A History of the United States, Vol. I. Paperback. W.W, Norton and Company; New York and London, 2002.

Patrick M. Malone, The Skulking Way of War: Technology and Tactics among the New England Indians. Paperback. Either the Johns Hopkins University Press edition (Baltimore and London, 1993) or the September 2000 edition by Madison Books. The book was originally published in 1991.

Thomas Paine, Common Sense (orig. January 1776). Paperback. Dover Thrift editions. ISBN 048629624.

Charles Dew, Bond of Iron: Master and Slave at Buffalo Forge (1994). Norton paperback. ISBN 0-393-31359-X.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Orig. (in book form) 1852. Penguin Classics. ISBN 0-14-039003-0.

"Readings for 21H101, American History to 1865." Copy in Humanities Library from which students can make their own copies.

SCHEDULE:

September 9; Introduction.

September 14-16: The Indians' America; the First European Settlements; the Chesapeake and New England.

Maier, chs. 1 and 2, pp. 3-79.

Gov. John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity," some New England town covenants, and "John Dane's Narrative," in "Readings."

Start Malone.

September 21-23. The Extension of European Settlement; Empires; British Colonies in the Eighteenth Century.

Maier, ch. 3 and 4, pp. 81-154.
 Malone, Skulking Way of War.

September 28-30. Independence.

Maier, ch. 5, pp. 157-92.

Paine, Common Sense.

Mason draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (June 1776) and the Jefferson/committee draft of the Declaration of Independence with Congress's editings, in "Readings."

September 30: First paper due.

October 5-7. The Creation of the American Republic: the States.

Maier, ch. 6 and the first parts of ch. 7, pp. 195-243.

The first state constitutions in "Readings."

The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution in Maier (appendices).

October 12-14: Creation of the American Republic: the Nation.

Maier, pp. 243-47 of ch. 7.

Excerpt from the Virginia Ratifying Convention of 1788; the Virginia and New York instruments of ratification, in "Readings."

October 19. Review; Race, Rights, and Revolution.

Jefferson's "Query XIV" from Notes on the State of Virginia (1785).

Madison's speech in the First Federal Congress, June 8, 1789, proposing amendments to the Constitution, in "Readings," and the Bill of Rights in Maier (appendices).

October 21: Midterm.

October 26-28. The Politics and Economy of the New Nation.

Maier, chs. 8 and 9.

In "Readings":

M.R. Smith and G. Clancey, eds., Major Problems in the History of American Technology (1998), 144-57.

Jas. Montgomery, A Practical Detail of the Cotton Manufacture (1840), 156-204.

Start Dew.

November 2-4. "A Mechanical Age"

Maier, chs. 10 and 12.

Dew, Bond of Iron, esp. 1-28, 99-167, 171-219, 241-86, 338-68.

November 9. The "Age of Jackson"; An Age of Reform.

Maier ch. 11, 13.

Documents on Abolitionism and George Fitzhugh's Defense of Slavery, in "Readings."

Start Stowe.

November 9: Second Paper due.

November 11: Veteran's Day, a Holiday.

November 16-18. . Reform, continued; Expansion and the Tensions of Change.

Maier, ch. 14, pp. 435-462.

From "Readings":

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "The Celestial Railroad"

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Superstitions of the Age"

Keep working at Stowe.

November 23. The Crisis of the 1850s.

Maier, ch. 15.

Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin.

November 25: Thanksgiving, a Holiday.

November 30-Dec. 2. Secession and the Civil War.

Maier, ch. 16, pp. 497-533.

Lincoln, "House Divided" speech, 1858; "Common Sense," an editorial of September 18, 1860, in the Charleston, S.C., Mercury; the South Carolina's Ordinance of Secession, December 20, 1860, and also "Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union," December 24, 1861; Jefferson Davis's farewell speech to the Senate, and Lincoln's first inaugural address, March 4, 1861, in "Readings."

NOTE: This week we'll discuss the Secession Crisis on Tuesday---so do the appropriate readings by the beginning of the week---and start the Civil War on Thursday.

December 7-9. Lincoln; the Civil War and its Impact.

Maier, ch. 17.

"Abraham Lincoln on Race and Slavery," in "Readings."

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution in Maier appendices (and while you're at it take a look at the 11th and 12th amendments, too).

SUGGESTED PAPER TOPICS.

1) Write a review of Patrick Malone's Skulking Way of War. The challenge here is to summarize carefully and accurately the book's argument, that is, what point or points the author wanted to make, and then to evaluate that argument. In describing the book, quote critical passages that demonstrate the author's purpose (always providing page citations) to give solidity to your account. Then ask whether the material in the book sustains that argument. If on either major or minor points the book failed to convince you, say that and explain why. In any case, make sure that you understand what the author was attempting to say and describe what he said with scrupulous accuracy. You don't need to agree with everything a book says, but you do need to be exact in describing what it says before criticizing it.

2) Compare life and labor at Buffalo Forge with life and labor at Lowell, Massachusetts. What were the similarities and differences between the "industrial slavery" at Buffalo Forge as described by Dew and what Southerners often referred to as the "wage slavery" at Lowell and other northern factory towns prior to the Civil War? For purposes of making these comparisons, see Inventing America, chapters 11-12 and the assigned pages from Smith and Clancey, Major Problems in the History of American Technology.