MERCYHURST COLLEGE

Department of History

Dr. John Olszowka Fall 2014

Preston 107/ x 3027 HIS 101

jolszowka@mercyhurst.edu U.S. History I

Office Hours: MWF 10:30-12:30 pm

And by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a broad survey examining American history from the start of the first European settlements in North America in the seventeenth century to the end of the Civil War. Over the course of the term students will explore the important social, political, economic, and cultural issues that emerged from Europe's colonization of the New World, and how these developments shaped the founding, and early formative history of the United States.

**READINGS:**

George Tindall and David Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, 8th Edition, Vol. 1.

David Shi and Holly Mayer, *For the Record*, 5th Edition, Vol. 1

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Final grades for the course will be determined on the basis listed below. Students must make a good-faith effort attempting *all*components of the class in order to pass the course. Failure to do so will result in receiving an F for the course.

Quizzes 25 %

Midterm Exam 25 %

Final Exam 25 %

Class Participation 10 %

Primary Source Journals 15 %

*Quizzes:* Quizzes will consist of short-answer identifications based on terms from class lectures. Students will be required to describe the term (think Who/What, Where & When), as well as describe its broader historical significance (ie. why is it historically important/significant).

Exams: The exam format is essay. Questions will be drawn from materials covered in lectures, readings, movies, and discussions. The dates for the exams are listed below in the course schedule. Students, however, should be advised that the midterm examination is tentative and subject to change.

*Make-Up Policy:*  Make up quizzes and exams are ***only given in the cases of extreme emergency***. Students requesting a make-up are required to provide formal documentation verifying their inability to attend the exam; only after doing so is a make-up exam arranged. Make-up exams generally follow the same format as regular exams. However, due to material restrictions the number of choices for the identifications and essay questions is limited.

*Class Participation:* While the course consists primarily of lectures, this class is also designed to be interactive, encouraging an open dialogue among students. Therefore portions of the class meetings are devoted to discussing reading assignments and materials covered in lectures. Since participation counts as 10% of the final grade, it is important that students actively engage in class discussions. As this suggests, attendance is necessary and an irregular attendance record will adversely affect a student's final grade. Be advised, however, class attendance alone does not constitute participation. Rather, participation grades are determined on individual contribution and performance in class discussions.

*Source Journal:* Students are required to submit three (3) out of four (4) primary source journals. The journals are to critically analyze the documents in *For the Record*. The key to this assignment is that students critically examine the materials. This assignment is not intended to be a written summary of the material. Nor is it an expose on what students “feel.” In cases where students do not analyze the document, no credit will be awarded. In general, students should consider what do these primary source materials tell them about the historical period/topic. A more detailed handout will be provided to offer greater direction.

*Course Grading:* The grade scale for the course is as follows:

A = 4.0 Exceptional Work

B+ = 3.5 Superior Work

B = 3.0 Good Work

C+ = 2.5 Above Average

C = 2.0 Average Work/Met Course Expectations

D+ = 1.5 Below Average

D = 1.0 Poor Work

F = 0.0 Failed to Meet Course Standards

Grades at the end of the term are calculated using the formula below. Students can use it to keep track of their progress in the course.

*Final Grade* = *(Quizzes X .25)* + (*Midterm X .25) + (Final* X *.25) + (Journal* X *.15) + (Participation* X *.10)*

**CLASS/COURSE POLICIES:**

*Electronic Free Classroom:*This course is an electronic free zone. This means that cell phones, laptops, recorders, and any other electronic devices **are not** permitted in the class. The only exceptions to this policy are if it is necessitated by the Learning Differences program or for some other official reason—in which case I am notified in advance. Any student who ignores this policy will be given **one** (1) warning. If afterwards should they choose to ignore the warning and violate the policy again, they will be penalized 5% of their final grade for each violation.

*Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. In this course there is a policy of **ZERO TOLERANCE** when it comes to academic dishonesty. If in any instance a student is caught plagiarizing, cheating, or engaging in any other form of academic dishonesty they will be given an F for the assignment ***and the course***, and referred to the College administration for disciplinary action.

*Attendance:* In keeping with the guidelines and policies of Mercyhurst University, as defined in the student handbook, “Freshmen *are required to attend class*.”

*Final Note:* As per University policy, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations must call Learning Differences Program secretary at 824-3017, to arrange a confidential appointment with the director of the Learning Differences Program during the first week of classes.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1:**

Aug. 27 Class Introduction

Aug. 29 The Age of Exploration

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 1

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 1

**Week 2:**

Sept. 1 Labor Day—No Class

Sept. 3 Settling North America: The Chesapeake Region, 1585-1617

Sept. 5 Building a Stable Virginia, 1617-1660s

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 2

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 2

**Week 3:**

Sept. 8 “A City Upon a Hill”: The Massachusetts Bay Colony

Sept. 10 Training the Frontier: The “Indian” Wars, 1607-1676

Sept. 12 Discussion/Writing Option #1 Due

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 3

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 3

**Week 4:**

Sept. 15 From Servitude to Slavery: Virginia, 1660s-1700s

Sept. 17 America’s Glorious Revolution, 1685-1691

Sept. 19 The Great Awakening, 1700-1740s

Readings: Shi & Mayer, Ch. 4

**Week 5:**

Sept. 22 Colonial America, c. 1750

Sept. 24 Discussion/Writing Option #2 Due

Sept. 26 **Quiz # 1**

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 4

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 5

**Week 6:**

Sept. 29 A Deteriorating Empire, 1765-1773

Oct. 1 The Road to Revolution, 1773-1776

Oct. 3 The World Turned Upside Down

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 5

**Week 7:**

Oct. 6 **Midterm**

Oct. 8 The Struggles of a New Nation

Oct. 10 No Class

Readings: Tindall & Shi, 6 & 7

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 6 & 7

**Week 8:**

Oct. 13 The Federalist Era, 1787-1800

Oct. 15 Thomas Jefferson’s America, 1801-1812

Oct. 17 The War of 1812

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 8-10

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 8 & 9

**Week 9:**

Oct. 20 The Market Revolution

Oct. 22 America’s Second Great Awakening

Oct. 24 The Age of Jackson

Readings: Tindall & Shi, 11 & 13

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 10 -11, 13

**Week 10:**

Oct. 27 Discussion/Writing Option #3 Due

Oct. 29 **Quiz #2**

Oct. 31 Slavery & the American Republic

**Week 11:**

Nov. 3 The South’s Peculiar Institution

Nov. 5 The Limits of Southern Paternalism: Slave Resistance

Nov. 7 The Abolition Movement

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 12

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 12

**Week 12:**

Nov. 10 Slavery & the West

Nov. 12 The Growing Crisis of Union, 1850-1856

Nov. 14 John Brown

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 14

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 14

**Week 13:**

Nov. 17 Sectional Politics & the Outbreak of War, 1856-1861

Nov. 19 Discussion/Writing Option #4 Due

Nov. 21 The Road to Emancipation, 1861-1863

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 15

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 15

**Week 14**

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving—No Class

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving—No Class

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving—No Class

**Week 14:**

Dec. 1 America’s Civil War, 1861-1865

Dec. 3 America, 1865

Dec. 5 Final Thoughts

Readings: Tindall & Shi, Ch. 16

Shi & Mayer, Ch. 16

**Final Exam Schedule**

Section 01, Wednesday, December 10, 8:30-10:30 am

Section 02, Friday, December 12, 8:30-10:30 am