

History 3: 001
American Civilization to 1877
Professor Gronim
Fall 2006

Contact Information

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Course Overview

History 3 is an undergraduate survey of the history of what is now the United States from the fifteenth century to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. We will study this history through concentrating on the theme of freedom: what freedom meant to different people in different times and places, what institutional, political, religious, and economic structures historically enabled or constrained people's freedom of action, and how and why ideas about freedom changed.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course you should have

- increased your factual knowledge significantly about the events and historical developments in this period of history.
- become skilled in decoding maps that convey historical information.
- increased your skills in reading historical sources accurately and in putting these documents in their context
- increased your skills in evidence-based reasoning

Required Texts

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, Vol. I, Seagull Edition (2006)

Robert D. Marcus, et al, *American FirstHand*, Vol I, 6th edition (2004)

Course Requirements

1. Exam on Part I 20 points

On October 4 you will have an exam on the colonial period. The exam will have several parts:

- multiple choice questions through which you show your mastery of factual information
- one or two questions associated with maps through which you show your ability to decode maps for historical information
- a time line through which you show your knowledge of chronology.
- several short answer questions through which you show your understanding of historical concepts
- several questions based on quotations from historical documents and/or historical visual items through which you show your ability to interpret these accurately and put them in historical context.

2. Paper on freedom in the 17th and 18th century 10 points

On October 18th you will hand in a 5-7 page paper in which you address the following question: Compare your perception of your personal conditions of freedom with those of people who lived along the Atlantic coast of North America in the 17th and 18th centuries. What important differences and/or similarities do you find? What explains your findings?

You should draw on the information in the Foner textbook, lectures, and the historical documents found in the Marcus collection to develop an evidence-based essay. You should summarize your findings and give your overall explanation for your findings in your opening paragraph (your thesis.) Then each paragraph should offer a logical reason why your findings and your explanation are justified (your arguments.) Each argument should be supported by concrete evidence from Foner's textbook, the lectures, and the historical documents in the Marcus collection.

Your paper should adhere to college-level standards: typed, with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You should cite factual information, paraphrased wording, and direct quotations using the Chicago citation style.

3. Exam on Part II 20 points

You will take an exam on Part II on Oct. 25. The format of the exam will be similar to the exam for Part I.

4. Exam on Part III 20 points

You will take an exam on Part III on Nov. 20. The format of the exam will be similar to the previous exams.

5. Paper on freedom in the first half of the 19th century 10 points

On Nov. 29 you will hand in a 5-7 page paper that addresses the following question: Were there significant changes in the practices and ideas of freedom among people in the United States in the first half of the 19th century? What explains, in your judgment, these changes and/or lack of change?

Like the first paper, this paper should be well-structured, based on reasoning from evidence, and adhere to college-level mechanical standards.

6. Final Exam 20 points

Most of the final exam will test your knowledge and understanding of the material you have studied for Part IV. There will be, in addition, an essay question that will ask you to integrate your knowledge and understanding of the material covered in the entire course.

Grades: A: 93-100 points B+: 87-89 points C+: 77-79 points
A-: 90-92 points B : 83-86 points C : 73-76 points
B-: 80-82 points C-: 70-72 points
D: 60-69 points
F: less than 60 points

Standards for Intellectual Honesty

Please note that I take intellectual honesty very seriously. Students found to have cheated on an examination, to have copied another person's words or ideas into a paper without crediting them properly, or to have handed in work that is not their own may, at my discretion, receive an F for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or other administrative sanctions. If you are ever in doubt about whether something you are doing falls within the bounds of intellectual honesty, ask me.