

The United States and the World to 1850

Student Syllabus

“The United States and the World, Part 1” provides an enlarged frame for U.S. history by considering world historical events and outcomes, linking local and global histories within the geographical boundaries of the modern U.S., including early narratives of settlement and trade in Alaska, Hawai’i, California, and the Southwest. Based upon recent research, the course integrates the history of the western U.S. into the larger narrative of the making of the U.S.A., connecting the region with the colonies along the East Coast and the Atlantic World. It connects the history of early encounters and relations among native Americans, Africans, and Europeans to the broader history of the development of independent nation-states elsewhere in the Americas. Finally, the course considers the transformation of racial, gendered, and political identities in the colonial and early national United States through a world historical lens.

This syllabus is intended for undergraduate students. It consists of the three parts: the title of each week’s work, together with the reading assignments and titles of the lectures. The required readings are intended to be pulled together as a Class Reader. The use of a textbook is optional and at the discretion of the instructor.

Teachers are also referred to the “Teacher’s Syllabus” that accompanies this undergraduate syllabus. It consists of selected readings aimed at assisting your preparation of each lecture, and presumes some prior training or experience with United States history.

Week 1. Middle Earth: The Americas to 1450 (56 p.)

Lecture I: Placing the United States in World History

Lecture II: The Formation of the Americas

*Alfred Crosby, “Pangea Revisited,” in *Ecological Imperialism* (Cambridge University Press, 2004): 9-40.

Lecture III: Africa and Africans

*Thornton, John. “Slavery and African Social Structure,” in *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680, 2nd ed.* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998): 72-97.

Week 2. The New World Forged, 1450-1700 (111 p.)

Lecture I: The South Atlantic - Silver and Spain’s Global Perimeter

*Cabeza de Vaca, *Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America*, pp. 1-20.

*Jerald T. Milanich, *Laboring in the fields of the Lord: Spanish missions and Southeastern Indians*: 150-180.

Lecture II: The North Atlantic and Beyond

*Daniel Richter, “Confronting a Material New World,” in *Facing East from Indian Country*:

*Neal Salisbury, “Squanto, Last of the Patuxets,” in *Struggle and Survival in Colonial America*:

Lecture III: Impacts of Contact - The Columbian Exchange

*Alfred Crosby, " in *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (London: Praeger, 2003): 208-221.

Week 3. Sugar, Slavery, and Society in the South, 1600-1700 (240 p.)

Lecture I: The Growth of Sugar Plantations: Production and Consumption

*Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power* (Penguin Books, 1985): 19-150.

Lecture II: Slavery in the South

*John Thornton, "Resistance, Runaways, and Rebels" and "Africans in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World," in *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (Cambridge University Press, 1998): 272-334.

Lecture III: Freedom in the South

*Jane Landers, "Transitions" and "Slaves and the Slave Trade," in *Black Society in Spanish Florida* (University of Illinois Press, 1999): 61-83; 157-182.

Week 4. From Rivers to Oceans: Trade on the Frontier, 1700-1800 (110 p.)

Lecture 1: Furs

Lightfoot, Kent. *Indians, Missionaries, and Merchants: The Legacy of Colonial Encounters on the California Frontier*, chapters 2-3.

Lecture 2: Horses

*Brooks, James P. *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*, chapters 1 and 3.

Lecture 3: The Middle Ground

*Usner, Daniel. *Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley Before 1783*, chapter 1.

Week 5. Atlantic Economy Through its Cities, 1750-1763

Lecture I: The North Atlantic - Quebec, Boston, and Philadelphia

*Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. "Big Dig, Little Dig, Hidden Worlds: Boston." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Smith, Billy G. "Walking Moraley's Streets: Philadelphia." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Delâge, Denys and Mathieu d'Avignon, Translated from the French by Michel Lavoie. "We Shall Be One People: Quebec." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

Lecture II: The Mid-Atlantic - New York and Charleston

*Shields, David S. "Mean Streets, Mannered Streets: Charleston." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Goodfriend, Joyce D. "The Souls of African American Children: New Amsterdam." *Journal of the*

Common-Place (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Nash, Gary. "Urban Wealth and Poverty in Pre-Revolutionary America." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 6 (1976): 545-584

Lecture III: The South Atlantic - New Orleans, Tenochtitlan, Havana, and Paramaribo

*Denis, Adrian L. "Treasure City: Havana." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Ingersoll, Thomas N. "A View from the Parish Jail: New Orleans." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Price, Richard. "Violence and Hope in a Space of Death: Paramaribo." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

*Clendinnen, Inga. "Imperial city of the Aztecs: Mexico-Tenochtitlan." *Journal of the Common-Place* (2004), www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/talk/

Week 6. Atlantic Polity, 1750-1813

Lecture I: The American Revolution (1750-1776)

*Maier, Pauline. *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*, New York: Knopf dist. by Random House, 1997.

Lecture II: The Haitian Revolution (1797-1804)

*Dubois, Laurent. *Avengers in the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*, (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Harvard University Press, 2004): chapters 9-10.

Lecture III: The Impact of the Revolution in the Atlantic World (1804-1813)

*Dubois, Laurent. *Avengers in the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*, (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Harvard University Press, 2004): chapters 11-12.

Week 7. Defining the Nation Against the Atlantic World, 1812-1829 (72 p.)

Lecture 1: Wars in the Atlantic World

*William Weeks, *Building the Continental Empire: American Expansion from the Revolution to the Civil War* (Chicago, Illinois: Ivan R. Dee, 1996). Pp 30-58.

Lecture 2: Industry in the Atlantic World

Lecture 3: Race in the Atlantic World

*Audrey Smedley, *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a World View* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1993). Pg. 201-245.

Week 8. Defining Citizenship, 1829-1837

Lecture I: People and Property

*Andrew Jackson, State of the Union Address, December 6, 1830 in *The Cherokee Removal A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1995).

*William Rorabaugh, Donald Critchlow, and Paula Baker, *America's Promise* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004): 192-212

Lecture II: Industry and Agriculture

*Christopher Clark, "Rural America and the Transition to Capitalism", *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 16, no. 2, 223-236,

Lecture III: Slavery or Freedom?

*Hugh Davis, "Northern Colonizationists and Free Blacks, 1823-1837: A Case Study of Leonard Bacon," *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 17, no. 4, 651-675.

*Dale Tomich, "Small Islands, Huge Comparisons: Caribbean Plantations, Historical Unevenness, & Capitalist Modernity," in *Social Science History* 18, 3 (Fall 1994): 339-358.

Week 9. Migrations, 1830-1848

Lecture I: Immigration across the Atlantic

*Donna Gabaccia, *From the Other Side: Women, Gender and Immigrant Life in the United States, 1820-1990*, (Indiana University Press, 1994), chapter 3.

Lecture II: Overland Migration- Westward Expansion

*John Mack Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* (Yale University Press, 1979), chapter 2.

* John Mack Faragher, "The Custom of the Country: Cross-Cultural Marriage in the Far Western Fur Trade" in Lillian Schlissel, Vicki L. Ruiz and Janice Monk eds., *Western Women: Their land, their lives* (University of New Mexico Press, 1988), p. 199-216.

Lecture III: Immigration across the Pacific

*Susan Johnson, "On the Eve of Emigration," in *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2000), chapter 1.

*Sucheng Chan, "A People of Exceptional Character: Ethnic Diversity, Nativism, and Racism in the California Gold Rush" in Kevin Starr and Richard Orsi eds., *Rooted in Barbarous Soil: People, Culture, and Community in Gold Rush California* (University of California Press, 2000), chapter 3.

Week 10. The United States and the Great Divergence (110 p.)

Lecture I: Manifest Destiny

*Horseman, Reginald. *Race and Manifest Destiny: The Origins of Racial Anglo-Saxonism* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981): introduction, chapters 8 and 12.

Lecture II: The "Great Divergence" in the U.S. – Two Responses

*McPherson, James. *Ordeal By Fire: Volume I The Coming of War* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1992): chapter 1.

*Marks, Robert. *The Origin of the Modern World* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002): chapter 4.

Lecture III: Political Crisis in the 1850s – Two Nationalisms, One State

*McPherson, James. *Ordeal By Fire: Volume I The Coming of War* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1992): chapters 3-4.