

## **HISTORY 17A: The American People, 1492-1820**

M,W,F 10-10:50; additional one-hour discussion required.  
CAMPBELL HALL THEATER

Prof. A. M. Plane  
Office Hours: W 11-12, 1-2 or by appointment  
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### Teaching Assistants:

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This class examines the history of early America from the 1500s to the 1820s--a period that completely transformed the North American continent. European powers (Spain, France, Britain, and others) competed for control of the rich resources of North America, displacing Native American peoples and creating a "New World" of colonial societies composed of Europeans, Africans, and Indians. By 1763, Britain emerged as the most vital imperial power on the continent. But then, in a dramatic turnabout, much of British America rebelled, forming the new country of the United States. By the early 1800s, this new nation would come to promote unprecedented ideals (democracy, liberty, religious toleration and a free market economy). Yet, putting these ideals into practice would be quite a different matter. By the 1820s, the United States of America began to expand to the Pacific, and yet, the young nation was riven by internal tensions that would ultimately threaten the union.

Lectures and readings aim to connect students to life in early American communities, looking at the diverse individuals and many cultures of early America. Throughout, we will focus on understanding relations of power in these colonial societies--who got it, who lost it, and why. We will look at many different levels of society and explore social, economic, political and cultural changes, including the texture of everyday life for the various peoples of early America.

Students are expected to attend all lectures and to participate in the required discussion sections. Section will help you to hone your skills in critical thinking, writing, and crafting an argument from evidence. These are among the most important things you will take away from this class. Your section leader will also lead discussion of the

readings, pose questions about the lectures, and evaluate your work.

#### HONORS SECTION:

There is a five-unit Honors course offered in conjunction with this class, History 17AH, meeting Mondays, 1-2:50, HSSB 4044. Students in the course attend regular lectures and the weekly two-hour section. Honors students complete all required work for 17A as well as some additional work. Enrollment in the honors class is limited. Interested students should go to the organizational meeting Monday, Sept. 24, at 1 pm. All questions about eligibility for and admission to the honors section should be directed to lead TA, Matt Sutton. This section is open to students in UCSB's Honors program, and, if space allows, to other honors eligible students by permission. ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND A REGULAR SECTION UNTIL THE 17AH CLASS LIST HAS BEEN FINALIZED.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

There are four textbooks for this class as well as a primary document reader. All texts are available for purchase at the bookstore, and the reader can be ordered from the Alternative Copy Shop in Isla Vista. I have put copies of each of the required texts on reserve at the RBR in Davidson Library, but they are so integral to our work this quarter that you should plan on buying your own copy of each of these required readings. All exams and writing assignments are based on the materials in these texts, as well as other information presented in class.

James L. Roark, et al., *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, Compact Edition (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1999).

Edmund S. Morgan, *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed. (New York: Longman, 1999).

Charles W. Akers, *Abigail Adams: An American Woman*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed. (New York: Longman, 2000).

Douglas R. Egerton, *Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993).

Course Packet, History 17A  
--The Alternative Copy Shop, 6556 Pardall Rd., Isla Vista.

#### GRADING:

Your grade depends upon your participation in the class and completion of the written work and examination.

The first paper is due Monday, October 15, at the beginning of class. The second paper is due Friday, November 16, at the beginning of class.

**NB:** Because this is a writing intensive class, you **MUST** complete the papers with a passing grade in order to earn credit for this class, irrespective of your grade based on section participation and the exams.

20% participation:

attendance at all class meetings, contributing to discussion, completion of homework, in-class work, quizzes

20% paper #1

30% paper #2

30% final exam

If you have concerns about the grading of a particular assignment, try to resolve them first with the TA.

#### **SCHEDULE OF LECTURES:**

##### **THEME I: HISTORICAL SOURCES**

WEEK ONE: INVASION OF AMERICA

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 1 and 2.  
Morgan, pp. 1-28;

DOCUMENTS: Columbus Letter (attached to syllabus)

Mon., Sept. 24: The Significance of Early America

Wed., Sept. 26: Two American Civilizations

Fri., Sept. 28: Spanish Conquests

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WEEK TWO: ATLANTIC BRIDGES

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 3  
Morgan, pp. 29-101

DOCUMENTS: Unit II

Mon., Oct. 1: Fish, Furs, and Pirates

Wed., Oct. 3: Founding a colony: Death and Commerce

Fri., Oct. 5: New World Labor: Indenture or slavery?

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WEEK THREE: REGIONALISM AND COLONIAL DIVERSITY

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 4  
Morgan, pp. 102-184.

DOCUMENTS: Unit III.

Mon., Oct. 8: Religion and Community in New England

Wed., Oct. 10: New England Grows Up

Fri., Oct. 12: Witches and what they tell us...

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WEEK FOUR: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIETIES

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 5 (to p. 122)  
Akers, pp. 1-17

DOCUMENTS: Unit IV

**NB: PAPER #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS MONDAY**

Mon., Oct. 15: The Greater Caribbean  
Wed., Oct. 17: Atlantic Slavery and Mercantilist policy  
Fri., Oct. 19: Refining America: A Consumer Revolution

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**THEME II: HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION**

WEEK FIVE: THE BRITISH EMPIRE

READING: *American Promise*,  
           ch. 5 (pp. 122-end); ch. 6 (to p. 142)  
           Akers, pp. 19-34

DOCUMENTS: Unit V.

Mon.,       Oct. 22: The Great Awakening  
 Wed.,       Oct. 24: The Politics of Empire  
 Fri.,       Oct. 26: The Stamp Act Crisis

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WEEK SIX: CONSTRUCTING A REVOLUTION

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 6 (pp. 142-end), ch. 7  
           Akers, pp. 35-67

DOCUMENTS: Unit VI.

Mon.,       Oct. 29: Building a Tax Revolt  
 Wed.,       Oct. 31: Waging War  
 Fri.,       Nov. 2: The World Turned Upside Down

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WEEK SEVEN: THE EARLY REPUBLIC

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 8.  
           Akers, pp. 69-142.  
           Egerton, pp. 3-17.

DOCUMENTS: Unit VII

Mon.,       Nov. 5: The Paradoxes of War  
 Wed.,       Nov. 7: An End to Patriarchy?  
 Fri.,       Nov. 9: Confederation to Constitution

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**THEME III: HISTORICAL MEMORY AND MEANING**

WEEK EIGHT: BUILDING A NATION

READING: *American Promise*, ch. 9.  
           Akers, pp. 143-199.  
           Egerton, pp. 18-33.

DOCUMENTS: Unit VIII

Mon.,       Nov. 12: **UCSB HOLIDAY--NO CLASS**  
 Wed.,       Nov. 14: Declarations of Independence  
**NB: PAPER #2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS FRIDAY**  
 Fri.,       Nov. 16: A New Political System

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WEEK NINE: MYTH, MEMORY, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

READING: *American Promise*, no assignment.

Akers, no assignment.

Egerton, pp. 34-115

DOCUMENTS: Unit IX.

**NB: ALL SECTIONS EXCEPT HONORS CANCELLED THIS WEEK**

Mon., Nov. 19: The Cult of Washington

Wed., Nov. 21: Rethinking Thanksgiving

Fri., Nov. 23: **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY--NO CLASS**

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WEEK TEN: AN EXPANSIVE NATION

READING: ch. 10; ch. 11 (to p. 264);

Akers, pp. 201-219.

Egerton, pp. 119-178.

Review quarter.

DOCUMENTS: Unit X

Mon., Nov. 26: Pacific Expansion

Wed., Nov. 28: Tecumseh, Jackson, and the Creeks

Fri., Nov. 30: New Markets and Industry

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WEEK ELEVEN: SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

READING: Review the quarter.

DOCUMENTS: Unit XI.

Mon., Dec. 3: Tocqueville's America

Wed., Dec. 5: Exam Review Session

**FINAL EXAM:**

**Saturday, Dec. 8, 8-11 am, Campbell Hall Theater**