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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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.


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
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
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
Fri., Oct. 26: The Stamp Act Crisis

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

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

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
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
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
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