

History of the United States, 1492 – 1865

HIST 200

Spring 2024

Dr. Joseph C. Thompson

Contact information

- Email – joe.thompson@montgomerycollege.edu
- Office – Room HS 108, Germantown campus
- Telephone – 240-567-7751
- Website – historyprofessorjoe.com

Class Meeting schedule – 10:00 am to 10:50 am

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday – room HS 167, Germantown campus

Office Hours

- Monday: 1 pm to 3 pm
- Tuesday: 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
- Wednesday: 1 pm to 2 pm
- Thursday: 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
- Friday: By appointment

Textbook:

- H.W. Brands, et. al., *American Stories: A History of the United States*, volume 1 (Fourth edition).

My Website:

On my website, historyprofessorjoe.com, you will find links to handouts, primary sources, maps, and graphs that I reference in my lectures, and links to Amazon for those of you who want to buy your books online. The site also includes practice quizzes that are designed to help students prepare for the midterm and final exams. Each quiz covers a single chapter of the textbook – they do not cover the material from my in-class lectures. The answers can be found in the textbook.

Gen. Ed. Statement:

HIST 200 fulfills a General Education Program Humanities Distribution requirement. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and personal lives. This course offers multiple opportunities to develop two or more of the following competencies: written and oral communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and reasoning, technological competency, and information literacy. For more information, please see www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened

Course Description and Objectives:

This course covers a variety of topics: from European exploration, settlement, and culture in the British North American colonies to the movement for independence and constitutional government. We will see how the new nation conducted its foreign policy and how it moved toward a more democratic and egalitarian society. Students will be introduced to the social, cultural, and intellectual trends in the new republic as well as the consequences of Western expansion, economic development, and how the conflict over slavery brought the nation to civil war. In addition to learning the facts of the past, students will learn how to express ideas about historical change in an intelligent, lucid, and analytical manner. They will learn to critically analyze data and to differentiate between that which can be supported by objective evidence and that which cannot.

Outcomes:

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast indigenous and European societies and cultures.
- Describe the processes of conquest and colonization in the 'New World.'
- Trace the evolution of slavery and other labor systems as increasingly contentious political issues.
- Explain the factors and ideas leading to American independence and the formation of the United States.
- Explicate the various causes and consequences of national expansion, sectionalism, and the Civil War.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is optional. You will not be penalized for absences; experience tells me that you penalize yourself if you do not attend class. However, I do not share my lecture notes or post my PowerPoint presentations, so I encourage you to confer with your fellow classmates about any information you missed.

Classroom Conduct:

We follow the normal rules of civility in this classroom. That simply means that we should be respectful of other people and their opinions, and pay attention to the lectures. Also, no CELL PHONES or TEXT MESSAGING during the lecture. – (parents and other care givers are exempt from this rule).

Laptop Policy:

I do not allow the use of laptops or any other electronic devices in my classroom. – Students who can provide documentation from Montgomery College that allows the use laptops for note-taking are exempt from this rule. Students who do use laptops MUST sit in the front of the room.

Extra-credit Projects:

I do not accept extra-credit projects. The requirements for this course have been clearly laid out in this syllabus.

Exams:

The Midterm Exam: Students will have one hour to answer fifty multiple choice questions on the midterm exam. The exam will be taken on Blackboard. It will be take place at the approximate midpoint in the semester and will be available over the span of five days. The exact dates will be announced in class, in Blackboard, and via email. **I do not allow makeup exams.**

The Final Exam: Students will have two hours to answer one hundred multiple choice questions on the final exam. The final exam is NOT comprehensive. The final exam will be taken on Blackboard and will be available throughout finals week. **I do not allow makeup exams.**

Writing Assignments:

Writing Assignments:

Over the course of the semester you will be required to write three (3) short reaction papers to primary source documents that have been posted on Blackboard under the tab “Documents.” Primary sources are materials that provide us with an individual’s personal perspective of history. These are first-hand accounts that contain crucial information about the past to help historians achieve a developed understanding of historical events. Each assigned document will include questions to help you evaluate the primary source. After reading the assigned primary sources, you will be write a brief essay that (1) summarizes the document and (2) answers the questions provided. Your goal is to write a detailed summary of the document so that it can be completely understood by someone who has not read the document, and to write well-supported responses to the questions based on the facts you have learned about the topic. The first paper is worth a maximum of 10 points, the second and third papers are worth a maximum of 20 points each.

Due Dates: The writing assignments are due:

- Paper 1 – *On the Customs and Beliefs of the Hurons* – **Friday, March 1**
- Paper 2 – Jefferson’s *Notes on the States of Virginia* – **Monday, April 1**
- Paper 3 – Stephens, *The Cornerstone Address* – **Friday, May 3**

In order for a paper to be considered “on time” it must be send before 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

General Guidelines for the Papers: Writing assignment will be submitted electronically on Blackboard under the tab "Submit Writing Assignments." Papers must be free from spelling, typographic, and grammatical errors. I recommend that each paper be between 750 and 1000 words. This is only a recommendation. There is no minimum number of words. Instead you should let the material determine the length of your paper.

Late papers: In order for a paper to be considered “on time” it must be send before 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Students will be penalized one point for every day their paper is late. I will NOT accept any late papers after I begin grading the papers that were turned in on time.

Plagiarism: Any hint of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for this assignment!! Take the plagiarism tutorial on my website if you have any doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism. All papers will be subjected to a plagiarism analysis on Safe Assign, an online service that allows educators to check students' work for improper citation or potential plagiarism by comparing it against continuously updated databases. Please see me if you have any questions about academic dishonesty.

Grading Scale

Assignment – Possible Points

- First Paper, 10 points
- Second Paper, 20 points
- Third Paper, 20 points
- Midterm Exam, 50 points
- Final Exam, 100 points
- **Total possible points, 200**

Final Grades will be determined by the following scale

- A = 200 -180 points
- B = 179 -160 points
- C = 159 -140 points
- D = 139 -120 points
- F = Less than 120 points

My grading policy is firm. The exams are open book and open notes, so I will not negotiate with students for a higher grade, even if you are one or two points shy of a higher grade. All grades will be posted on this Blackboard site.

Withdrawal Policy:

Should you decide to withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to complete all necessary paperwork. Check My MC for key withdrawal dates (i.e., last day to drop and receive refund, last day to drop with no grade or to change to the audit/credit option, and last day to drop with a “W”).

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct. You will receive a grade of zero on any assignment or exam where you have cheated or where you have plagiarized the majority of your work. Any plagiarism serious enough to warrant a zero will also be reported to the Dean of Student Development. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism or cheating, ask me before the assignment is due. I strongly encourage you to take the MC Library's Plagiarism Tutorial – www.montgomerycollege.edu/library/plagiarismintro.htm.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- Turning in someone else's work as your own
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Important Student Information Links:

In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see links below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The links below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to student behavior, student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College Alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions, please bring them to your professor. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies. <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/_documents/admissions-registration/student-code-of-conduct.pdf

Lecture, Reading, and Exam Schedule:

Part One:

1. “Europe in 1492” – read chapter one
2. “The Spanish Conquest” – read chapter one
3. “England in 1607” – read chapters one and two
4. “English Settlements” – read chapters two and three
5. “Natives, Servants, and Slaves” – read chapters one, two and three
6. “Colonial America” – read chapter three
7. “Breaking the Bonds of Empire” – read chapter four
8. “The American Revolution” – read chapter five
9. “The Birth of the Republic” – read chapter six

Midterm Exam – covers lectures 1 thru 9 and chapters 1 thru 6

Part Two:

10. “Securing the Republic” – read chapter seven
11. “Jeffersonian America” – read chapter eight
12. “The Market Revolution” – read chapter nine
13. “The Antebellum South” – read chapter eleven
14. “The Rise of Democracy” – read chapter ten
15. “Revival and Reform” – read chapter twelve
16. “Destiny and Division” – read chapters thirteen and fourteen
17. “The Triumph of Sectionalism” – read chapter fourteen
18. “The Drift to War” – read chapter fourteen
19. “The Civil War” – read chapter fifteen

The Final Exam – covers lectures 10 thru 19 and chapters 7 thru 15