



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American History to 1877 - Section
Syllabus AMH 2010 – W1000
Spring 2025, Session A

Instructor: Dr. Nicky Gotschall
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Final Exam Date: TBD
Last Date of Drop/Add: January 16, 2025
Last Date for Student to Withdraw: April 7, 2025

Course Description: A survey of the history of the American experience from the Colonial period to 1877. Emphasizes the development and adoption of the Constitution, the major events resulting in the democratization of American society, the sectional struggle over the nature of America's destiny, and the Reconstruction Era.

Class Meeting Time: 8:00-9:15; Tuesday & Thursday
Class Location: Warrington Campus; Building 3200 Room 3205
Credits: 3 cc

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENC 1101C.
Offered: FA, SP, SU.
Distribution: Meets AA General Education, Social Sciences requirement. A writing emphasis course.

Required Textbook: *America: A Narrative History; Volume 2*; David Shi; 9780393543360; 12th; Norton; 2022

Instructional Materials: Located in Canvas

Special Requirements:

- **Writing Emphasis Requirement:** A minimum of three fully developed, multi-paragraph, evaluated writing assignments, not including a final examination, are required.

- Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for each evaluated writing assignment.
- Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before submission of the next evaluated writing assignment.
- Writing Emphasis Requirement: Only individual student work may count toward the minimum three evaluated writing assignments.
- Writing Emphasis Requirement: Grading rubrics will be used for each evaluated writing assignment. These rubrics will be shared with each student.
- Writing Emphasis Requirement: The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

Grading Calculation	
Attendance	10%
Class Projects	20%
Module Quizzes	10%
Critical Thinking Essays	30%
Mid-Term Project	15%
Final Exam	15%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

Method of Evaluation:

Class Projects:

- Throughout the semester, students will complete individual and group projects that align to the study of American history.
- The objective of each project will be introduced in class. Project objectives, including a rubric, will also be provided in Canvas.
- Each project will be evaluated on content, creativity, teamwork and collaboration, and composition; some projects will include peer-evaluations.
- Class Projects, if requiring a group presentation, may not be made up due to absence from class.
- The Class Projects will make up 20% of your final grade.

Module Quizzes:

- There will be a quiz in each Module of our course to provide formative (immediate) assessment.

- (Mid-Term week and Final Exam week we will not have a Module quiz.)
- Each quiz will cover the information from the textbook reading and provided lectures of the specific Module.
- Each quiz may only be accessed once and must be completed within the 60-minute time limit.
- Each quiz has a recommended due date (which is after we are scheduled to complete the Module) and a required due date. See the Module Introduction/Objectives/Assignment for the quiz dates.
- The Module Quizzes are each worth 20 points and are 10% of your final grade.

Mid-Term Project:

- There will be a Mid-Term Project in our course. This project will be completed in small groups (4-5 individuals).
- Each group will choose the subject of the project and the deliverable for the presentation.
 - A list of options will be provided.
- Each group's Mid-Term Projects must be submitted to Canvas by 11:59 on Wednesday, October 8.
- Each group will present their Mid-Term Project on Thursday, October 9.
- The Mid-Term Project will have a point value of 100 points and is worth 15% of your final grade.

Final Exam:

- The Final Exam will be based on the required readings, classroom discussions and lectures, and any additional material provided. The exam will comprise of objective questions and short essay questions.
- The Final Exam is not cumulative and will include eras covered after the Mid-Term Project.
- Final Exam: Thursday, December 12 @ 8:00—10:00 (in class)
- The Final Exam will have a point value of 100 points and is worth 15% of your final grade.

Critical Analysis Essays:

- There will be three critical analysis essays in our course.
- The topic and additional instructions for each essay are provided in our course.
 - Essay #1: Due 11:59pm on Sunday, September 1.
 - Essay #2: Due 11:59pm on Sunday, October 27.
 - Essay #3: Due 11:59pm on Tuesday, November 26.
- Each Critical Analysis Essay will have a point value of 100 points.
- The Critical Analysis Essays are worth 30% of your final grade.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;

6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

- **Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.
- **Communication:** The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.
- **Cultural Literacy:** The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture and its diversity.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the key events leading to the colonization of North America, the formation of the United States, the growth of the new republic, and the advent of the Civil War;
2. Identify the individuals, groups, and various people who were instrumental in the formation and growth of this country from the Age of Discovery period to the Reconstruction era;
3. Trace the ideas, forces, and movements which birthed the independence of the United States, created the U.S. Constitution, and forged the country's growth from the colonial period to Reconstruction;
4. Analyze the problems the colonists and the young republic experienced in gaining independence, creating a constitutional government, responding to the Industrial Revolution, taking part in western expansion, and attempting to deal with the crisis of the Civil War;
5. Critically evaluate and compare the key events from this period in American history, especially as it relates to cause and effect, and apply those lessons learned; and
6. Communicate, using critical thinking skills, the key events and players in this formational period in American history.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, use of AI, and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details:

<https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/Catalog/Student-Handbook/Student-Responsibilities/Plagiarism-and-Academic-Cheating>

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Equity Statement:

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director, Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

Class Policies:

Code of Conduct and Classroom Civility:

This class will be conducted under the regulations defined in the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct in the College Catalog. A positive and engaging classroom environment is expected. Class disruptions could result in a student being asked to leave the class.

Class Attendance:

Regular and punctual attendance is required. Consistent class attendance and participation are significant factors that help promote student academic success. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. Because our class will include active involvement in the instruction, student attendance will make up 10% of your final course grade. Your attendance grade can be viewed at any time in Canvas.

Makeup work:

Within this course, it is expected of all students to complete the various assignments on time, fulfilling the requirements of the specific assignment. If there is a medical/family emergency, please feel welcome to contact me to discuss the possibility of completing missed assignments.

Late work:

The Class Projects, Weekly Quizzes, Mid-Term Project, and Final Exam may not be submitted late.

The Critical Analysis Essays, if turned in late, may have 5 (five) points deducted from its final grade for every one day that it is late.