

HIST 205: Early America

South Hall, Room 105

Dr. Christine Myers

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Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 1:00-3:00
Thursday 12:00-2:00
& by appointment

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Office Hours

Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30
& Fridays from 9:00-10:00

Course Aims & Objectives

According to the *Undergraduate Catalog*, students will come to understand “Selected constitutional, intellectual, political and social developments that defined and shaped America between its first European settlement and the end of Reconstruction.” Along with giving students a basic understanding of the events of Early America, connections will also be made to modern institutions, events, and ideas. By the end of the course, students will also be able to interpret historical documents as a way of helping to understand modern ideologies and conflicts.

Required Reading

★ Students must access daily readings at the course webpage...

<http://personal.bgsu.edu/~cdmyers/205/205.htm>

★ The readings for your papers will be available on e-Reserve, but if you prefer to purchase a copy of the book they come from – *History Lessons* – you may do so at the University Bookstore.

Evaluation & Class Participation

- ★ Quizzes (the lowest grade of five will be dropped) – 10% each
- ★ *History Lessons* Papers – 15% each (due Friday 2 March and Friday 13 April)
- ★ Final Exam – 30% (part will be the format of a quiz, based on the last set of readings from the semester, while the remaining portion will be cumulative essay questions...more details to follow.)

Without question you should be in class every day, ready to learn. If you miss class, it is *your responsibility* to make up the missed work. You should politely asking a classmate if you can HAND-COPY their notes (do not forget to say thank you!). Additionally, you should set up a time to go over missed material with Dr. Myers at the earliest possible opportunity. Although no portion of your course grade is allotted to participation, the more you discuss the information you are learning, the better you will learn it. To encourage positive contributions to class discussions, you should know that I use participation to boost borderline grades at the end of the semester. Also note: All assignments must be completed for you to earn a passing grade in this course and you must pass the Final Exam as well.

Missed Quizzes

Since all assignments must be completed for you to earn a passing grade in this course, you must make up any quiz that you miss during the semester. You will lose 10% (or 5 pts.) if you do not take it at the scheduled time, and an additional 5 pts. each day after that. If you know you will miss a quiz, you should arrange a time to take it early. If you have an excused absence on the day of a quiz (with official documentation), then the deductions will not begin until after the end of the excused absence.

Late Papers

As with missing quizzes, papers that are turned in late will lose 10% per day. In this course your papers are due at 5:00 p.m., so as of 5:01 p.m. they are considered late, and 10 pts. will be deducted from them. You may hand papers in early, or via e-mail, or in person at Dr. Myers' office in Williams Hall.

Grading Scale

A (100%-90%), defined as “excellent” at BGSU...A students go above and beyond what is asked of them.
B (89.99%-80%), defined as “good” at BGSU...B students have a good grasp of all the required material.
C (79.99%-70%), defined as “acceptable” at BGSU...C students generally know what is going on.
D (69.99%-60%), defined as “poor but passing” at BGSU...D students either struggle w/concepts or writing.
F (below 60%), defined as “failure” everywhere...students only fail my courses if they do not complete assignments/exams, or do not follow the directions they are given on those assignments/exams.

History Department Learning Outcomes for 200-level courses

Students will:

- i. learn about the historical development of their own and other cultures.
- ii. learn how to think about the past historically by identifying and critiquing historical interpretations and analyzing issues in historical context
- iii. learn to select and use evidence from a variety of sources, including primary sources.
- iv. enhance their ability to communicate clearly and persuasively, both orally and in writing.
- v. improve their ability to recognize and develop connections between historical issues and life outside the classroom.
- vi. improve their ability to think critically and argue effectively.
- vii. enhance their ability to examine current issues from a historical perspective.

Instructor Responsibilities:

- i. Select and present course content.
- ii. Identify themes to be emphasized.
- iii. Evaluate student historical understanding and skills.
- iv. Communicate these evaluations to students in a timely manner.
- v. Assist students in improving their skills.

Student Responsibilities

- i. Complete required readings.
- ii. Attend class regularly.
- iii. Participate in class activities and discussions.
- iv. Communicate with instructor (using office hours, e-mail, telephone during office hours).
- v. Complete of assignments on time.
- vi. Notify instructor of any disabilities in a timely manner.

Extra Credit Options (due by Friday 6 April 2007)

Because every quiz you take may not go as well as you would like it to, I am offering an extra credit option to you to make up for less than satisfactory quiz grades. You may do ONE or TWO papers, each of which can be used to replace your lowest quiz(zes). You may not, however, use a paper to replace a missed quiz (you will need to take a make-up quiz).

For each paper you choose to write you must do the following:

1. Watch a feature film that has been selected for this course (see below).
2. Read the accompanying documents, which you can get from Dr. Myers during office hours.
3. Be sure to follow the citation guide for referencing sources you use.
4. Compare and contrast the film to the documents. This is **NOT** about historical accuracy, instead I am asking you to determine what the film teaches viewers about the topic, and how documents can be used to enhance that understanding of events.
5. Papers should be no less than 800 words and no more than 1200 words in length (which will make them between 3-5 pages long). Papers should be typed, double spaced, and in 12 pt. font. And be sure to follow the guidelines for writing papers found at the course webpage.
6. Papers will be graded on coherence (does it make sense), writing style (good grammar? typos?), and on how clearly you are able to connect the film to the readings.

The selected films, which will be placed on RESERVE at the Library: *Amistad*, *The Crucible*, *Little Women*, *The Mark of Zorro*.

!!! Important Notes !!!

- ★ Please silence all cell phones before class starts, and leave them in your bag/coat/purse...so no text messaging at any time either!
- ★ You may not use headphones or recording devices of any type, for any reason.
- ★ Students at BGSU are all required to read and abide by the Student Code of Conduct (available online at www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/judicial/code.html), and should pay special attention to the items dealing with Academic Honesty and violations thereof, listed below (*with my comments following each*):
 1. **Cheating** – Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work more than once without permission; or using another person as a substitute to take an examination or quiz. (*This includes sources found on the internet, in newspapers, magazines, on TV, in movies, etc.*)
 2. **Forgery** – Altering a score, grade, schedule change form or academic record; forging an instructor's or another student's signature. (*Since attendance is not required in class, there is no reason for you to even consider signing in for someone, so just don't do it.*)
 3. **Bribery/Threats** – Offering a bribe or making a threat or coercion related to a grade or an academic exercise. (*Self-explanatory.*)
 4. **Fabrication** – Falsification or invention of any information, data, research or citation in an academic exercise. (*Generally it would take you more time and effort to do this while writing a paper, and research and citations are not as bothersome as you might think.*)
 5. **Plagiarism** – Representing as one's own in any academic exercise the words or ideas of another including but not limited to quoting or paraphrasing without proper citation. (*You will get a citation guide with your paper assignment that you should be able to follow easily. If you have any questions about how to cite a source at anytime, be sure to ask!*)
 6. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** – Helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty. (*This includes not stopping someone from looking at your test papers, so make sure that you, and those around you keep your eyes on your own exam.*)
- ★ All instructors at BGSU are required to notify the Dean of any cases of Academic Dishonesty, and repeat offenders will be suspended from the University.
- ★ Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is asked to speak with Dr. Myers during the first two weeks of class.

Class Schedule...the readings listed are those you should have read *for that day's class!*

Quiz format...Gobbets

Gobbets are sections of text that you will be given from each of the documents we read during the semester. On each quiz you will be required to comment on 5 of the 10 documents for that part of the course. For each document you will need to know **who wrote it** (1 pt. for name, which must be spelled correctly), the **context, motivation, and consequences** of the document (6 pts. total), and you will also need to discuss **the quote itself** (3 pts.).

Date	Topics to be covered	Readings & Assignments
Monday 8 Jan 07	Introduction	
Wednesday 10 Jan 07	Exploration & Conquest	Letter to the King and Queen of Spain (1494) <i>Discourse of Western Planting</i> (1584)
Friday 12 Jan 07	Early Settlements	Instructions for the Virginia Colony (1606) <i>Mayflower Compact</i> (1620)
Monday 15 Jan 07	No class...	...Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wednesday 17 Jan 07	Establishing Communities	The Maryland Toleration Act (1649) The First Thanksgiving Proclamation (June 20, 1676)
Friday 19 Jan 07	Indentured Servants & Immigration	Laws on Indentured Servants (1600s) Scottish Immigration to the American Colonies (1772)
Monday 22 Jan 07	Understanding Slavery	The Middle Passage, excerpt from <i>The Interesting Narrative of Gustavus Vassa</i> (1789) <i>Virginia Gazette</i> advertisement about a Runaway Slave (1769)
Wednesday 24 Jan 07	Quiz #1	

Friday 26 Jan 07	The French & Indian War	The Role of the Indians in the Rivalry Between France, Spain, and England (1761) Resolutions of the Stamp Act (1765)
Monday 29 Jan 07	Life in Colonial America	<i>Customary Education and Employment of the Inhabitants of Nantucket</i> (1782) <i>How I Became a Printer in Philadelphia</i> (1788)
Wednesday 31 Jan 07	Revolutionary Ideas	“Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death” (1775) <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> (1776)
Friday 2 Feb 07	The Revolutionary War	Recruiting and Maintaining an Army (1776) “From the Diary of a Surgeon at Valley Forge” (1777)
Monday 5 Feb 07	Writing the Constitution	The Preamble & Article VI of the <i>Constitution</i> (1787) <i>The Bill of Rights</i> (1789)
Wednesday 7 Feb 07	Quiz #2	
Friday 9 Feb 07	The Louisiana Purchase	The Treaty of San Ildefonso (1800) Second Inaugural Address (1805)
Monday 12 Feb 07	The War of 1812	State of the Nation Address (1812) <i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> (1814)
Wednesday 14 Feb 07	Life in Ohio	Love Knot Valentine (c. 1815) John Yancy Land Grant (1819)

Friday 16 Feb 07	U.S. Foreign Policy	The Monroe Doctrine (1823) The Barbary Treaties (1824)
Monday 19 Feb 07	Westward Expansion	"Manifest Destiny" (1839) Preface to <i>The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California</i> (1845)
Wednesday 21 Feb 07	Quiz #3	
Friday 23 Feb 07	Discuss <i>History Lessons</i>	Chapter 8: The War of 1812
Monday 26 Feb 07	Discuss <i>History Lessons</i>	Chapter 9: The Monroe Doctrine
Wednesday 28 Feb 07	Discuss <i>History Lessons</i>	Chapter 10: Manifest Destiny
Friday 2 Mar 07	No class...	First paper due by 5:00 p.m.
Mon-Fri 5-9 Mar 07	No class...	... Spring Break!!!
Monday 12 Mar 07	The Industrial Revolution (Invention)	Cotton Gin Petition (1793) Letter to President George Washington (1797)
Wednesday 14 Mar 07	The Industrial Revolution (Workers)	The Inland Port (1835) Lowell Mill Girls (1833)
Friday 16 Mar 07	Romanticism & Transcendentalism	Self-Reliance (1841) "What is Beauty?" (1843)

Monday 19 Mar 07	Women's Rights	<i>Declaration of Sentiments</i> (1848) "Ain't I A Woman?" (1851)
Wednesday 21 Mar 07	Debates over Slavery	The Life of Plantation Field Hands (1857) Excerpt from <i>Cotton is King</i> (1860)
Friday 23 Mar 07	Quiz #4	
Monday 26 Mar 07	The American Civil War (Rallying Support)	Cornerstone Address (1861) <i>The Battle Hymn of the Republic</i> (1862)
Wednesday 28 Mar 07	The American Civil War (Legislative Solutions)	The Homestead Act (1862) The Morrill Act (1862)
Friday 30 Mar 07	The American Civil War (Legislative Solutions)	The Pacific Railway Act (1862) The Anti-Coolie Act (1862)
Monday 2 Apr 07	The American Civil War (Famous Men)	The Gettysburg Address (1863) Farewell to his Army (1865)
Wednesday 4 Apr 07	The American Civil War (Notable Women)	Letter to Mrs. Bixby (1864) The Women Who Went to the Field (1892)
Friday 6 Apr 07	Quiz #5	And Extra Credit Papers due by 5:00 p.m.
Monday 9 Apr 07	Discuss <i>History Lessons</i>	Chapter 12: Slavery
Wednesday 11 Apr 07	Discuss <i>History Lessons</i>	Chapter 13: The Civil War

Friday 13 Apr 07	No class...	...Second paper due by 5:00 p.m.
Monday 16 Apr 07	The American Civil War (The Issue of Slavery)	Emancipation Proclamation (1863) Special Field Order No. 15 (1865)
Wednesday 18 Apr 07	Reconstruction	A Freedman's Bureau Official on the Attitude of ex-Confederates toward the former slaves... (1865) An address to the Loyal Citizens and Congress of the United States of America... (1865)
Friday 20 Apr 07	Amending the Constitution	The Fourteenth Amendment (Ratified 1868) The Fifteenth Amendment (Ratified 1870)
Monday 23 Apr 07	U.S. Citizenship	Women's Right to Vote (1873) Civil Rights Act (1875)
Wednesday 25 Apr 07	Emergence of Modern America	Second Inaugural Address (1873) Diary of the Centennial Exhibition (1876)
Friday 27 Apr 07	Review Day	
Monday 30 Apr 07	Final Exam for 11:30 Section	
Wednesday 2 May 07	Final Exam for 10:30 Section	