

History 146 Colonial American History

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Office hour: T/Th 5:30-7 pm, Fri. 11-12, or by appointment

Note

In the online environment, the calendar and homepage are the most convenient and clear ways to convey information and set due dates for tasks. Be sure to consult both on a daily basis.

Texts

The Course

Colonial American history is a narrative survey of political, economic, social, and political developments shaping the U.S. from the settlement of North America by Europeans to the writing of the Constitution. The course will seek to highlight emerging ideas, and pressures in American life that led to political, economic, and social changes. The nature of colonial life, the development of slavery, North American participation in the trans-Atlantic economy, the growth of regions and regional identity, and the nature of colonial governance will be explored.

Outcomes

This college history course helps to teach students narrative, analysis, explanation of data, and description. It is necessary to deal with very large data sets that require skills and techniques in order to organize and analyze data correctly and meaningfully. This course also imparts the need for accuracy both in a factual and narrative sense so that students will learn to be able to provide a credible time line of events, and understand the relationships between cause and effect as they operate in history. Students will be presented with term papers and exams; this will help them achieve competency in the expression of written ideas, and the need for both thought and editorial processes in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

This course imparts useful information concerning the history of the founding of the United States, its principal figures, major events, and the processes that led to our contemporary world. This will help students distinguish between fact and fiction, understand logical argument, detect bias, measure the difference between mere opinion and informed opinion, and gauge prejudice, both conscious and unconscious.

Students will understand how and why North America was colonized, and the nature of the colonial experience.

Students will understand the growth of slavery, and its place in colonial society.

Students will be familiar with the some of the major historiographical controversies and ideas that have driven contemporary investigation into the colonial period.

Students will become familiar with the kinds of evidence available for this period in American history, and how it can be evaluated.

Teaching Methods

This course is taught by lecture and discussion. Students are expected to have read all assignments in a timely fashion so that they are ready to express informed opinions, and engage in discussion.

Tasks

Students will write two term papers of three pages in length. They will be double-spaced, and employ a ten, eleven or twelve font. These essays will concern a group of documents from Weise and Ayers (see reading assignments in the calendar), and will be fully explained during the quarter. Other documents may be used only by specific prior approval of the instructor. Students will submit their papers as email attachments in Word format when presented to the tutorial. Any essay that plagiarizes in part or in whole will receive a failing grade, and it will be reported to the Academic Dean. Each essay each will represent 15% of the total course grade. They, with exams, will be graded on a scale of 100 points. No curve grading is employed. The due date for the paper is expressed in the calendar within Vista. Late papers will lose five points for every day late, including the day they are due. Essays may be turned in early for comment by the instructor, but without the penalty of a grade. Again, refer to the instructions on the homepage. A full explanation of the essay is posted on the course site, and should be read most carefully by students.

Each week, with the exception of the week of the mid-term, students will participate in a discussion based upon the documents or other materials assigned for that week. I will discard the single lowest discussion score before averaging for a grade. Thus, if you are unable to participate one week, it will not harm your average. The average of discussion grades will represent 20% of the total course grade.

Students will take a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term exam will cover the material up to the week in which it is offered. The final covers only the last half of the course, and also has a section that is comprehensive. Students will be offered study questions from which essay exam questions are selected. For the mid-term this section represents 70% of the examination grade. Additionally, the exam will also have a twenty-question, timed multiple-choice section. This part of the mid-term represents 30% of the total score. This component of the exams will be offered online as a timed quiz. Students will be given a week to complete the mid-term. The mid-term exam score represents 15% of the course grade. Additionally, all students must arrange to take a proctored final exam. This may be done at a distance or at BCC. Full instructions will be provided on the homepage. The final consists of essay questions (70% of the exam grade) answered without books or notes, and a timed, online quiz of thirty questions representing 25% of the final grade. The Distance Education office at BCC will proctor by arrangement, but this can be done at a local library or college. Also, the proctored exam will be offered from 5:30 to 7:30 on two nights (a student may choose which night to attend) during finals week. You must produce photo identification before being allowed to sit the final. If a student is unable to achieve a grade within 15 points of the mid-term, the instructor may then require a student to re-sit the mid-term as a proctored exam. If you are going to arrange a proctored exam at a distance, please note that it will take time for proctors to send exams to me, so please arrange appointments well in advance for this exam. The final represents 30% of the course grade. Full instructions and study questions will be provided on the homepage.

The final 5% of grades will be determined by five quizzes based upon chapters from the narrative text by Ayers, et al. These will be timed multiple-choice question quizzes, and be announced in advance. Study guides will also be made available on the homepage.

Grades

The grading scheme is as follows:

A=95-100%	C+=70-74%
A-=90-94%	C=65-69%
B+=85-89%	C-=60-64%
B=80-84%	D=50-59%
B-=75-79%	F=Below 50%

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is provided in full with all important due dates on the calendar within Vista. Please consult it often.