

History 2111 – Fall 2004
American History to 1865 – Ed Larson

This course surveys American history from European discovery through the Civil War – from about 1500 to 1865. As a large survey course, it is taught by one professor and 5 teaching assistants. Our goal is to help you learn American history. The following books are required:

1. Pauline Maier et al, *Inventing America*, vol. 1 (Norton, 2002).
2. Elliott Gorn et al, *Constructing the American Past*, vol. 1, 5th ed. (Longman, 2004).
3. Linda Brent, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

The course is divided into two historical units, with a midterm exam at the end of each of the units and a final exam covering the entire course. There also will be one mid-unit quiz and one take-home writing assignment during each unit. Each student is to work alone on the exams, quizzes, and writing assignments. Reading assignments for each lecture are listed below. Some classes will include discussions of selections from the Gorn and Brent books.

Unit 1 – Colonial America (to 1783)

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| Aug. | 19 | Course Introduction and European Background: Maier pp. 4-30 |
| | 24 | Native Americans and European Contact: Maier pp. 30-36; Gorn ch. 1, docs. 2-4 |
| | 26 | First English Settlement: Maier pp. 40-63; Gorn ch. 2, docs. 5-7
+ discussion of Gorn, ch. 4, doc. 1 |
| | 31 | Pilgrims and Puritans: Maier pp. 63-71; Gorn ch. 3, docs. 1 & 4
+ discussion of Gorn ch. 3, doc. 8 |
| Sept. | 2 | New England Established: Maier pp. 71-79; Gorn ch. 3, doc. 2 |
| | 7 | Filling in the Middle: Maier, pp. 82-91
+ Midterm Quiz 1 covering Maier chs. 1-2 |
| | 9 | Georgia and the Enlightenment: Maier, pp. 130-146 |
| | 14 | God and Mammon: Maier pp. 91-112 & 146-154; Gorn ch. 4, docs. 3-4 |
| | 16 | Colonial Institutions: Maier pp. 122-130; Gorn ch. 4, doc. 2
+ discussion of Brent, pp. 3-14; Writing Assignment 1 distributed in class |
| | 21 | A New People: review Maier pp. 116-122 & 157-70
+ disc. of Gorn ch. 4, doc. 5; Writing Assign't 1 (Gorn chs. 2-3) due in class |
| | 23 | Breaking the Bonds with Britain: Maier 156-187; Gorn ch. 5, doc. 3 |
| | 28 | Revolutionary War: Maier pp. 180-187; Gorn ch. 5, docs. 5 & 11
+ discussion of Gorn ch. 5, doc. 4 |
| | 30 | Wartime Politics: Maier pp. 196-224
+ discussion of Gorn ch. 5, doc. 12 |
| Oct. | 5 | Victory and Independence: Maier pp. 187-192 & 217-224 |
| | 7 | Midterm Exam covering Maier chs. 3-6; Gorn chs. 4 & 5; & Unit 1 lectures |

Unit 2 – Building a Nation (1783 - 1865)

- | | | |
|------|----|---|
| Oct. | 12 | Confederation & Chaos: Maier pp. 227-236 |
| | 14 | Framing the Constitution: Maier pp. 236-246; Gorn, ch. 6, docs. 1-3, 6, 7 |
| | 19 | The Federalist Republic: Maier pp. 250-280 |
| | 21 | Midterm Quiz 2 covering Maier chs. 7-8 |
| | 26 | Mr. Jefferson's Republic: Maier pp. 284-307 |

- Nov. 2 Southern Sectionalism: Maier pp. 374-390; Gorn ch. 8, doc. 5 & ch. 10, doc. 4
+ discussion of Brent, pp. 15-69
- 4 North and West: Maier pp 307-340 & 390-420; Gorn ch. 7, docs. 1-4
+ discussion of Gorn, ch. 10, doc. 6; Writing Assignment 2 distributed in class
- 9 Gen. Jackson's Democracy: Maier pp. 344-371
+ Writing Assignment 2 from Gorn chs. 7-9 due in class
- 11 Manifest Destiny: Maier pp. 436-62
- 16 A House Dividing: Maier pp. 420-432 & 466-485, Gorn ch. 11, docs. 6-7
+ discussion of Brent, pp. 69-96
- 18 Buchanan and Beyond: Maier pp. 485-494; Gorn ch. 11, doc. 5
+ discussion of Gorn, ch. 11, docs. 1 & 2
- 23 Southern Secession: Maier pp. 497-504; Gorn ch. 11, docs. 3-4
- 30 The Civil War: Maier pp. 504-533
+ discussion of Gorn, ch. 12, doc. 9
- Dec. 2 **Midterm Exam covering Maier chs. 9-16; Gorn chs. 6 & 10; & Unit 2 lectures**
- 9 Discussion of Brent, pp. 97-208 and course review
- 14 **Final Exam covering Maier, chs. 2, 5, 7-11, 14-16; Brent book; & all lectures**

The course grade will be based on a combination point, as follows:

2 Midterm Exams (up to 60 points each)	=	120 points
Final Exam (up to 70 points)	=	70 points
2 Writing Assignments (up to 30 points each)	=	60 points
2 Mid-unit quizzes (up to 25 points each)	=	<u>50</u> points
Maximum total points	=	300 points

Class attendance is expected every day and required for exams. Students should take their seats by 8:00 a.m. Those arriving after 8:05 a.m. should sit on the sides near the doors. Students may earn up to 10 bonus points for their contributions to the classroom discussion during discussion sessions. With a valid excuse (such as a documented illness) a student may make up ONE missed midterm exam or quiz with extra questions on the final exam. A second missed midterm exam will be counted as 0 points. The two writing assignments are done out of class and due during class on Sept.21 and Nov. 9. Two points will be deducted for each day that a writing assignment is late. The grading scale is as follows: A = 270 and above; B = 240-269; C = 210-239; D = 180-209; F = below 180. Each student will have an assigned TA. All questions about grades and grading should be asked to that TA, with appeals to the Lead TA, Robby Luckett. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.