

Fall 2009
George Gerdow
Office: LWH 4092

G-Gerdow@neiu.edu
Office Hours: Before and After Class
Phone: 442-5628(Main Campus)
442-4084 (El Centro)

HISTORY 214 U.S. History 1607-1877 (Section WL1)

History is the study of change over time, understanding how and why that change occurred, and its impact on past, present and future events. The purpose of this course is to provide a better understanding of the economic, political, geographical, social and cultural forces that shaped United States history. A daily discussion of current events will show how and why these forces continue to shape America today.

My goal in this class is not simply to give you facts, but to encourage you to critically assess themes to be discussed, which include: Native American culture before the European invasion, European efforts to control the continent, the struggle for Independence, creation of republican institutions, Westward Expansion and the War with Mexico, Slavery and the march to a Civil War, Reconstruction. How do we know about the past? We will examine those primary sources carefully. Though there are objective facts to history, such as the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, historians disagree as to why those events occurred. How are primary sources used to support a point of view? Therefore, I have assigned books that both give you facts and require you to analyze arguments based on those facts.

The required texts for this course are as follows:

Roarke, The American Promise. Vol.I: To 1877. Fourth Edition.

Johnson, Reading the American Past.

Rampolla, Pocket Guide to Writing in History.

Rand McNally, Atlas of American History.

Weeks, They Made Us Many Promises.

2 Blue(or Green) Books (Available at Beck's Bookstore)

The grade for this course will be based on the following:

Class Participation:	50 points (10%)
Map Quiz I:	50 points (10%)
Map Quiz II:	50 points (10%)
Paper:	150 points (30%)
Mid-Term Exam:	125 points (25%)
*Final Exam:	75 points (15%)

500-450 points: A 449-400: B 399-350: C 349-300: D 299 or less: F

*If you have done extra credit and have maintained an "A" average, you do not have to take the final exam!

The Mid-Term and Final will be essay exams. The paper is to be 4-6 double-spaced, typewritten pages in length. It will be based on They Made Us Many Promises. Specifics on the paper format appear later in this syllabus. Study guides will be handed out before all exams and quizzes. The final exam is not cumulative; it will cover material from where the mid-term left off.

Regular attendance is mandatory. Since I will be covering large chunks of material in my lectures, absences will result in a dramatic lack of continuity (you might also miss some good movies!). Class participation is encouraged, and will be graded. If you have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to call me or see me in my office.

Academic misconduct is any fraud or deception for the purpose of improving a grade. Cheating and plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the course and a referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. What is plagiarism? Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's own original work. This includes 1) paraphrasing another's

ideas or conclusions without acknowledgement; 2) listing of entire sentences, paragraphs, chapters, etc., from another's work; and 3) submission as one's work, any work prepared by another person or agency.

Tentative schedule of lectures, readings and exams:

August 29: America in 1492

Roarke, Chapter 1.

Johnson, Chapter 1.

September 5: The European Setting

Roarke, Chapter 2.

Johnson, Chapter 2.

September 12: The First Colonies

Roarke, Chapter 3.

Johnson, Chapter 3.

MAP QUIZ I ON SEPTEMBER 12!

SEPTEMBER 14: LAST DAY FOR A 90% CREDIT/REDUCTION OF TUITION AND FEES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF COURSES FROM THE FALL SEMESTER(LESS \$10.00 WITHDRAWAL FEE FOR A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL)

September 19: Colonial Consolidation and Growth

Roarke, Chpt. 4.

Johnson, Chpt. 4.

MAP QUIZ II ON SEPTEMBER 19!

September 26: Conflicts with France and England

Roarke, Chpt. 5.

Johnson, Chpt. 5.

SEPTEMBER 28: LAST DAY FOR A 50% CREDIT/REDUCTION OF TUITION AND FEES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF COURSES FROM THE FALL SEMESTER(LESS \$10.00 WITHDRAWAL FEE FOR A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL)

October 3: The War for Independence

Roarke, Chpt. 6.

Johnson, Chpt. 6.

MID-TERM ON OCTOBER 3!!

October 10: From Confederation to Constitution

Roarke, Chpt. 7.

Johnson, Chpt. 7.

October 17: Creating a Two-Party System

Roarke, Chpt. 8.

Johnson, Chpt. 8.

October 24: The War of 1812

Roarke, Chpt. 9.
Johnson, Chpt. 9.

OCTOBER 13: LAST DAY FOR A 25% CREDIT/REDUCTION OF TUITION AND FEES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF COURSES FROM THE FALL SEMESTER(LESS \$10.00 WITHDRAWAL FEE FOR A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL)

October 31: A New Nation in a New Century
Roarke, Chpt. 10.
Johnson, Chpt. 10.

PAPER DUE ON OCTOBER 31!!

November 7: Growing Pains
Roarke, Chpt. 11.
Johnson, Chpt. 11.

NOVEMBER 13: LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE OR COMPLETELY WITHDRAW

November 14: Manifesting our Destiny
Roarke, Chpt. 12.
Johnson, Chpt. 12.

November 21: The Antebellum South
Roarke, Chpt. 13.
Johnson, Chpt. 13.

NOVEMBER 21: LAST DAY TO TURN IN EXTRA CREDIT

December 5: Slavery and Secession
Roarke, Chpts. 14&15.
Johnson, Chpts. 14&15.

December 12: Civil War and Reconstruction
Roarke, Chpt. 16.
Johnson, Chpt. 16.

FINAL EXAM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12!!!

GUIDE FOR PAPER

This paper is to be based on the book They Made Us Many Promises. Based on the first six chapters, I want you to answer the following questions in 4-6 double-spaced, typewritten pages. Provide evidence for your answers, quoting directly from this book. I expect to see evidence from all six chapters!

1. Compare and contrast the treatment of Indians in Canada and Massachusetts by the French and English. What did each want from the Indians? What role did religion play? What were the similarities and differences in their impact on Indian societies?
2. Describe the French and English rivalry and its impact on Indians in a) The North b) Pennsylvania and c) The South. How did Indians decide who to support? After the defeat of the French, what were Indian relations with the English like?

3. How did Spain attempt to control its Southwest territories? How complete was that control? Which Indian nations were allies of the Spanish? Enemies? What was the Spanish impact on Indian culture and society? How did they compare to the English and French?
4. How did the U.S. justify taking Indian lands after 1783? Were these justifications valid? What goals did Indian assimilation serve for the U.S.? Why did assimilation cause Indians such turmoil? Why did pressure for Indian lands increase in the 1820s? How did Andrew Jackson respond?
5. Who did the Five Civilized Tribes support in the Civil War? Why? How did reservation life affect the Santee Sioux? What was the result? Why was there conflict with settlers in Colorado? How did it lead to the Sand Creek Massacre? What were the consequences of the Civil War for the Five Civilized Tribes? Santee Sioux? Cheyenne and Arapahoe?
6. Why was the United States interested in the Great Plains? Why was it so difficult for Plains Indians to unite in opposition to the U.S.? What factors made warfare so difficult on the plains? How did the fighting techniques differ for both sides? How was Indian resistance on the Great Plains finally ended?

If using extended quotes to support your answers, make sure they are single-spaced. If you are uncertain about using footnotes or quotes, consult the Pocket Guide to Writing in History.

If any of this is unclear, or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or come see me. This paper is due on **October 31, 2009**.

GUIDELINES FOR EXTRA CREDIT

EXTRA CREDIT is meant to encourage you to enhance your knowledge of this course outside of class time. Extra credit, which is worth a maximum of 25 points, involves writing a 1-2 page, double-spaced, typewritten paper based on a museum exhibit or other event that I have announced in class. You can do only one extra credit assignment per semester. If you do not do extra credit, you must take the final exam!

What to do? First, summarize the exhibit in 1-2 paragraphs. Next, compare it to the comparable theme we covered in class or in the textbooks. What are the similarities and differences: What have I discussed on that theme that was not covered in the exhibit? What did the exhibit include which I did not cover? Was there more detail on a given issue than I gave in class?

The last day I will accept extra credit is **November 21, 2009**. However, you can turn in this assignment anytime before this deadline.