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HIS 221 American History To 1865
Section B: 12:30-1:45, TTH, 2L05

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

Introduction to the class
Berkin Preface and chapters 1, 2, and 6

Week 2

Maier chapter 1
Berkin chapter 4, 5, and 9

Week 3

No Class Labor Day (September 1)
Maier chapter 2

Week 4

Berkin chapter 3
Maier chapter 3

Week 5

Maier chapter 4
Test 1

Week 6

Maier chapter 5 and 6

Week 7

Maier chapter 7
Assign book review
Berkin chapter 10, 11, and 12

Week 8

Maier chapter 8

Week 9

Maier chapter 9
Test 2

Week 10

Maier chapter 10 and 11

Week 11

Maier chapter 12
Assign research essay
Book review due
Berkin chapters 7 and 8

Week 12

Maier chapter 13
Test 3

Week 13

Maier chapter 14

Week 14

Maier chapter 15

Week 15

Maier chapter 16

Research paper due

No classes Nov. 26-28 for Thanksgiving

Week 16

Maier chapter 17

The Final Exam is Test 4 and will be held during the Final Exam Schedule:

Section B: December 9, 12:00-2:00

Scoring Weights:

The four exams are worth 10% **each**.

One historiographical essay is worth 20%.

The book review is worth 10%.

One in-class presentation is worth 10%.

In-class essays and homework assignments combined are worth 10%.

Class participation is worth 10%.

A=90% and above

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=59% and below

HIS 221
Fall 2003

Course Purpose and Materials

Each student must have:

Berkin, Carol and Betty S. Anderson. The History Handbook. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

Maier, Pauline, et al. Inventing America: A History of the United States. Vol. I. New York: W. W. Norton, 2003.

Course purposes: This class aims to improve the students' knowledge of the history and geography of the United States before 1865 while strengthening writing and critical thinking skills. Additional goals:

- a. Students will gain practice in critical reading.
- b. Students will analyze and evaluate events and their relationships with other events.
- c. Students will gain experience using primary and secondary historical material.
- d. Students will begin learning skills required for reading and comprehending scholarly material.
- e. Students will gain more experience in the use of the library and documenting primary and secondary source material.
- f. Students will work to increase vocabularies and word choice skills.
- g. Try to have fun. ☺

Course Requirements

Your course grade will be determined by your performance in four exams, periodic in-class writings and homework assignments, one book review, one presentation, and class participation. The four exams will be primarily short answer and essay but may include geographic identifications and will account for a total of 40% of the final grade. One researched historiographical essay will be worth 20%. The in-class essays and short homework assignments will be averaged for 10% of your final grade; one book review of three to five pages will be worth 10% of the course grade. Each student must give a presentation lasting approximately 7-10 minutes that will count for 10% of the final grade. The remaining 10%, class participation, will be based on your preparedness for class (which includes attendance, punctuality, and having reading and writing assignments done before class), and your contributions to class discussions.

Additional Information:

1. Minimum requirements are an important part of assignments. If assignments fail to meet the minimum requirements, including length (page numbers for written assignments or time for presentations) or citations, the student will receive a zero for the assignment. **Page minimums will be interpreted as FULL TEXT pages.** For written assignments, font size and style, letter spacing (kerning), margins, and line spacing will be considered when determining whether an essay meets minimum page requirements.
2. All in-class papers must be written in blue or black ink, unless otherwise noted. Out of class papers must be typed and in **Chicago format**—one inch margins (top, bottom, and both sides) and 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Information Chicago format is available in [A Student's Guide to History](#).
3. Late assignments will not be accepted unless **PRIOR** arrangements have been made. Students must complete the book review, presentation, and research project to pass the course.
4. Plagiarism “is the presentation of someone else’s ideas or words as your own. Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is a serious and often punishable offense.”¹ If you use someone else’s work without listing the origin, you have stolen intellectual property, and you have a plagiarized paper. Plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment.
5. **Attendance is required.** Any in-class assignments missed due to absence will be counted as failures unless prior arrangements have been made or an emergency exists. I

¹Jane E. Aaron, [The Little, Brown Essential Handbook for Writers](#), 3rd ed. (New York: Longman, 2000), 133.

reserve the right to make final determination as to whether unexpected absences constitute genuine emergencies. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before coming to class. Since this is a reading intensive course, I recommend reading a full week ahead of schedule.

6. Because of the nature of this course, some material may be offensive to some people. Reading material and discussions in this course are likely to include sex, violence, war, death, politics, religion, vulgar language, or other unwholesome subjects. Students who cannot discuss these matters with professional detachment should consider taking safer courses.