**US HISTORY 2201.02 (FALL 2024):**

**Syllabus and Course Information**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**COURSE NUMBER:** US History 2201.02

**SUBJECT:** US History: Origins to Reconstruction

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2024

**MEETING TIME:** MWF, 10-10:50 AM

**CLASSROOM: MW**: Building 15 (Library annex), Room 1808; **F**: [Online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** James Ciment

**BOOK:** Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History* (Seagull Edition), Volume 1, 7th edition

**WEBSITE:** Cimenthistory.com

**EMAIL:** [jdciment@cpp.edu](mailto:jdciment@cpp.edu)

**OFFICE NUMBER:** Building 94, Room 326 and Online

**OFFICE HOURS:** M (in person) [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/82156807268#success): 7:50-8:50 AM and in person and [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/89926051384#success): 11 AM-12 PM Online; W (in person and [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/81762426152#success) 7:50-8:50 AM; F ([online only](ttps://cpp.zoom.us/s/88536462605#success)) 11 AM-12 PM

**WEBSITE AND CANVAS**

Aside from our in-person classes on Mondays and Wednesdays (and my office hours on Monday and Wednesday mornings), this class is based in several online spaces.

1. Canvas: Announcements; Textbook; Syllabus; Writing and discussion assignments; Occasional quizzes and final exam; Grades
2. My website (cimenthistory.com): All non-textbook reading assignments (Click on 2201 button, then click on Course Materials button, then click on week you want, look for Required section on the top right. There are also a supplemental materials sections below for those of you interested in exploring the subject time period further but they are NOT required for the class.
3. Synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success) classes: Every Friday, except August 23 (which is in person)
4. Asynchronous classes: Wednesday, September 18; Monday, September 30; Wednesday, October 9; Wednesday, October 23; Wednesday, November 6; Wednesday, November 20 (see specific weeks under Course Schedule below for links)
5. Virtual office hours (see Office Hours above for links)
6. Email (in case you need to write to me personally; I check it daily)

**OVERVIEW**

This course will cover American history from the pre-European contact, or the Pre-Columbian era, through the Reconstruction period following the Civil War, roughly 1000 CE to 1877 CE.

While the course takes a more or less chronological approach, we will be tackling seven broad subject areas. Not necessarily in order of importance, they are:

Politics and Governance

Business and Labor

Diplomacy and War

Religion and Faith

Society and Culture

Race and Ethnicity

Gender Relations

The course is divided into 3 rough chronological periods:

Pre-Contact and Colonial America. Pre-History-1750s (Weeks 1-5)

Revolutionary and the Early Republic: 1750s-1840s (Weeks 6-10)

Antebellum and Civil War Eras: 1830s-1870s: (Weeks 11-15)

Some of the questions we will be asking and trying to answer in this course include:

Why are America’s racial relations so complicated and tortured?

What are the origins of American democracy?

What lies behind this country’s gender relations?

Why and how did America come to embrace capitalism and industrialization?

Why is America the most religious of all developed Western countries?

What are the origins of America’s relationship with the rest of the world?

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 0—INTRODUCTION TO COURSE**

**Lecture:** Friday, August 23 (asynchronous online)

**Reading:** This syllabus, plus familiarize yourself with the website, the textbook, and Canvas

**Writing and Discussion Assignment:** None  
**Topic:** Introduction to the course

**PART I: PRE-CONTACT AND COLONIAL AMERICA (Prehistoric-1750s)**

**WEEK 1--BRAVE NEW WORLD: PRE- AND POST-CONTACT AMERICAS, EUROPE AND WORLD (Pre-History to 1500s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, August 26 (in person), Wednesday, August 28 (in person); Friday, August 30 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Reading:** Text: Chapter 1: Old Worlds and New (in full)

**Writing and discussion assignment #1:** How Should We (Not) Remember Columbus? (Due: Midnight, Sunday, August 25)

**WEEK 2—BEYOND POCAHONTAS: SETTLEMENT AND EUROPEAN/NATIVE AMERICAN INTERACTION IN JAMESTOWN AND THE CHESAPEAKE (1600s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 2 (no class, Labor Day); Wednesday, September 4 (in person); Friday, September 6 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Pages 43-58, 62-64 (Chapter 2: European Colonies and Native Nations); Website: Exchange between John Smith and Powhatan

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #2**: Treaty between Native Americans and English at Jamestown (Due: Tuesday, September 1)

**WEEK 3—A CITY UPON A HILL: SETTLEMENT AND EUROPEAN/NATIVE AMERICAN INTERACTION IN NEW ENGLAND (1600s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 9 (in person); Wednesday, September 11 (in person); Friday, September 13 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Reading:** Text: Pages 64-87 (in Chapter 2: European Colonies and Native Nations)

**Website: Film:** The Pilgrims

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #3:** The Meaning of a “City Upon a Hill” (Due: Sunday, September 8)

**WEEK 4—SO ENORMOUS, SO DREADFUL: THE SLAVE TRADE AND THE ORIGINS OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA (1500s-1800s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 16 (in person); Wednesday, September 18 (Asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, September 20 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Pages 58-61 (in Chapter 2: European Colonies and Native Nations); 98-105 (in Chapter: Creating Anglo-America); 131-148 (in Chapter 4: Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire); Class Website: Olaudah Equiano on Slave Trade and Slavery

**PowerPoint and Discussion Assignment #4**: Timeline of the Slave Trade (Due: Sunday, September 15)

**PART II: REVOLUTION AND EARLY REPUBLIC (1750s-1840s)**

**WEEK 5—SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS: THE REVOLUTION (1750s-1780s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 23 (in person); Wednesday, September 25 (in person); Friday, September 27 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Pages 148-178 (in Chapter 4: Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire); Chapters 5: The American Revolution (in full); Chapter 6: The Revolution Within (in full); Preamble to Declaration of Independence (up to “To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world…”) [Go to textbook’s table of contents to find it]; Class Website: Tom Paine’s *Common Sense*

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #5:** The Common Sense of Tom Paine’s *Common Sense* (Due: Sunday, September 22)

**WEEK 6—WE THE PEOPLE: THE CONSTITUTION (1770s-1790s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, September 30 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Wednesday, October 2; Friday, October 4 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 7: Founding a Nation (in full); Bill of Rights, Amendments I-X, [Go to textbook’s table of contents to find it]; Class Website: Federalist #10; Patrick Henry’s Anti-Federalist Argument

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #6:** Bill of Rights and Patrick Henry’s Concerns OR Federalist #10 and Today’s Politics (Due: Sunday, September 29)

**WEEK 7—ERA OF THE COMMON (WHITE) MAN: THE RISE OF POPULAR DEMOCRACY (1800s-1840s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 7 (in person); Wednesday, October 9 (Asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, October 11(synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 10; Democracy in America (in full); Class Website: Andrew Jackson, Veto of Bank Bill; Appeal of Cherokee Nation

**Class Website Film:** Trail of Tears

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #7:** Democracy—the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 6)

**WEEK 8—IRON HORSES: THE COMMERCIAL, TRANSPORTATION, AND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS (1810s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 14 (in person); Wednesday, October 16 (in person); Friday, October 18: (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 9: The Market Revolution (in full)

Class Website: Complaint of a Lowell Factory Worker; Freedom and Necessity at Lowell

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #8:** Wage Slavery (Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 20)

**WEEK 9—A MORE PERFECT UNION: THE AGE OF REFORM (1820s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 21 (in person); Wednesday, October 23 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, October 25 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 12: An Age of Reform (in full); Website: Catherine Beecher on “Duty of American Females”; Angelina Grimké on Women’s Rights (both are in the same PDF document)

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #9:** A Cross-Gender Look at Women’s Rights (Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 20)

**PART III: ANTEBELLUM ERA AND CIVIL WAR (1820s-1870s)**

**WEEK 10—THE PECULIAR INSTITUTION: SLAVERY AND THE SOUTH (1800s-1850s)**

**Lectures:** Monday, October 28 (in person); Wednesday, October 30 (in person); Friday: November 1 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 11 (in full); Website: Rules of the Highland Plantation; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #10:** Slavery and Literacy (Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 27

**WEEK 11—MANIFEST DESTINY: WESTWARD EXPANSION**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 4 (in person); TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5: BE SURE TO VOTE!; Wednesday, November 6 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday; November 8 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Pages 478-490 (in Chapter 13: A House Divided); Website: Manifest Destiny

**Website: Film:** The Gold Rush

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #11:** The First Multi-Cultural Society: Gold Rush California (Due: Midnight, Sunday, November 3)

**WEEK 12—A HOUSE DIVIDED: SECTIONAL CONFLICT AND THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR**

**Lectures:** Monday, November 11 (no class, Veterans Day); Wednesday, November 13 (in person); Friday, November 15 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)); Monday, November 18 (in person)

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 13 (all sections not previously read in Week 11, though you might want to review what you already read); Website: William Seward’s Irrepressible Conflict; Alexander Stephens’ Cornerstone of the Confederacy; Lincoln-Douglas Debates

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #12:** Why the War Came (Due: Midnight, Sunday, November 10)

**WEEK 13—TO PURGE THIS LAND WITH BLOOD: THE CIVIL WAR**

**Lectures:** Wednesday, November 20 (Asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab) Friday, November 22 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)); Monday, November 25 (in person)

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 14 (in full); Website: Letter of a Civil War Soldier; Letter from a Mother of a Black Soldier; Defense of the Confederacy

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #13:** Making Sense of the Civil War (Due: Midnight, Tuesday, November 19)

**WEEK 14-15—A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM: RECONSTRUCTION**

**Lectures:** Wednesday, November 27 (in person); Friday, November 29 (no class, Thanksgiving); Monday, December 2 (in person); Wednesday, December 4 (in person); Friday: December 6 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

**Readings:** Text: Chapter 15 (in full); Website: Texas Black Code; Freedmen’s Petition

**Writing and Discussion Assignment #14:** Reconstruction Theater (Due: Tuesday, November 26)

**FINAL EXAM—**Friday, December 13, 9-10:50 AM (details to come)

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Readings:** You are expected to have all the readings and the writing/discussion assignment completed by midnight on Sundays (or Tuesdays, in late November and early December) before the week in question.

**Quizzes:** You are required to take a brief quiz after viewing each of the asynchronous online lectures; these will only be used to determine that you viewed the lecture. There will be no quizzes based on in person or synchronous online lectures.

**Writing and Discussion Assignments:** It is very important to complete the short assignments connected to each week’s readings (these will be available under the Assignments tab of Canvas), as this will be the basis for our discussions that week (I will be calling on people at random to present their assignments). Submit all assignments on Canvas by midnight on the Sunday prior to the first synchronous lecture for that week. So, for example, the week 2 assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, September 11.

REMEMBER: You must always be looking to the week ahead to see what is due that week. For example, if we are in week 1, you should be looking to week 2 to see what is due the next week.

**Longer Assignments for Each of the 3 Parts of the Course:** There will be 3 longer writing assignments related to the three parts of the course: Pre-Contact and Colonial America. Pre-History-1750s (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, September 29); Revolutionary and the Early Republic: 1750s-1840s (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, November 3); Antebellum and Civil War Eras: 1830s-1870s: (Paper due: Sunday, December 8); Details about the assignments to come. When ready, the assignments will be found under the Assignments tab on Canvas. Submit all assignments on Canvas.

**Final:** There will be an online final exam during finals week, from 9-10:50 AM on Friday, December 13. Details to come later in the semester. (Note: there is NO MID-TERM for this class.)

**GRADES**

**Weekly Assignments:** 25 percent of grade

**Quizzes (occasional for asynchronous lectures):** No Grade but one percent off grade for each one you miss)

**Papers:** Each is worth 15 percent of your grade, for a total of 45 percent

**Final Exam:** 30 percent of grade

**ABSENCE AND TARDY POLICY**

**Absences:** One unexcused absence, no penalty. Every absence after that counts for 2 points off your total grade score.

**Tardy Arrivals:** Two unexcused tardies, no penalty. Every tardy arrival after that counts for 1 point off your total grade score, so long as you arrive within 15 minutes of the beginning of class. After that, you will be marked as absent.