



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# HIS 102 American History to 1877

Fall 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course will explore the development of early America from 1492 through the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Particular attention will be devoted to examining the changing relationships between European, Native American, and African peoples as well as to the internal evolution of these diverse societies. Students will explore such topics as colonization and cultural interactions between Europeans and Indians, the rise of slavery, the American Revolution, the beginning of industrialization, westward expansion, and the Civil War. The goal of the class will be to determine how race, geography, gender, class, and culture created competing worlds in America prior to 1877.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. compare and contrast the cultural traditions, values and lifestyles of Europeans and native Americans that clashed in the early colonial period;
2. understand and engage with the main themes of colonial, Revolutionary, and 19th century American history;
3. analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information and arguments and make sound judgments about their use and application;
4. identify and explain the nineteenth century reform movements aimed at the eradication of social ills in American society.

## **PREREQUISITES**

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None



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
3 Research Papers	30 Points
Final Paper	20 Points
Quiz	10 Points
Midterm	15 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required Texts:

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present* (New York: Harper, 2010).

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Instructor will hand out the readings in the class.

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Overview of 1491 and English Colonization Topic 2: The Columbian Exchange and the Spanish Century Topic 3: The Fall of Tsenacommacah and the Founding of Virginia Topic 4: The Great Migration and the Founding of Colonial New England</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Discussion: Germ Warfare on the Colonial Frontier Research Paper #1</p>



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Constructing the First British Empire Topic 6: Great Awakening and Global War Topic 7: Imperial Reform and Colonial Resistance Topic 8: American Revolution <b>Assessments:</b> Discussion: The Decision for Independence Research Paper #2 Quiz #1
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: The Early Republic and the War of 1812 Topic 10: The American Renaissance Topic 11: Second Great Awakening and Social Reform Topic 12: Launching the American Industrial Revolution <b>Assessments:</b> Discussion: Interpreting the Slave Experience Research Paper #3 Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: The Crisis of Union Topic 14: Antebellum Slavery Topic 15: Political Crisis of the 1850s Topic 16: Civil War and Emancipation <b>Assessments:</b> Discussion: The Meaning of the Civil War Final Paper Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings



and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at



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Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.