History 103: United States to 1877 Syllabus

MWF 10:30-11:30; Johnson Hall, 013
Dr. Melissane Parm Schrems
Fall 2016

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course we will survey the development of the United States from European contact until its social and political reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War. Through readings, lectures and discussions we will also examine and critique the different methods of exploring American history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- To become familiar with the US historical narrative
- To learn how to recognize and analyze primary sources
- To master dates as useful tools of organization and historical understanding
- To read, evaluate, and appreciate primary sources as valuable avenues of historical inquiry
- To compare, contrast, and value the experiences of people of different ethnicities, religions, and genders as windows into a more comprehensive American experience
- To examine changing and various questions of freedom, justice, equality, entitlement, and morality through the prism of a developing nation
- To be able to appreciate the varied uses of the study of history in current society

RESOURCES
Contact Information (How to reach me)
- Office: Piskor Hall, Room 112
- Email: mschrems@stlawu.edu
- Office Hours: Thursdays 1-4 & by appointment
- Phone: 315-229-5221; Fax: 315-229-5803

Email (Best Way to Reach Me)
ADDRESSING EMAILS
- I get about 100 emails a day.
- Please help your emails stand out and speed up my response by putting your name and the NAME and/or COURSE NUMBER in the subject line.

EMAIL RESPONSE TIME
I check and respond to messages at least once a day, sometimes twice.
- You can expect me to respond to email within 24 hours.
- Don’t wait until the last minute (for example, the morning of an exam) to contact me.

Office Hours
WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO OFFICE HOURS
• Approaching me during office hours is the best way to ask me a question about a point raised in class.
• It is my preferred way to discuss your exam grade.

Sakai
• This course has a Sakai site.
• If you are not registered on the site, you will need to register yourself.
• During the semester I will post additional relevant information and announcements there.
• CHECK IT REGULARLY.

Texts (2)
Shi & Tindall, America: A Narrative History, 10th ed., vol. 1 (ANH)
Shi & Mayer, For the Record: A Documentary History of America, 6 ed., vol. 1 (FTR)

Course Calendar
The Course Calendar begins on page 8.

Disability and Accessibility Services Office (DASO)
If you have a disability and need accommodations contact the Disability and Accessibility Services Office (DASO) as soon as possible. This will allow them sufficient time to help you get the accommodations you require, including an Individual Education Accommodations Plan (IEAP). They are located in Whitman Annex, room 31. Their phone number is 229-5537.

Although not required, I would like to know of any accommodations that are needed at least 10 days before an exam, so please see me soon. Also, I will offer no testing accommodations without first receiving an IEAP. For more specific information visit the DASO website http://www.stlawu.edu/disability-and-accessibility-services.

REQUIREMENTS
Class Organization & Participation
Class time will be divided between lecture, discussion, and examination. Come to class having reviewed the assigned material.

Use of Electronic Devices
The use of computers, cell phones, tablets, Apple Watches and any other electronic devices during class meetings is prohibited unless necessitated by a physical or learning disability. If required, a request must be made through the Office of Services for Students with Special Needs. Any device thus successfully requested must be operated with the Wi-Fi turned OFF.
THE USE OF COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES, TABLETS, APPLE
WATCHES AND ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING
IN-CLASS EXAMS IS PROHIBITED AND WILL BE
CONSIDERED CHEATING.

Attendance
Students are required to arrive on time.
All students must sign an attendance roster.
The attendance roster will be made available at the beginning and end of class.

Late arrivals and early departures
If there are mitigating circumstances that will necessitate your late arrival or early departure, please inform me as far in advance as possible, i.e. as soon as you know.
Other classes, sports practices, play rehearsals, etc. are not mitigating circumstances.

Absences
Free Absences (Freebies)
You may miss two class meetings without explanation. These are automatically excused absences (Freebies).

Freebies are for you to use as you choose, I offer them as a means to cover unavoidable absences due to illness. The Wellness Center will not provide a physician’s note for a routine illness, such as a cold or the flu.

Excused Absences
If there are mitigating circumstances that will necessitate your absence (surgery, a doctor’s visit, severe illness or a death in the family are examples), please inform me (email is best) as soon as you know and provide proof (doctor appointment card, funeral card, obituary, etc.) of those circumstances upon your return. In the event of your becoming seriously ill, a physician’s note or notification from the Student Life Office will garner you an excused absence.

Please understand that your informing me of the reason for your absence does not automatically excuse your absence. I will make my determination based on the evidence.

An excused absence does not change a due date. If you cannot be in class you are still responsible for getting your work to me on time, unless you have asked for and have been granted an extension. (See Makeup Exams, Deadline Extensions, Late Take-Home Exams.)
Unexcused Absences
In addition to a general decision not to attend class, absences as a result of participation in extracurricular activities (sports, drama, or political activism) also are not excused. Students participating in said activities must meet with the professor and work out alternative assignments for class meetings missed beyond the freebies.

Course Work
You are responsible for all class work collected in your absence even if the absence, late arrival or early departure is excused.

Text Book
America: A Narrative History (ANH) Focus Questions
Read all assigned chapters to provide context and background for class discussions and upcoming readings in FTR. Be prepared to answer the FOCUS QUESTIONS at the beginning of each chapter. Your answers will form the basis of discussions of the information presented in the text.

Document Reader
For the Record (FTR) Review Questions
Review questions are located at the end of the documents in For The Record, the document reader for this course. Come to class having read the document and answered the review questions in writing including the page numbers where supporting information can be found. For each document: REVIEW “WHERE TO BEGIN?” Questions FTR, xix. These answers do not need to be written down, but I will ask them of you in class. Be prepared. This work will form the basis of our class discussions.

Exams (with % value of final grade)
1st Quarter Exam (20%)
Historian-at-work Midterm Exam (30%)
3rd Quarter Exam (20%)
Historian-at-work Final Exam (Cumulative) (30%)

Quarter Exams (In-class)
Quarter exams will be given in class. These exams are given on the work addressed in the 1st, midterm, and 3rd quarters. Quarter exams may include some or all of the following: essay, short answer, image, and map questions. Outline maps will be provided
to students prior to exams. Study guides will be provided for in-class exams.

**Historian-at-work Exams (Take-home)**

**Midterm Exam**

**Final Exam**

Historian-at-work exams (the midterm and the final) are take-home exams. The historian-at-work exams will be composed of document and image questions. The midterm will cover the first half of the course. The final will cover the last half of the course. Exams are to be completed by individual students. GROUP WORK ON TAKE-HOME EXAMS WILL QUALIFY AS CHEATING. The take-home exam questions and format will be posted on Sakai.

On receiving the take-home exam,

1. Students will first evaluate a document from the section using questions posed in Mary Lynn Rampolla’s “Questions for Evaluating Primary Sources” in *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*.
   a. As I do not require the Rampolla text for this course, I will post the list of questions on Sakai.
2. Then students will answer additional essay questions.
3. All answers, whether direct quotes or not, must be footnoted in *The Chicago Manual of Style* format. Any other format is unacceptable.

Format sheets will be provided for take-home exams.

Study guides will **NOT** be provided for take-home exams.

**Additional Testing Accommodations**

Students requiring additional time for exams or to take the exam off-site must inform me in writing prior to the first exam they will need to take off-site.

See **Disability and Accessibility Services Office (DASO)** under **RESOURCES**

**Make-up exams**

**Excused Absence**

Exams missed, as the result of an **excused absence**, must be made up before the next exam. In the event that the exam is not made up, the grade becomes a zero.

**Unexcused Absence**

Exams missed due to an **unexcused absence** cannot be made up and will be recorded as “zero.”
**Late Take-home Exams**

*Unexcused Lateness*

Take-home exams will lose 0.25 point (on a 4.0 scale) for each day it is late. All exams are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus. Exams will not be accepted during class. Exams submitted after class will be collected and considered one day late. Establish a personal deadline that falls before the course deadline and turn your assignments in early or on time.

*Excused Lateness/Deadline Extensions*

In the event that a deadline extension is requested, this proof must be accompanied by a typewritten request (email or hard copy) from the student explaining her or his need for special consideration. Deadline extensions are at the discretion of the instructor, not the student.

**EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS (LIMIT 2 PER COURSE)**

Lectures, films, plays, gallery showings, performances, and sporting events take place on and off campus during the course of a semester.

- Attend one of these activities and
- Write a one-page summary of the event and its relationship to our exploration of U.S. history to 1877 including your reaction to the event.

You may earn credit equal to one day of a late assignment.

In the event of there not being a late assignment, I will increase your final grade a maximum of 5 hundredths of a point (0.05) for each satisfactory assignment. (This could be helpful, as I DO NOT round up.)

**The HISTORY DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND OTHER FORMS OF CHEATING**

**HISTORY DEPARTMENT COMMON STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

*Policies and sources on academic integrity*

All scholarly endeavor builds on the work of others in the context of the community of learners of which both faculty and students are a part. The integrity of this community can be maintained only by the full, honest, and appropriate acknowledgement of the sources of our data and ideas. The History Department will not tolerate academic dishonesty, including plagiarism on papers, cheating on quizzes and exams, and turning in work you have already submitted in another class. The Department will uphold SLU’s policy on this.

*From the Constitution of the Academic Honor Council*


“All students at St. Lawrence University are bound by honor to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. By virtue of membership in the St. Lawrence community, every student
accepts the responsibility to know the rules of academic honesty, to abide by them at all times, and to encourage all others to do the same.”

“Plagiarism: Presenting as one’s own work the work of another person—words, ideas, data, evidence, thoughts, information, organizing principles, or style of presentation—without proper attribution. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment by quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, or other indices of reference.”

“Responsibility for avoiding behavior or situations from which academic dishonesty may be inferred rests entirely with the students. Claims of ignorance, unintentional error, and academic or personal pressure are not excuses for academic dishonesty. Students should be sure to learn from faculty what is expected as their own work and how the work of other people should be acknowledged. Instructors are expected to maintain conditions which promote academic honesty.”

Further sources of information
We expect all of our students to familiarize themselves with the following:
• Your course syllabus and your professor’s stated expectations on class assignments.
• The full SLU policy on “Academic Integrity Procedures” (the basis of the Academic Honor Card that you signed in FYP), described in the SLU Student Handbook (http://www.stlawu.edu/resource/student-handbook)

For more information on plagiarism, see Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 8th ed., chapter 6: “Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It.”

(A link to a pdf of Rompolla’s chapter 6 in the 4th edition (very similar to the 8th edition) posted by the University of Illinois at Chicago is provided here for your convenience. https://pols.uic.edu/docs/default-source/student-docs/avoiding_plagiarism.pdf)

If, after reviewing these guidelines, you are still uncertain about anything or have questions, be sure to ask them before you turn in written assignments.

Policies on academic dishonesty
If your professor encounters a suspicious paper or exam, “s/he has the obligation to call the offending student(s) to account” (SLU Student Handbook, 94). Plagiarism cases brought before the Academic Honor Council have resulted in sanctions ranging from failure on the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension from the University.

A final caveat: Do not underestimate your professors’ ability to detect plagiarism, or our willingness to have suspicious papers and exams investigated. If you can find it on the Web, so can we. Please don’t risk it.

Course Calendar
Shi & Tindall, America: A Narrative History, 10th ed., vol. 1 (ANH)
Shi & Mayer, For the Record: A Documentary History of America, 6 ed., vol. 1 (FTR)
Reading instructions
Please follow these instructions for ALL of the readings in ANH and FTR.

America: A Narrative History (ANH)
Read all assigned chapters to provide context and background for class discussions and upcoming readings in FTR. Be prepared to answer the FOCUS QUESTIONS at the beginning of each chapter. Your answers will form the basis of discussions of the information presented in the text.

For The Record (FTR)
For the Record (FTR) Review Questions
Review questions are located at the end of the documents in For The Record, the document reader for this course.
Come to class having read the document and answered the review questions in writing including the page numbers where supporting information can be found.
For each document: Review “WHERE TO BEGIN?” Questions FTR, xix. These answers do not need to be written down, but I will ask them of you in class. Be prepared.
This work will form the basis of our class discussion of the documents.

WEEK 1:
W
First Class Meeting: HISTORIAN’S SKILL SET

F
FTR CHAPTER 1, 1-13

WEEK 2:
M
ANH CHAPTER 1

W
ANH CHAPTER 2

F
FTR CHAPTER 2, 14-37

WEEK 3:
M
ANH CHAPTER 3

W
FTR CHAPTER 3, 40-56

F
FTR CHAPTER 3, 56-76
WEEK 4:
M
ANH CHAPTER 4

W
FTR CHAPTER 4, 77-90
First Quarter Study Guide posted on Sakai

F
FTR CHAPTER 4, 91-110

Week 5:
M
ANH CHAPTER 5
FILM (TBD)

W
FIRST QUARTER EXAM

F
FTR CHAPTER 5, 109-133

WEEK 6:
M
ANH CHAPTER 6

W
FTR CHAPTER 6, 134-158

F
FTR CHAPTER 6, 158-178

Week 7:
M
ANH CHAPTER 7
Film (TBD)

W
FTR CHAPTER 7, 179-192
INTRODUCTION OF MIDTERM EXAM
MIDTERM EXAM POSTED ON Sakai

F
FTR CHAPTER 7, 192-206
WEEK 8:
M
ANH CHAPTER 8
W
FTR CHAPTER 8, 207-230
MIDTERM EXAM DUE
F
MID-SEMESTER BREAK

Week 9:
M
ANH CHAPTER 9
FTR CHAPTER 9, 231-243

W
FTR CHAPTER 9, 244-264
ANH CHAPTER 10

F
FTR CHAPTER 10, 265-298

WEEK 10:
M
ANH CHAPTER 11

W
FTR CHAPTER 11, 299-309

F
FTR CHAPTER 11, 309-321

Week 11:
M
ANH CHAPTER 12

W
FTR CHAPTER 12, 322-336

F
FTR CHAPTER 12, 336-343

WEEK 12:
M
ANH CHAPTER 13
W  
**FTR CHAPTER 13, 344-353**

F  
**FTR CHAPTER 13, 353-369**

**WEEK 13:**  
M  
**ANH CHAPTER 14**  
**FTR CHAPTER 14, 370-384**

W  
**THIRD QUARTER EXAM**

F  
**FTR CHAPTER 14, 384-410**  
**Film (TBD)**

Week 14:  
**FALL BREAK**  
**FALL BREAK**  
**FALL BREAK**

Week 15:  
M  
**ANH CHAPTER 15**

W  
**INTRODUCTION OF FINAL EXAM**  
**FINAL EXAM POSTED ON Sakai**  
**FTR CHAPTER 15, 411-432**

F  
**FTR CHAPTER 15, 433-442**

Week 16:  
M  
**ANH CHAPTER 16**

W  
**FTR CHAPTER 16, 443-459**

**FINAL EXAM DUE IN MY MAILBOX (PK 214)**  
**BEFORE OR ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH @ 4:30PM**