**Course Description**  This is an introductory survey of American History from the early natives and European exploration and settlement through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Topics include Native culture, European heritage, the colonial experience, revolution and new republic, and the impact of nationalism and sectionalism on the new country. Also discussed will be expansion and compromises, war between the states and reconstruction.

**Student Responsibilities** Students must complete all required reading and take appropriate notes. Students must avoid all unnecessary absences. Any unexcused absences will affect final grade. Students must complete all classwork, homework, writing assignments, quizzes and tests.

**Learning Outcomes** The course is designed to enable the student to use primary sources to better understand the events by providing evidence in written homework and group assignments. The students will demonstrate their ability to use such materials as maps, primary source essays, graphs and charts.

**Student Objectives**

1. Compare and contrast the three main cultures that colonized the Americas
2. Compare and contrast the English colonies, Chesapeake and New England
3. Identify the causes of the Revolutionary War
4. Discuss and evaluate the U.S. Constitution
5. Define the sectional issues in 19th century America
6. Identify the various reform movements and discuss their emergence
7. Discuss the attempts to preserve the Union against growing sectionalism
8. Identify the causes and effects of the Civil War
9. Analyze competing interpretations of the Civil War through primary sources

**Text and Supplements:**  Davidson, James West, et al. *U.S.: A Narrative History, Volume I*  McGraw Hill, current edition.

Supplement materials include, Hollitz, John and Fuller A. James, *Contending Voices Biographical Exploration of the American Past, Volume I: To 1877,* Houghton Mifflin Company, current edition, Student study guide, and atlas.

Lorence, James, *Enduring Voices Volume I To 1877,* Houghton Mifflin Company, current edition.

**Grading**

Class Participation 20% A 90 + Exemplary work

Homework and quizzes 20% B+ 86 to 89 Above average, shows critical

Position Papers 30% B 80 to 85 thinking and communication skills

Tests 30% C+ 76 to 79 Average work, lacks depth of

 C 70 to 75 thought & complete understanding

 D+ 66 to 69 Below average level of work, in

 D 60 to 65 length, depth or quality of response

 F below 60 Unacceptable level of work

**Course Calendar**

**Unit I - Developing A New World**

**Week of Topic Required Readings Assignments**

9/2 Course Intro Prologue

9/9 Native Americans? Chapter 1 Position Paper I

 Chapter 1 Questions

9/16 European Exploration Chapter 2 Chapter 2 Doc Set 3

 Chapter 2 Questions

9/23 Colonization in the South Chapter 3 Chapter 3 Questions

 Position Paper II

9/30 Colonization in the North Chapter 4 Chapter 4 Questions

 **Unit Test Fri.**

**Unit II-Birth of A New Nation**

10/7 Colonial Growth Chapter 5 Chapter 5 Doc Set 1

 Chapter 5 Questions

10/14 Colonial Crises Chapter 6 Position Paper III

 Chapter 6 Questions

10/21 Choosing Independence Chapter 7 Chapter 7 Doc Set 1

 Chapter 7 Questions

10/28 The Constitution Chapter 8 Chapter 8 Questions

 **Unit Test Fri.**

**Unit III-A Nation Searches for An Identity**

11/4 The Early Republic Chapter 9 Chapter 9 Doc Set 2

 Chapter 9 Questions

11/11 The American Economy Chapter 10 Chapter 10 Doc Set 3

 Chapter 10 Questions

11/ 18 Rise of Democracy Chapter 11 Position Paper IV Chapter 11 Questions

12/2 Religion and Revival Chapter 12 Chapter 12 Questions

 **Unit Test Fri.**

**Unit IV- A Nation Torn Apart**

12/9 Old South Chapter 13 Position Paper V

 Chapter Questions

12/16 Western Expansion/Slavery Chapter 14 Chapter 12 Doc Set 1 Chapter 14 Doc Set 2

 Chapter 14 Questions

1/6 A Shattered Union Chapter 15 Position Paper VI

 Chapter Questions

1/13 Civil War Chapter 16 Chapter Questions

1/20 ------------------ -------------- **Unit Test**

**Position Papers**

Position papers will be an essential part of this course. As future college students it is critical that you learn to communicate opinions in many different ways. Position papers will give you a chance to hone your writing skills in this area. There are six different paper topics for the fall semester. You will be required to thoroughly address five of them with a well constructed and reasoned paper of at least on typewritten page (single spaced, font size 10) in length. All paper topics are based on in class readings as well as textbook assignments. The teacher reserves the right to alter paper topics as necessary. Any insufficient papers will not be accepted, and therefore will not count. **Late papers**, also, **will not be accepted**. Additionally, students may be asked to present and defend papers in class…be prepared. Five position papers will carry the same weight as the 4 unit tests. All papers need to have copies of resources used attached to them.

Paper Topics

1 Who discovered America?

2 What is the legacy of Columbus?

3 Was the American Revolution justified?

4 Strict vs. Loose Interpretation-what is the Constitution?

5 Who was Thomas Jefferson? (Private lives of public leaders…)

6 Slavery vs. Industry-which was more abusive of labor?