

Kennesaw State University
History 2111/01
America to 1890
M/W 2-3:15 p.m.
SO 2030
Fall 2009

Dr. Jim Piecuch

SO 4092

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Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 p.m., or by appointment

Course Description: This course will examine how the United States emerged from an array of competing cultures and colonial empires as an independent nation with its own unique social and political institutions. We will analyze how American society and political culture developed and responded to both internal and external challenges during the first century of national existence. In order to encourage familiarity with a broad range of historical approaches, we will at various times cover aspects of social, political, economic, diplomatic, and military history.

Course Goals: In addition to acquiring the basic information described above, you will learn basic principles of historical thinking, including how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources, how to develop your own ideas based on historical evidence, and how to communicate those ideas effectively in both written and oral form.

Expectations: Success in this course requires regular attendance, prompt completion of all reading assignments, active class participation, and a solid effort on all exams and writing assignments. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Attendance will be taken frequently and used to help assess your level of effort. Students who demonstrate consistent effort may have their final grade adjusted upward. If you miss a lecture class, you should get the notes from a classmate. Should you miss a discussion and wish to receive partial credit, you must explain your absence to me in person and complete a makeup assignment. Makeup exams are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances, subject to verification of the reason for absence and my approval.

Required Texts:

Keene, Cornell and O'Donnell, *Visions of America*, Vol. 1, 1st edition

Kennedy and Bailey, *The American Spirit*, Vol. 1, 11th edition

Grading: Your grade will be based upon the following criteria:

Mid-Term Exam – 25%

Final Exam – 30%

Short Paper – 10%

Research Paper – 20%

Discussion and Related Writing Assignments – 15%

Discussion is an important part of class and can affect your final average by as much as two letter grades. Each discussion is the equivalent of a quiz and should be treated as seriously.

Extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

(Subject to Change)

Aug. 17: Introduction

Readings: None

Aug. 19: Background of European Expansion

Readings: None

Aug. 24: Native Peoples of Central and South America; The Spanish Conquest

Readings: Keene, 4-9; 16-19

Aug. 26: The Spanish Conquest; Discussion – Native/Spanish Encounters

Readings: Kennedy, 2-6; 9-15; Keene, 20

Aug. 31: Native Peoples of North America; France in America

Readings: Keene, 27-29; 87-88

Sept. 2: Background of English Colonization; The Chesapeake

Readings: Keene, 29-31; 36-41

Sept. 7: No Class – Labor Day

Sept. 9: The Chesapeake; Discussion – Chesapeake Society

Readings: Kennedy, 31-35; 65-70; Keene, 38

Sept. 14: Puritan New England

Readings: Keene, 42-47; 57-58

Sept. 16: New England; Discussion – New England Society

Readings: Kennedy, 42-43, 45-50, 55-58, 81

Sept. 21: Other North American Colonies; Colonial Politics and Society

Readings: Keene, 48-49; 70-71

Sept. 23: Colonial Politics and Society; Discussion – Becoming American

Readings: Kennedy, 20-26; 73-77; 85-89; 91-92; Keene, 74

First Paper Due

Sept. 28: Imperial Warfare; The Revolutionary Crisis
Readings: Keene, 88-91; 98-110

Sept. 30: The Revolutionary Crisis; Discussion – Origins of the Revolution; Review
Readings: Kennedy, 129-138; Keene, 92, 108-109

Oct. 5: **Mid-Term Exam**

Oct. 7: The American Revolution
Readings: Keene, 110-116; 120-124

Oct. 12: The American Revolution; Discussion – Revolutionary America
Readings: Kennedy, 143-153; 159-163; Keene, 112; 123

Oct. 14: Creating the Constitution
Readings: Keene, 138-142; 144-155

Oct. 19: The Early Republic; Discussion – Shaping the New Nation
Readings: Kennedy, 188-194; 198-199; 201-202; Keene, 143; 153

Oct. 21: The Market Revolution
Readings: Keene, 254-256; 260-262

Oct. 26: Discussion – The Effects of Economic Change
Readings: Kennedy, 291-298; 303-308; Keene, 257; 263

Oct. 28: The Jacksonian Era; Westward Expansion
Readings: Keene, 225-238; 320-324; 326-333

Nov. 2: Westward Expansion; Discussion – Jackson's Presidency/American Expansion
Readings: Kennedy, 265-266; 280-283; 386-394; Keene, 224; 237

Nov. 4: The Antebellum South and Slavery
Readings: None

Nov. 9: The Sectional Crisis and the Civil War
Readings: Keene, 214-217; 345-361; 381-385; 393-401

Nov. 11: The Civil War
Readings: Keene, 351; 357; 371; 391; 396

Nov. 16: Discussion – Slavery and the Civil War
Readings: Kennedy, 351-356; 362-367; 478-483; 486-493

Nov. 18: Reconstruction and the South to 1890
Readings: Keene, 408-435

Nov. 23: Discussion - Reconstruction

Readings: Kennedy, 504-509; 526-537; Keene, 414; 425; 434

Nov. 25: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30: Postwar Developments in the North

Readings: None

Dec. 2: Review

Research Paper Due

Miscellaneous

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

Assignments: Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

Problems and Personal Matters: If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course. Please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.

