SYLLABUS FOR HIS 133.008 or HIS 133.011
AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1877

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe
Class Time: MWF 8-9 or 9-10
Room: F 472
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310

Office Hours: MWF 10-11, T-Th 9:30-10, or by appointment
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Objective and Purpose: The purpose of this class is for students to understand and evaluate the various social, political, ideological, and economic factors that shaped American history to 1877. Students will demonstrate their mastery of material through their performance on exams. By the end of the semester students will be able to use their newly acquired knowledge to interpret, analyze, and assess historical sources and contemporary interpretations of the past so as to recognize their biases and place current societal debates in historical context.

Text: Tindall and Shi’s America: A Narrative, vol. 1.

MakeUps: You have 24 hours to contact me if you miss a test. I will give all make-up exams on Friday, 20 April, at 6:30 AM.

Grading Rationale:
First Midterm 33%  
Second Midterm 33%  
Final 33%

There are also two optional assignments that I will discuss after the first exam.

Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less. You must complete and pick up all assignments, except the final, to pass the class.

Attendance Policy: You can miss up to and including six hours of class without penalty. For each hour missed thereafter, for any reason whatsoever, I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating: If I catch you cheating on an exam or the paper, I will fail you for the exam or for the course.

Disability Services: If you have a proven disability, I am willing to make reasonable accommodations. I define what is and is not “reasonable.” You must visit me in my office before I grant any reasonable accommodation.

Pet Peeve: If I catch you with your cellphone out or using any electronic devices during class, I can and will throw you out, and you won’t be allowed back until you write a paper for me. You cannot use computers in class either unless you talk with me first.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments
Week 1  
Wed 17 Jan  Tindall and Shi, chapter 1  
Fri 19 Jan  Cultural Encounter

Week 2  
Mon 22 Jan  Virginia Settled  
Wed 24 Jan  Tindall and Shi, chapter 2  
Fri 26 Jan  Virginia Society

Week 3  
Mon 29 Jan  Puritan New England  
Wed 31 Jan  Puritan Society  
Dec 2 Jan  Great Awakening
Fri 2 Feb | Discussion
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**Week 4** |  
Mon 5 Feb | Colonial Government and Economics  
Wed 7 Feb | Colonial Slavery  
Fri 9 Feb | Salem Witch Trials

**Week 5** |  
Mon 12 Feb | French and Indian Wars  
Wed 14 Feb | Discussion  
Fri 16 Feb | First Midterm

**Week 6** | Tindall and Shi, chapters 4-5  
Mon 19 Feb | Causes of the American Revolution  
Wed 21 Feb | Independence  
Fri 23 Feb | Revolutionary War

**Week 7** | Discussion  
Mon 26 Feb | Tindall and Shi, chapter 6  
Wed 28 Feb | Articles of Confederation Era  
Fri 2 Mar | Constitution

**Week 8** |  
Mon 5 Mar | Washington Administration  
Wed 7 Mar | Discussion  
Fri 9 Mar | Adams Administration

**Week 9** | Tindall and Shi, chapters 7-9  
Mon 19 Mar | (Democratic) Republicans in Power  
Wed 21 Mar | War of 1812  
Fri 23 Mar | Era of Good Feelings

**Week 10** | Tindall and Shi, chapter 10  
Mon 26 Mar | Discussion  
Wed 28 Mar | Jacksonian America  
Fri 30 Mar | NO CLASS: EASTER

**Week 11** | Tindall and Shi, chapter 13  
Mon 2 Apr | Second Party System in Action  
Wed 4 Apr | Texas and the Mexican War  
Fri 6 Apr | Discussion

**Week 12** | Tindall and Shi, chapters 11-12  
Mon 9 Apr | Second Midterm  
Wed 11 Apr | Southern Society and Slavery  
Fri 13 Apr | Revival and Reform

**Week 13** | Tindall and Shi, chapter 14  
Mon 16 Apr | Countdown to the Civil War I  
Wed 18 Apr | Countdown to the Civil War II  
Fri 20 Apr | 1860 Election, Secession, and War

**Week 14** | Tindall and Shi, chapter 15  
Mon 23 Apr | Discussion  
Wed 25 Apr | Civil War on the Battlefield  
Fri 27 Apr | Union at War

**Week 15** | Tindall and Shi, chapter 16  
Mon 30 Apr | Confederacy at War  
Wed 2 May | Reconstruction  
Fri 4 May | Discussion

**Final Exam:**  
For the 8 AM class it’s on Monday, 7 May at 8 AM  
For the 9 AM class it’s on Wednesday, 9 May at 8 AM

*Program Learning Outcomes:*  
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

*Student Learning Outcomes:*  
HIS 133 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives towards both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for classes...
Academic Integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeat course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.