

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

Independent Study Program

HIST 110-08 American Civilization I

Please read this introduction carefully before starting the course and refer to it for guidance as you proceed through the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a broad overview of U.S. history from the earliest colonial settlements through the end of the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Major themes examined are colonial society and life, the struggle for independence, adoption of the Constitution, the early national period, sectionalism, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Three semester credits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the institutions and practices of government created during the Revolution and how these elements were revised between 1787 and 1815 to create the foundation of the American political system based on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
2. Explain the United States' territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans.
3. Recognize how the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement changed American lives and led to regional tensions.
4. Interpret the extension, restriction and reorganization of political democracy after 1800.
5. Identify the sources and character of cultural, religious and social reform movements in the antebellum period.
6. Explain the causes of the Civil War.
7. Explain the various plans for reconstruction and its failure.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1. The required textbook is Mary Beth Norton et al., *A People and a Nation*, 7th edition, Volume I: To 1877 (hereafter referred to as Norton).
2. You also need to purchase a copy of Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, ed. David W. Blight., 2nd edition.
3. Syllabus

You may purchase your textbook through MBS Direct by calling their toll free number at: 800-325-3252 or through the UIU homepage: www.uiu.edu. Click on the link for current students then select order textbooks from the options in the left hand column. Follow the link and select Independent Study for your location.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The American Civilization I course surveys the history of the United States from the origins of colonization to the end of the Reconstruction period in 1877. From this course the student should become familiar with the major developments and significant individuals in the American past, as well as become acquainted with controversies among historians surrounding the principal events in our history.

American Civilization I consists of three study units, with an examination after completion of each unit, and a paper based on the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Each study unit consists of a reading assignment in Norton and a number of essay questions to be answered from the assigned chapters. It is suggested that you read through each assignment once quickly to grasp the major ideas before studying the material more carefully to answer the study questions.

An essay question may ask you to “explain,” “discuss,” “describe,” “evaluate,” “outline,” “compare and contrast,” “define,” “trace,” “characterize,” or “assess” certain events and developments from the text. Read the question carefully. Make sure that you are answering what is being asked. If there is more than one part to a question, be sure each part is answered adequately. To answer the questions properly, you must summarize and paraphrase the material in your text into a concise response. Copying the text will not be accepted. Whenever you do use direct quotations from the text, indicate this by enclosing that material in quotation marks. Be very selective in what you quote directly. Only brief passages that are particularly significant and/or make a particular point should be quoted.

Each study unit will receive a grade according to the following scale:

90% and above = A
80% and above = B
70% and above = C
60% and above = D
59% and below = F

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY USES A STANDARD GRADING SYSTEM:

A = All work is excellent, shows exceptional understanding of materials; logical, clear, and insightful written and oral work, incorporates knowledge from other sources and moves easily to the next level of understanding, works well beyond minimum requirements.

B = Understanding material is good to very good, demonstrates good grasp of material, good oral and written skills, produces more than the minimum requirements, quality of all work is high.

C = Satisfactory understanding of the material, submits only the minimum requirements, communicates adequately in oral and written formats, displays an adequate understanding of all basic concepts.

D = Quality and quantity written and oral work is below average and barely acceptable.

F = Quality and quantity written and oral work is unacceptable.

GRADING:

- Unit #1 Assignment 10%
- Unit #1 Exam 15%
- Unit #2 Assignment 10%
- Unit #2 Exam 15%
- Unit #3 Assignment 10%
- Unit #3 Exam 20%
- YATH Paper 20%

There will be a closed-book proctored exam for each course unit. These examinations are designed to be completed in 75 minutes without notes, books or other outside aids. To request your proctored exams, please refer to the exam request forms included in your syllabus.

If you have any questions about this course or about your grades, write or telephone your instructor, Donald R. Shaffer at shafferd@uiu.edu or Division of Liberal Arts, Upper Iowa University, P.O. Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142. His office phone is (563) 425-5751.

NOTE: In order to pass this course, you must get a passing grade (“D” or better), on at least one of the exams and have enough cumulative points to earn a passing grade.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:

HIST 110 will assist students in achieving the following general education outcomes:

II. History

Task: Explain the historical basis and context of a defined contemporary social or political problem or phenomenon; or explain historical change and how it affects a society over a specified time span.

This task will be completed by essay questions on the three exams that will require students to relate course material to contemporary issues or relate historical change to the development of American society in some time period covered by the class.

WRITING PROFICIENCY::

It is recommended that all papers and research are done in the APA style. We expect appropriate writing skills of proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph development, and logical sequence of thought in all written work, and exams.

It is recommended that all students purchase the APA guide/manual listed on the UIU website. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. \$27.00 new.

CITATION:

Encyclopedias of any kind, including the very popular Wikipedia, are not primary sources and should not be cited or used in constructing academic papers at the graduate or undergraduate level.

CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM:

Because cheating, academic dishonesty and plagiarism are affronts to the University community as a whole and a denial of the offender's own integrity, they will not be tolerated. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- the use of unauthorized books, notes or other sources in the giving or securing of help in an examination or other course assignments,
- the copying of other students' work or allowing others to copy your work,
- the submission of work that is not your own or allowing others to submit your work as theirs,
- the submission of the same work for two or more classes without the approval of any instructors involved.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- sharing academic materials knowing they will be used inappropriately,
- having access to another person's work without permission,
- providing false or incomplete information on an academic document,
- changing student records without approval.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- the presentation of another's published or unpublished work as one's own,
- taking words or ideas of another and either copying them or paraphrasing them without proper citation of the source,
- using charts, graphs, statistics or tables without proper citation.

Detected cheating, academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will result in consequences that may, at the instructor's discretion, include course failure. In addition, an offender may be reported to the Senior Vice President for the Extended University, the Dean of the Extended University, or designee for possible disciplinary action, which may include suspension or dismissal from the University. Upper Iowa University may make use of various plagiarism detection services. Individuals, by enrolling in courses offered by the University, consent to submission by the University of course-related assignments to such services and the retention of a copy of such assignments by the service.

ATTENDANCE:

Even though a student does not attend a regular classroom in the traditional sense and keep up with a set schedule of assignments, it should be pointed out how important it is to keep yourself on a regular timely schedule if possible to complete and send in units. It is too easy to set work aside and decide to do it later. Suddenly, the need to complete assignments and get them in by

deadlines can become stressful and, at times, impossible. The key would be to set time aside on a regular basis and submit work in a timely manner.

LIBRARY RESOURCES:

As a student of Upper Iowa University, you have access to the resources of the Henderson-Wilder Library on the Fayette campus. If travel to the campus is not feasible, you can access the library through the University's website. Go to: www.uiu.edu and click on the Library option located on the left side of the home page. If you would like to use InfoTrac, please contact the UIU Library staff at library@uiu.edu.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you wish to withdraw prior to the last day of the enrollment period you must contact the Independent Study office by phone or in writing. After your original six month enrollment period you no longer have the option to withdraw from the course. You must finish the course or have a final grade assigned based on the coursework submitted.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you require accommodation for special needs, please provide documentation to: Academic Advising Coordinator in the Center for Distance Education.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.