



**HIST 261: United States History to 1865  
Online**



“The purpose of a liberal arts education is not to prepare you for a job, you learn that when you are hired. The purpose of a liberal arts education is to make you an educated citizen.”

-Nikki Giovanni



**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course intends to familiarize students with the major historical people, events, and themes in United States History from the Native Americans and first European contacts through the Civil War Era. First, students will contextualize the major developments and content of the period. Through the acquisition of basic content, students will learn how to think critically and historically about the past. Specifically, this course strives to demonstrate how politics, economy, race, class, gender, and culture intersect to shape Colonial America and the New Republic. This course intends to show that “freedom” and “individual rights” meant many different things to different people based on their race, ethnicity, class, and gender. Therefore, this class uses primary sources to conduct a bottom-up approach in order to investigate how individuals both experienced life and played a major role in our democratic experiment.

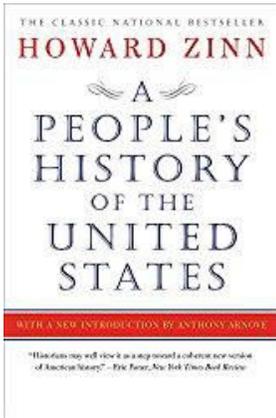
**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course will fulfill its promises by asking you to:

- Identify key moments, themes, and individuals in the history of the United States
- Participate and lead discussions about historical actors and events
- Understand how factors of race, class, gender, and ethnicity shaped the founding, expansion, and division of our nation
- Analyze major historical questions historians currently debate
- Apply evidence to support arguments about our country’s past
- Generate persuasive historical interpretation of events in writing assignments

## COURSE READING

### Textbook (Required)



### *A People's History of the United States (2015) by Howard Zinn*

ISBN-13: 978-0062397348

You will use this text for your weekly reading assignments in order to participate in discussion boards, take quizzes, and write papers. You can purchase our text at the College Bookstore or by entering the ISBN number above into any bookstore (Barnes & Noble, Amazon, eBay, Chegg, etc.) search.

### Lectures/Powerpoints (Required)

Each week, you will read and view a series of PowerPoint slides containing content, photographs, maps, etc. An understanding of this material is necessary for participating in discussion boards, taking quizzes, and writing papers. The material is all free of charge and accessible under the weekly module tabs on blackboard.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Quizzes

There will be five quizzes that you will complete on our blackboard course site. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions based on the PowerPoint lecture and assigned reading from your textbook (Zinn).

Quizzes will be due by **midnight on Sundays**. I highly suggest doing them prior to the due date as there are NO MAKE UP QUIZZES. Each quiz is worth 20 points. You have 60 minutes to complete your quiz.

Quiz Schedule:

- Module #1 – Due Sun. by midnight
- Module #2 – Due Sun. by midnight
- Module #4 – Due Sun. by midnight
- Module #5 – Due Sun. by midnight
- Module #7 – Due Sun. by midnight

## Discussion Board Participation

Throughout the semester, there will be five discussion board conversations that you will participate in on our blackboard course site. For the five weeks we have discussion (Modules 1, 2, 4, 5, 7), I posted 4-6 questions pertaining to the weekly lecture and reading assignment. If you click on the "Discussion Questions" link in our weekly Module, it will take you to a forum where you will see the questions.

- ✓ By **Wednesday at midnight**: Make **at least one initial post** to a question of your choosing.
- ✓ By **Sunday at midnight**: Make **at least two responses** to your classmates' initial posts on any of the questions.

Both your **initial post** (10 points) and **two responses** (5 points each) will be assessed and worth a total of 20 points. There are 5 total discussion board weeks throughout the semester so your overall discussion board contribution is worth 100 points or 20% of your course grade.

How to receive full credit for Discussion Board Posts? Although I encourage you to think critically about the material and make arguments, you have to back up your claims with **evidence** from PowerPoint lecture and assigned reading from your textbook (Zinn). In history, we rely on facts to strengthen our arguments – opinions without evidence will not receive full credit. For more clarification, check out the grading rubric I will be using posted under the "My Grades" tab ☺

ALL posts will be due by **midnight on Sundays**. There are NO MAKE UP POSTS.

Discussion Board Schedule:

Module #1 – Initial Post **Due Wed.** by midnight and two responses **Due Sun.** by midnight  
Module #2 – Initial Post **Due Wed.** by midnight and two responses **Due Sun.** by midnight  
Module #4 – Initial Post **Due Wed.** by midnight and two responses **Due Sun.** by midnight  
Module #5 – Initial Post **Due Wed.** by midnight and two responses **Due Sun.** by midnight  
Module #7 – Initial Post **Due Wed.** by midnight and two responses **Due Sun.** by midnight

## Papers

You will have **three** papers that will ask you to make a historical argument using lecture and your textbook as evidence to support your claim. This requirement will be met by the following assignments:

Paper Schedule:

Module #3 – Due **Sun.** by midnight  
Module #6 – Due **Sun.** by midnight  
Module #8 – Due **Thurs.** by midnight

Each Paper:

- ✓ Each worth 100 points
- ✓ You will answer three questions using lecture powerpoints and textbooks (Zinn) – no internet!
- ✓ Roughly 500 words per question, 1500 words total (approx. 5 pages )
- ✓ Double-spaced, Times New Roman ,12-point font
- ✓ Final copy submitted electronically on Blackboard by midnight on the Due Date
- ✓ A detailed assignment prompt is posted on Blackboard

## EVALUATION PLAN

### Grade Distribution – Total of 500 points

Papers (3)	300 points (100 points each)
Quizzes (5)	100 points (20 points each)
Discussion Board (5)	100 points (20 points each)

### Grading Scale

A =	93% - 100%	C =	73% - 76%
A- =	90% - 92%	C- =	70% - 72%
B+ =	87% - 89%	D+ =	67% - 69%
B =	83% - 86%	D =	63% - 66%
B- =	80% - 82%	D- =	60% - 62%
C+ =	77% - 79%		

## COURSE POLICIES

### Late Work

In the case of an extended personal or family emergency, please contact me ASAP or if possible, in advance.

All assignments are due by **Sunday at midnight**. If you do not submit your work by that time, the following penalties apply:

- Discussion Boards – no make ups, 0 for the assignment
- Quizzes – no make ups, 0 for the assignment
- Papers – 10 point deduction per calendar day

Warnings: Anticipate problems with internet access, back up your files, and avoid waiting until the last minute.

### Student Conduct

1. Due to the nature of the online course, please be sure to plan your week accordingly. Map out your work, family, other class commitments and set aside time for our course's weekly readings, discussions, and assignments. I am more than willing to assist in time management and organizational skills. With that said, please respect the weekly deadlines and avoid waiting until the last minute to complete your work.
2. Please understand that this course will contain several images, depictions, and discussions about the race, ethnicity, religion, and gender of your peers. Therefore, some of the material will lead to emotions and discussions about America's past that may not be so glamorous. While you may not

agree with things you see and hear, keep in mind that other people may be deeply affected by what by what you say. Therefore, we want to keep comments and discussion open, but respectful.

### **Contact**

Please email me or call my office phone if you have any questions. Also, check the syllabus and blackboard - sometimes the answer to your question can be found there. Please note that I check email periodically throughout the day (i.e., Monday through Friday, 8-8) and will respond within 24 hours. Over the weekend, I will respond as often as I can and on most Sundays, will remain available throughout the day.

### **Extra Credit**

This course's extra credit policy: There is no extra credit. I do not offer extra credit for any individual student that is not available for the entire class.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, including the schedule of assignments, lectures, and the selected readings.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Excused Absences for Official University Functions**

Students shall be excused without penalty from class to participate in official university sanctioned student activities, including intercollegiate athletic competitions, debate meets, band and choir performances, university field trips, and other events approved by the Provost. Students are not to be excused from class to attend practices. Faculty or staff in charge of such activities shall file with the Provost's Office at least one week in advance, if possible, a list of students and dates they request the students to be excused from class. The Provost shall ensure that notification about approved student activities is communicated to the faculty in a timely manner. In addition, students must give satisfactory notice to their instructors prior to scheduled absences. Students are responsible for all content and assignments missed while absent from class to attend university sanctioned student activities. Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the Provost.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Dishonesty within the academic community is a very serious matter, because dishonesty destroys the basic trust necessary for a healthy educational environment. Academic dishonesty is any treatment or representation of work as if one were fully responsible for it, when it is in fact the work of another person. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, theft, or improper manipulation of laboratory or research data or theft of services.

### **SafeAssign**

Please note that by enrolling in this class you are agreeing to submit your papers online to a plagiarism-prevention program called SafeAssign. You should note that SafeAssign – always without your name and any personal information – will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected.

### **Accommodations and ADA Policy**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), McKendree University provides services, auxiliary aids, and accommodations to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities.

Students with officially documented disabilities, medical needs, legal problems, or who are the victims of crimes may qualify for educational accommodations. A student requiring assistance should contact the McKendree Student Success and Advising Center (SSAC). The SSAC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students requiring accommodations for other issues should contact their instructor, Student Affairs, or Health Services.

For further information regarding university or course policies, please consult with your instructor and/or refer to the catalog.

## **Course Schedule**

### MODULE SCHEDULE

### ASSIGNMENTS DUE/ READING & LECTURE TOPICS

<b>MODULE #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read Lecture: Natives Americans &amp; Europeans</li> <li>✓ Read Zinn: pp. 1-11</li> <li>✓ Discussion Board Posts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial Post Due Wed. by midnight</li> <li>○ Reponses Due Sun. by midnight</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Quiz #1 Due Sun. by midnight</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read Lecture: British Colonial Societies (1607-1750)</li> <li>✓ Read Zinn: pp. 23-35</li> <li>✓ Watch: “Amistad” &amp; “We Shall Remain” Clips</li> <li>✓ Discussion Board Posts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial Post Due Wed. by midnight</li> <li>○ Reponses Due Sun. by midnight</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Quiz #2 Due Sun. by midnight</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE #3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read Lecture: American Revolution (1750-1783)</li> <li>✓ Read Zinn: pp. 77-85</li> <li>✓ Paper #1 Due Sun. by midnight</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE #4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Read Lecture: The New Nation (1783-1820)</li> <li>✓ Read Zinn: pp. 86-102</li> <li>✓ Discussion Board Posts</li> </ul>

- Initial Post Due Wed. by midnight
- Reponses Due Sun. by midnight
- ✓ Quiz #3 Due Sun. by midnight

**MODULE #5**

- ✓ Read Lecture: Antebellum America (1820-1850) Part I
- ✓ Read Zinn: pp. 112-124
- ✓ Watch: *"America The Story of Us, Episode 3: Division"*
- ✓ Discussion Board Posts
  - Initial Post Due Wed. by midnight
  - Reponses Due Sun. by midnight
- ✓ Quiz #4 Due Sun. by midnight

**MODULE #6**

- ✓ Read Lecture: Antebellum America (1820-1850) Part II
- ✓ Read Zinn: pp. 136-148; 160-169
- ✓ Watch: *"Mexican American War - Part I"*
- ✓ Paper #2 Due Sun. by midnight

**MODULE #7**

- ✓ Read Lecture: The Volatile 1850s
- ✓ Read Zinn: pp. 171-188
- ✓ Discussion Board Posts
  - Initial Post Due Wed. by midnight
  - Reponses Due Sun. by midnight
- ✓ Quiz #7 Due Sun. by midnight

**MODULE #8**

- ✓ Read Lecture: The Civil War (1861-1865)
- ✓ Read Zinn: pp. 188-198
- ✓ Paper #3 Due Thurs. by midnight