

Prof. Henry Maar
Fall 2018
HIST 17A
MW 11-12:15
Lotte Lehman Concert Hall
Office HSSB 3238
W: 12:30-2:30
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History 17A: THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, 1492 - 1837



This is the first course of the three-part American history survey. Hist 17A explores the history of early America in the years from the 1400s to the 1830s, a period of four centuries that utterly transformed the geographic space we now call the United States. Europeans (along with their microbes) arrived to claim lands in the name of empire, lands already inhabited by over four million Native Americans. Over time, the invaders appropriated land and imported or developed their own familial, governmental and economic institutions, carrying profound implications for every person alive on the continent. We will study the combustible mixing of three cultural groups—Indian, European, and African—in these early centuries and trace their influences on the formation of a single nation-state that emerged in 1776. We will explore the character and contradictions of life in the post-Revolution United States, including the formation of political systems and ideologies, as well as the major wars that shaped the continuing formation of the nation. By the quarter's end, we will arrive at the 1830s when a youthful United States prided itself on high ideals about liberty, equality, and democracy, ideals imperfectly realized in antebellum America.

Students are expected to attend two lectures per week, and a one-hour section meeting conducted by your TA who will guide you through the readings, pose questions about the lectures, help with your essays, and evaluate your course work. Each TA has an individual syllabus governing section expectations and assignments. Note: **A FAILING GRADE IN SECTION WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE IN THE CLASS. DO NOT SKIP OUT ON YOUR SECTION!**

- **Required textbook:** *The American Yawp*, <http://www.americanyawp.com>

*Note—this is a FREE online, open source text. There is no need for you to purchase an overpriced textbook simply to take this class. (College is expensive enough.)

Further required readings for each week come from the open source course reader. Likewise, we will read articles from a variety of internet or library database sources. Where possible, all readings will be posted on **Gauchospace** (the course website for Hist 17A).

www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu

Papers: This course meets the G.E. writing requirement in the form of two short essays, each about 900 words. You must complete the papers with a passing grade in order to receive credit for the class. Due dates for the two essays: **Monday Oct. 29** and **Nov. 21, both by 11AM**. You will be submitting each paper electronically as well as in hard copy to your TA; instructions will be relayed to you as the time approaches. (All papers will be scanned by software to deter plagiarism.) Any paper that is not uploaded on time will be considered late. Your TA will establish the penalty for any late work.

Note on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person's words or ideas and presenting them as if they were your own. It is the worst crime you can commit in the intellectual world. If you are unsure about what plagiarism is or whether you have transgressed, ask me or consult your TA. If you plagiarize and are caught—and you will be caught—you will fail the course and your name will be turned over to the Dean of Undergraduate Study for disciplinary action, which can include expulsion from the university.

Exams: There will be a **midterm** in class on Monday November 5. The 3-hour **final** exam occurs Thursday **Dec. 13 from 12pm to 3pm**.

Course grades will be based on the following formula: **first paper**, 10%; **second paper**, 20%; **section performance** (homework, attendance and participation), 10%; the **midterm**, 25%; and the **final**, 35%.

Note: I have listed the chapters from *The American Yawp* that best correspond with each lecture. While these may not always be purely chronological, if you fall behind on readings during the quarter you can always read straight through. For review/study purposes, however, it may help to know which chapters best correspond with what lecture.

Course Intro: Native Americans and the Spanish Conquest

Wk 1. Mon. Oct. 1: Course Introduction

- Thomas Andrews and Flannery Burke, [“What Does It Mean to Think Historically?”](#)
Perspectives on History, January 1, 2017

Wed. Oct. 3: Life in the Americas Pre-1492

- American Yawp, [Chapter 1, “The New World”](#) (I-II)
- [Native American origin stories](#), American Yawp reader

Wk 2. Mon. Oct 8: The Spanish Conquest of North America

- American Yawp, [Chapter 1, “The New World”](#) (III-V)
- Lauri Gwen Shapiro, [“Pocahontas: Fantasy and Reality.”](#) *Slate*
- Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*, [chapter 1](#)
- De Las Casas, excerpt

- Columbus, [diary entries](#)
- Wed. Oct. 10: The English in the Early Chesapeake
- American Yawp, [Chapter 2, “Colliding Cultures”](#) (I-IV) and [Chapter 3, “British North America”](#) (III-IV))
 - Dale Craig Tatum, “Donald Trump and the Legacy of Bacon’s Rebellion,” *Journal of Black Studies*, July 2017, Vol. 48 No. 7, pp. 651-674.
 - [Nathaniel Bacon’s Declaration](#), 1676
 - Visit Virtual Jamestown: <http://www.virtualjamestown.org/> and poke around

Wk 3. Mon. Oct. 15: The Puritan Migration and the Salem Witchcraft Trials

- American Yawp, [Chapter 2, “Colliding Cultures”](#) (V-VII) and [Chapter 3, “British North America”](#) (V-VI)
- Nancy F. Cott, “Eighteenth-Century Family and Social Life Revealed in Massachusetts Divorce Records,” *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn, 1976), pp. 20-43.
- Gretchen A. Adams, “The Specter of Salem in American Culture,” *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (July, 2003), pp. 24–27.
- Elizabeth Reis, “Confess or Deny? What’s A Witch to Do?” *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (July, 2003), pp. 11–15.

Wed. Oct. 17: Slavery and the Slave Trade

- American Yawp, [Chapter 3, “British North America”](#) (I-II)
- American Yawp, [Chapter 4, “Colonial Society”](#) (I-III)
- Olaudah Equiano, [chapter 2](#)
- Jonathan Prude, “To Look upon the ‘Lower Sort’: Runaway Ads and the Appearance of Unfree Laborers in America, 1750-1800,” *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 78, No. 1 (Jun., 1991), pp. 124-159.

Wk 4. Mon. Oct. 22: Enlightenment and Awakening

- American Yawp, [Chapter 4, “Colonial Society”](#) (IV)
- The American Yawp, [Chapter 5, “The American Revolution”](#) (I-II)
- John Locke, *Two Treatise of Government* (excerpt)
- Jean Jacques-Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (excerpt)
- Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (excerpt)

Wed. Oct. 24: The Origins of the American Revolution

- [Chapter 4, “Colonial Society”](#) (V-VII)
- The American Yawp, [Chapter 5, “The American Revolution”](#) (III)
- Letters, George Washington to George and Bryan Fairfax
- Patrick Henry, [“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!”](#)
- Thomas Paine, [Common Sense](#) (excerpts)
- Declaration of Independence
- Jack P. Greene, “The American Revolution,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 93-102.

Wk 5. Mon Oct. 29: The Revolution and the War for Independence
Paper #1 DUE

- The American Yawp, [Chapter 5, “The American Revolution”](#) (IV-VII)
- Wed. Oct. 31: Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention
- American Yawp, [Chapter 6, “A New Nation”](#) (I-IV)
 - Letter, [Abigail Adams to John Adams](#) (“Remember the Ladies”)
 - [Nathan Kozuskanich](#), “Originalism in a Digital Age: An Inquiry into the Right to Bear Arms,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, [Volume 29, Number 4, Winter 2009](#), pp. 585-606.
 - Mercy Otis Warren opposes the constitution (excerpt), pp. 156-159
 - Publius (James Madison), [Federalist No. 10](#)
 - Ray Raphael, “Instructions: The people's voice in revolutionary America” [www.common-place.org · vol. 9 · no. 1 · October 2008](#)

Wk 6. Mon. Nov. 5: MIDTERM

Wed. Nov. 7: Washington and the Federalists

- American Yawp, [Chapter 6, “A New Nation”](#) (V-VII)
- George Washington, [“Farewell Address”](#)
- Hamilton The Musical (Symposium), *Journal of the Early Republic*, [Vol. 37, No. 2, \(Summer 2017\)](#), pp. 251-303 [excerpts].

Wk 7. Mon. Nov. 12: NO CLASS VETERANS DAY

Wed. Nov. 14: Adams, Jefferson, and the Revolution of 1800

- American Yawp, [Chapter 6, “A New Nation”](#) (VIII-XI)
- Jill Lepore, [“Party Time: Smear tactics, skulduggery, and the début of American democracy,”](#) *The New Yorker*, September 17, 2007.
- [Anti-Thomas Jefferson cartoon](#) (American Yawp)

Wk 8. Mon. Nov. 19: Jefferson and Jeffersonianism

- American Yawp, [Chapter 7, “The Early Republic”](#) (I-IV)
- Joseph J. Ellis, “Jefferson: Post-DNA,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Third Series, Vol. 57, No. 1 (Jan., 2000), pp. 125-138.
- [“Thomas Jefferson’s Racism”](#) (Excerpt from Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia; American Yawp)

Wed. Nov. 21: Madison and the War of 1812

Paper #2 DUE

- American Yawp, [Chapter 7, “The Early Republic”](#) (V-VII)
- [Congress Debates Going to War](#), 1811 (American Yawp)
- [James Madison, “Presidential Proclamation,” Sep. 1, 1814](#)

Wk 9. Mon. Nov. 26: The Market Revolution

- American Yawp, [Chapter 8, “The Market Revolution”](#) (I-VII)
- Edward Pershey, “Lowell and the Industrial City in 19th Century America,” *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 5, No. 2, Urban History (Fall, 1990), pp. 5-10.
- [A Traveler Describes Life Along the Eire Canal](#) (American Yawp)

Wed. Nov. 28: NO CLASS TGV

Wk 10. Mon. Dec. 3: From Good Feelings to Partisan Strife

- American Yawp, [Chapter 9, "Democracy in America"](#) (I-III)
- [Missouri Controversy documents](#) (American Yawp)
- [Nat Turner explains his rebellion](#) (American Yawp)

Wed. Dec. 5: Andrew Jackson and the Limits of Jacksonian Democracy

- American Yawp, [Chapter 9, "Democracy in America"](#) (IV-XI)
- [Andrew Jackson's Veto Message Against Re-chartering the Bank of the United States, 1832](#) (American Yawp)
- Steve Inskeep, "[Donald Trump and the Legacy of Andrew Jackson](#)," *The Atlantic*, November 30, 2016.
- [Letter, Ralph Waldo Emerson to President Martin Van Buren](#)