Hist 3004/16652: American Colonial History
Spring 2009
Dr. Randy Shifflett
Virginia Tech

Office Hours: 10:00-11:30 TTH/Other Times by Appointment
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Course Web Site: Blackboard

Students not attending the first class may be dropped

Required Readings:
- American Colonies, by Alan Taylor
- Major Problems in American Colonial History, by Karen Kupperman
- Founding Brothers, by Joseph Ellis
- Selected online texts and documents

Course Description:

This course covers the social, political, and economic development of American colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The course examines in detail seven key themes in America’s colonial and revolutionary period history:

- Indo-European Encounters and Exchanges
- Colonial American in an Atlantic World
- Labor Changes from Indentured Servitude to Slavery
- Race, Class, and Gender in Colonial America
- Regional Cultures
- Becoming American

This course is intended to provide students with detailed and complex analyses of the major events, themes, and people in America’s history from 1607 to 1800. We will explore the major issues of the period not only through political leaders but also through the lives of ordinary Americans. Readings cover the key themes we will focus on. The course requirements include unannounced objective quizzes or in-class responses on the reading assignments (no make-ups allowed), a mid term exam, and a final exam.

Grading:
- Quizzes and Class Work: 40 %
- Mid term Exam 20 %
- Final Exam: 40 %
Honor Policy:

I trust every student in this course to fully comply with all of the provisions of Virginia Tech’s honor system. In addition to pledging that you have neither received nor given aid while taking your exam, your signature also affirms that you have not accessed any notes, study outlines, problem sets, old exams, answer keys, or the textbook while taking an exam and that you have not obtained any answers from another students exam. All alleged honor violations brought to my attention will be forwarded to the Virginia Tech honor committee. If, in my judgment, it is beyond a reasonable doubt that a student has committed an honor violation with regard to a given exam or quiz, that student will receive an immediate grade of 'F' for that work, irrespective of any subsequent action taken by the honor committee.

Hist 3004 Calendar of Classes

Schedule for readings and brief lectures (subject to change):

Encounters: Land and People

Week 1: Before the Europeans Came
1/20 Introduction
1/22 Discussion: Pre-contact, Kupperman, Chs. 1 & 6

(Last day to add class, 26 Jan)

Week 2: Exploration and Discovery or Conquest and Subjugation?
1/27 New World Encounters. Discussion: Women in Early Jamestown
1/29 Discussion: Taylor, Chs. 1-5; Kupperman, Ch. 2

Week 3: The Virginia Experiment
2/3 Chesapeake World: Jamestown and Virginia
2/5 Discussion: Taylor, Chs. 5-6; Kupperman, Ch. 3. Jefferson, Notes on Virginia
(Query 11; Query 13, pp. 235-41)

Week 4: Puritans in Myth and Reality
2/10 New England and the Puritans. Brief In-class film.
2/12 Discussion: Taylor, Chs. 8-9; Kupperman, Ch. 4.

Week 5: Growing Diversity
2/17 Discussion: The Middle Colonies
2/19 Discussion Taylor, Ch. 12; Kupperman, Ch. 7
Labor: From Indentured Servitude to Slavery

Week 6: From Societies with Slaves to Slave Societies
2/24 Indentures and Slaves. Discussion: Contract of Richard Lowther; Richard Frethorne
2/26 Discussion: Taylor, Chs. 10-11; Kupperman, Chs. 8 & 10

(Last day to drop class without penalty, 2 March)

Week 7:
3/3 The Seventeenth Century in Retrospect

(Last day to drop class without penalty, 2 March)

3/5 Mid-Term Exam

Spring Break, March 7-15

Empires and Revolutions

Week 8: Empires, Indians, and Pirates
3/17 Unrest and Challenges to Empire
3/19 Discussion: Taylor, Ch. 13

Week 9: Regionalism
3/24 Regional Cultures
3/26 Discussion: Taylor, Ch. 14 & 16; Kupperman, Ch. 5

Week 10: Religion
3/31 Awakenings
4/2 Discussion: Taylor, Ch. 15; Kupperman, Ch. 11 & “The Indians Great Awakening,” pp. 427-434

Week 11: Spanish, French, and Indian Wars to Win the West
4/7 The Great Plains
4/9 Discussion: Taylor, Ch. 17

Becoming American

Week 12: War Against the British
4/14 The American Revolution
Week 13: Founding Brothers
4/21  The Revolutionary Generation
4/23  Discussion: Ellis, *Founding Brothers*, pp. 3-162

Week 14: American Slavery/American Freedom

Week 15: Search for a Usable Past
5/5  Discussion, The Eighteenth Century and American Identity: Kupperman, Ch. 14

Final Exam: Monday, 11 May, 2:05 – 4:05 p.m.

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