COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A prominent historian recently commented that "American history at its best remains... an ongoing mode of collective self-discovery about the nature of our society." In that spirit, this course explores the diversity of the colonial experience; the origins, nature, and consequences of the American Revolution; the evolution of a unique republic; the growth of religious pluralism; economic development; continental expansion and sectionalism; slavery and race relations; the changing status and roles of women; social reform; the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Students taking this course for honors credit are expected to attend the lectures and the honors discussion section.

REQUIRED READINGS:

NOTE: (1) These titles are available at the University Bookstore on State Street. They have also been placed on three-hour reserve at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

(2) Discussion sessions for the readings will be arranged at the first meeting of the honors group.

T. H. Breen. Imagining the Past: East Hampton Histories
James H. Merrell. The Indians' New World: Calawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact Through the Era of Removal
Charles Joyner. Down By the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community
James M. McPherson. Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT:

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Sept. 2  Introductory Meeting
Sept. 5  LABOR DAY -- NO CLASS
Sept. 7  A World Apart: The Americas before European Contact
Sept. 9  Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa
Sept. 12 European in the Fifteenth Century
Sept. 14 When Worlds Collide
Sept. 16 Early Modern England
Sept. 19 English Expansion: Ireland and the Caribbean
Sept. 21 The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century
Sept. 23 Slavery: The Fateful Commitment
Sept. 26 Puritanism and the Founding of New England
Sept. 28 Review Session
Sept. 30 EXAM NO. 1

Oct. 3  Colonial New England Society
Oct. 5  Accommodation and Resistance: Colonists and Native Americans
Oct. 7  The Imperial Connection
Oct. 10 Land of Diversity: English Colonies in the Eighteenth Century
Oct. 12 Evangelicalism
Oct. 14 Enlightenment
Oct. 17 Colonial Political Development
Oct. 19 Crisis of Empire
Oct. 21 The War for Independence
Oct. 24 Creation of the American Republic
Oct. 26 The 1790s: A Crucial Decade
Oct. 28 The Contagion of Liberty
Oct. 31 The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
Nov. 2  The Jeffersonians and the Empire of Liberty
Nov. 4  Economic Development and Early Industrialization
Nov. 7  The Growth of the West
Nov. 9  Review Session
Nov. 11  EXAM NO. 2

Nov. 14 Politics and Parties in Jacksonian America
Nov. 16 Outsiders: Indians and Blacks
Nov. 18 Slave Consciousness and Culture
Nov. 21 Women's Sphere
Nov. 23 The Democratization of American Religion
Nov. 25 THANKSGIVING VACATION -- NO CLASS
Nov. 28  The Reform Impulse
Nov. 30  Abolitionism vs. the Defense of Slavery
Dec.  2  Expansion, War, and Compromise
Dec.  5  Popular Sovereignty and Bleeding Kansas
Dec.  7  The House Divided
Dec.  9  Civil War
Dec. 12  The Destruction of Slavery
Dec. 14  Reconstruction: An American Tragedy
Dec. 19  FINAL EXAM (2:45–4:45 p.m., place to be announced)

**EVALUATION:** Your grade will be computed as follows: 20% for each in-class exam; 35% for discussion section (including associated written work); 25% for the final exam.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

J. Lee:  11:00–11:45 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Also by appointment. 4116 Humanities Bldg.
         Phone: 263-1661.