

Department of History  
University of Wisconsin -- Madison  
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History 101  
**The American Colonies & the United States until 1877**

MTWRF 9:30-12:30

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5133 Humanities

History 101 covers a large expanse of time. Columbus's voyage to America, which is among the first topics treated, occurred 500 years ago. English settlement in those portions of North America that became the United States began nearly 400 years ago, with the founding of Jamestown in 1607. Indeed, the colonial era of U.S. history, measured from that date to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, forms a period almost four-fifths as long as the history of the nation since 1776. The remainder of the course examines the first 100 years of U.S. history.

Historians cannot recount all the events of yesterday, let alone of a time so far gone. They focus, instead, on themes that will help us to know the past in ways that will make our own times more understandable. That dual goal is challenging, because it requires historians to keep in balance two competing obligations: respect for the unique character of the past and responsibility to the present and future.

The textbook used in this course is Norman K. Risjord's *America: A History of the United States*, volume I. In addition to the text, students will read two monographs, or books on specialized topics. Every paragraph in a text rests on the foundation of one or more such studies. It is through the monographs that the nature of historical argumentation and use of evidence should become clear.

The lectures will follow roughly with the order of topics established in the textbook. Most will highlight the information found in those chapters, but they will also introduce other information and examine some ideas in greater depth. The remaining lectures will center on examinations of the monographs and of the topics on which they are based. The conscientious student will follow the text, the monographs, and the lectures with care.

History 101 will have two formal examinations, including a mid-term and an end-term. Students will take all exams during the normal class periods on the dates noted in the schedule. The kinds of questions on the tests will include multiple-choice, identification and significance, and essays. The examinations, however, will not be cumulative.

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

- May 26           The Age of Exploration  
                  Pre-Columbian America  
                  Spanish and English Explorers  
                  Founding Virginia  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 1
- May 27           Pilgrims, Puritans, Dissidents, and Traders  
                  Founding Massachusetts  
                  Founding the Other Colonies  
                  The Glorious Revolution  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 2
- May 28           Witchcraft in Massachusetts  
                  History and Interpretation  
Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed*
- May 29           American Society and Politics in the Eighteenth Century  
                  Growth of the Colonial Population  
                  The Colonial Economy  
                  The Structure of Politics  
Risjord, *America*, chs. 3 and 4
- June 1           The Imperial Crisis  
                  The Anglo-American Empire  
                  The French and Indian War and Its Aftermath  
                  The Coming of Independence  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 5
- June 2           The American Revolution  
                  The War of Independence  
                  The Articles of Confederation  
                  The U.S. Constitution  
Risjord, *America*, chs. 6 and 7
- June 3           *Mid-Term Examination*  
                  Conclusion and Review of Preceding Lectures  
                  Examination (75 minutes)
- June 4           The New Nation  
                  The Administrations of Washington and Adams  
                  The Jeffersonian Revolution  
                  The War of 1812  
Risjord, *America*, chs. 8 and 9

- June 5 Political Party Systems  
The Era of Good Feelings  
The Second Party System  
Jacksonian Democracy  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 10
- June 8 A People in Motion  
Expansion  
Immigration  
Displacement  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 11  
Duane Schultz, *Over the Earth I Come*
- June 9 Slavery in an Age of Reform  
Slavery  
Abolitionism  
Other Aspects of Reform  
Risjord, *America*, ch. 12
- June 10 The Coming of the Civil War  
Manifest Destiny  
The Crises of the 1850s  
A House Dividing  
Risjord, *America*, chs. 13 and 14
- June 11 The Civil War and Reconstruction  
Secession  
From Bull Run to Appomattox  
Reconstruction  
Risjord, *America*, chs. 15 and 16
- June 12 *End-Term Examination*  
Conclusion and Review of Preceding Lectures  
Examination (75 minutes)