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Office Hours: MWF 11:00-11:50  
MW 2:00-3:00  
and by appointment.

### U. S. History to 1865

This is a general and thematic study of the culture, society, and politics of the United States from colonial origins through the Civil War.

#### Learning Goals:

1. To introduce the student to the general academic discipline of history as well as to the fundamental issues and elements in American history.
2. To encourage the development and utilization of critical thinking skills including the synthesis, analysis and application of facts and ideas to explain historical phenomena.
3. To improve the student's communication skills both oral and written through periodic discussion groups and by providing opportunities to write essays and reports to be critically evaluated.

Requirements: Attend class; participate in all discussion groups; turn in all assignments on time and typewritten or computer produced; take responsibility for any work missed due to absence.

Grading: In this course there will be three written examinations which consist primarily of essay type questions. Study guides will be provided in advance of the exams. However it is your responsibility to study the material as we go along. A study guide is a convenience not a crutch! In addition, each student will complete two written projects organized according to directions provided by the instructor. **Do not e-mail assignments without prior permission and such permission will rarely be given. Make and retain a duplicate copy of your written projects before submitting them and keep all your graded work until you have received the final grade for the course.** Each of the above items counts for approximately one-fifth of the final grade. The grading scale is as follows: **A=90+, A-=89, B+=85-88, B=80-84, B-=79, C+=75-78, C=70-74, D+=65-68, D=60-64, D-=59, F = below 59.**

All students are bound by the Honor Code; you should be familiar with acts which breach it such as plagiarism and any such violations will be referred for investigation and adjudication. **[See Student Handbook]**

The College of Charleston offers a variety of student support services that can assist you to succeed academically. For this course, the Writing Lab can be of special utility as you organize, write, proofread and otherwise prepare your written assignments for submission, so seek assistance there as needed. Remember the best writers have great editors also.

#### Texts:

George Tindall & David Shi America: A Narrative History Vol 1, W.W. Norton, 2007

Woody Holton, Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia University of North Carolina, 1999

James E. Lewis, The Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson's Noble Bargain? Thomas Jefferson Foundation, 2003

William E. Gienapp, This Fiery Trial: The Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln Oxford 2002.

### Course Outline and Readings

1. Background to Colonization  
European Expansion and Cultural Crossroads  
Tindall, Chap. 1
2. Colonizing the New World  
Settlement of the Chesapeake  
The Puritan Experiment  
Proprietary Ventures  
Tindall, Chaps. 2-3
3. Colonists and Empire: Regional Patterns  
Stable Communities in Transition: Seventeenth Century New England  
Southern Plantation Societies  
Mercantilism and Political Unrest  
Tindall, Chap. 2-3
4. The Maturing Colonial Identity  
Eighteenth Century Population and Economic Expansion  
Crises in Eighteenth Century Society  
Colonial Politics  
Tindall, Chap. 4; Holt begin
- EXAM**
5. Prelude to Independence  
Eroding Bonds of Empire  
From Resistance to Revolution  
Tindall, Chaps. 5-6; Holt finish [report]
6. Establishment of a New Nation and Government  
Creating a Nation  
First Party System and Total Politics (Parts I & II)  
Tindall, Chaps. 7-8; Jan Lewis, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic" William and Mary Quarterly 44 (October, 1987): 689-721 [e-reserve and stacks]
7. Republican Ascendance  
The Jeffersonian Tradition  
Republican Problems and Solutions  
Tindall, Chap. 9; Lewis entire [questions]
8. Economic Expansion, Nationalism and Sectional Strains  
Postwar Nationalism and the American System  
American System or Sectionalism

Tindall, Chap.10

**EXAM**

9. The Jacksonian Era  
The Jacksonian Revolution  
The Triumph of Jacksonian Democracy  
Tindall, Chaps. 11-12
10. The South and Slavery  
Slavery and the Southern Mind  
Tindall, Chap. 15
11. The Ferment of Reform and Culture  
Religion, Romanticism and Reform  
Abolitionism and Nineteenth Century Reform  
Tindall, Chap. 13
12. Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny  
Manifest Destiny and Mission  
Tindall, Chap. 14, Gienapp begin
13. The Sectional Crisis  
Sectionalism and Politics 1848-1854  
Sectional Conflict and the Republican Party  
Tindall, Chap. 16, Gienapp continue
14. And the War Came  
The Civil War Era  
Tindall, Chap. 17  
Gienapp finish [essay]  
**EXAM** December 12

"What spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty & Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual & surest support?" James Madison August 4, 1822. Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building.