HIS 105

Office: Bishop 308
Email: ktharrel@olemiss.edu
Office Hours: Tues. 9:30-10:30am or by appt.
Class Time: Tues. and Thurs. 8:00-9:15am

- **Course Description**

This course on the history of United States will span from its pre-colonial roots in the sixteenth century to the Reconstruction period. My ultimate goal in this class will be to sharpen your analytical skills about this historical era, de-emphasize the significance of specific dates, names, and places (although a certain knowledge of this body of facts will be essential to our study and a passing grade), all the while stressing the importance of concepts and ideas.

History is a fairly simple social science. As a discipline it relies on some very basic fundamental questions—what has changed and what hasn’t? If change has occurred, why did it take place when it did? Why not before or why not after? Often what motivated the actions and pursuits of people in the past had less to do with what happened to them and more to do with what they think happened to them. These questions and this concept are essential to understanding the subject matter of this class.

Lastly, people of the past are different from us. We have to contextualize their experiences and points of view. The job of the historian is to shape interpretations of the past based on evidence and the analysis of other scholars. As a community, historians often agree and disagree with one another. I have a viewpoint and so does the author of our textbook. You may agree or disagree with various positions in our readings. There’s nothing wrong with that. Hopefully by the end of the semester you will have a well-developed interpretation of early America that you can call your own.

- **Course Requirements**

I will occasionally field questions about the readings from the class, so I strongly encourage class participation, as this will play a significant factor in boosting a borderline grade. In addition to reading quizzes there will be a midterm and a final, along with two papers—a smaller paper 3-5 pages in length and a major paper 6-8 pages.

Students who do their assigned readings during the weeks for which they are assigned will get more out of both readings and lectures than those students who wait to do their reading right before each test.
• Absences

Attendance is required. Only absences due to official, university-sanctioned activities will be excused. However, students are allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences per semester which they may use at their own discretion. Upon your fourth absence you will be dropped half a letter grade.

• Late Policy

Late papers will be dropped a letter grade for every day they are past due. A paper that is turned in after class on the due date will be deducted half a letter grade.

• Academic Honesty

Students caught cheating on tests, quizzes, or plagiarizing (in any form) will fail the assignment in question—plain and simple. If you’re curious, plagiarism is the unattributed use of another person’s words or ideas as your own.

• Final Grades

Final grades will be determined according to the total number of points that students accumulate during the semester. A=1000-900, B=899-800, C=799-700, D=699-600, F=599 or below.

• Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability or require some sort of accommodation in the neighborhood of testing, note takers, readers, etc please contact the department of student disabilities by email: sds@olemiss.edu or by phone 662-915-7128

Week 1:
January 21
Introduction to the course

January 26
Native Americans / European Contact
Brinkley, 7-12, 21-34

Week 2:
January 28
Colonial Beginnings and the birth of Empire
Brinkley, 38-65 [BLACKBOARD DOCUMENTS]

February 2
Colonial Maturation
Brinkley, 82-98

Week 3:
February 4
Struggles between England and France
Brinkley, 106-115

February 9
The Move Toward Rebellion
Brinkley, 118-129

Week 4:
February 11
   The American Revolution
   Brinkley, 132-147
February 16
   The American Revolution Continued
   [BLACKBOARD DOCUMENTS]

Week 5:
February 18
   Inheriting the Revolution
   Brinkley, 148-160
February 23
   [REVIEW FOR MIDTERM]

Week 6:
February 25
   [MIDTERM]
March 2
   Formation of the Early Republic
   Brinkley, 164-182

Week 7:
March 4
   Social and Political Stirrings of the Early Republic Period
   Brinkley, 186-206
March 9
   A Second War with Britain
   Brinkley, 208-217

Week 8:
March 11
   The Rise of the Common Man, The Rise of Jackson
   Brinkley, 220-243 [FIRST PAPER DUE]
March 16
   [SPRING BREAK]

Week 9:
March 18
   [SPRING BREAK]
March 23
   The Age of Jackson
   Brinkley, 243-260

Week 10:
March 25
   Antebellum Southern Society
   Brinkley, 298-305
March 30
   North American Slavery
   Brinkley, 305-317

Week 11:
April 1
    North American Slavery Continued
    [BLACKBOARD DOCUMENTS]
April 6
    The Reformist Impulse
    Brinkley, 326-340
Week 12:
April 8
    Moving West
    Brinkley, 344-352
April 13
    The Impending Crisis
    Brinkley, 350-368
Week 13:
April 15
    Secession and the Beginnings of the American Civil War
    Brinkley, 372-388
April 20
    The American Civil War
    Brinkley, 388-402
April 22
    The American Civil War
    [BLACKBOARD DOCUMENTS]
Week 14:
April 27
    Reconstruction
    Brinkley, 406-436
April 29
    Reconstruction Continued
May 3-7
    [FINAL EXAMS]