

Dr. Carla Gerona
HIST 2111-E: United States to 1877
Georgia Tech, Spring 2009
TR 1:35-2:55, DM Smith 105

Office: Old CE G 19
Office phone: (404) 385-3182
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:30
E-mail: cgerona@hts.gatech.edu

Teaching Assistants:
Jason Callahan
Office : Old CE G 42
Office hours: M 2-3
Email: jcal@gatech.edu

Liang Yao
Office : Old CE G 42
Office hours: TR 3-4
Email: lyao6@gatech.edu

Course Purpose: This class is a survey of American history from its beginnings through Reconstruction. You will receive an introduction to the historian's craft and discipline of history as you learn about the most important events and people in early America. I hope that you will enjoy getting to know our founding mothers and fathers; our ancestors were amazing people -- and you will see that they did not always share one way of thinking!

Course description: This course will focus on the ways in which different peoples came together to create America. The course begins with Native America and looks at early encounters with Europeans and Africans. Then we will explore the ways in which early Americans built colonies, provinces, and eventually, the independent United States. Next we turn to developments and problems in the first half of the 1800s, concluding with a study of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Our approach to history will be based on critical thinking; we will work with primary and secondary sources and learn to interpret distinct and sometimes conflicting sources. Classes will consist of lectures, group work, and discussions.



Required Texts:

Eric Foner, Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume I, Second Edition
Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History ed. Eric Foner, Volume I, Second Edition
Personal Response System Remote (PRS -- available at bookstores)

Course goals and learning outcomes (what you should get out of this course):

- Develop a broader and deeper understanding of important eras in American history including:
 - Native America
 - Colonial Settlement
 - American Revolution
 - Antebellum Expansion
 - Slavery and Plantation Economy
 - Sectional Conflict and Civil War
 - Reconstruction
- Understand and analyze historical sources and categories including:
 - primary sources
 - secondary sources
 - periodization
- Develop stronger reading, listening, research, and communication skills

Course requirements and evaluation criteria

4 Tests (25 points each)

The tests are multiple choice, true/false, and matching. They will draw on material from the texts as well as the lectures. Each test will cover a different portion of the course. The last test will be given during finals week, but it is not cumulative. Although there is some overlap in content between reading and lectures, the material is not exactly the same. Some of the information that you will be tested on will be shared in class only, some will be from the readings only. Therefore, it is to your benefit to attend class as much as possible (see the next section).

Class attendance, PRS system, and class work (Up to 5 extra-credit points)

We will use the PRS system to record attendance. In addition to imparting information in lectures, I believe it is important to give you the opportunity to think hard about historical questions for yourself and in conjunction with your peers. Therefore, I often pose questions as part of the lecture. Sometimes you can respond using the PRS system, and sometimes I will ask you to write a response in your notebooks. You will share these responses with a neighbor, in a group, or as a class. In addition, I will sometimes organize group projects in which you share ideas and discuss readings with several people.

Getting in touch with us:

- Our doors are open for regular office hours or by appointment. We will be happy to answer questions about readings, clarify points from lecture, or discuss historical issues in greater depth.
- E-mail: We check e-mail on a regular basis, however you should allow 24 hour response time, and longer on the weekend.
- T-Square. I will post a copy of the syllabus and other important notices or changes on T-Square. I do not post lecture notes on T-Square. You will need to come to class to obtain lecture information.

A few necessary rules:

Classroom etiquette:

- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, text-messaging etc. You may use a lap top for notes, but if you choose to do this you must sit in the back row where you won't disturb other students. Please do not talk with other students, read newspapers, do outside work, play on your computer, sleep etc. This is distracting to me and to other students, so please be thoughtful. If you engage in any of these practices we reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.
- Be on time, do not come and go, or leave early.
- There will be many opportunities for thoughtful class participation – please be informed and considerate – and remember other students might have differing opinions.

Test days:

- Missed exams lead to a zero, unless you have cleared a make-up and have an excused absence beforehand. You must take all exams to pass the course.
- Scholastic dishonesty: Students who violate university rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the university, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Other notes:

- This syllabus is subject to change – be aware of any in class announcements. I will post all changes in writing. But if you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed – make friends with people in the class and stay in touch.
- If you have a disability please let us know after the first class so that we can follow university guidelines.
- Please let us know if you are having problems or have any special needs. We are here to help you.

DATE	TESTS	READINGS
JAN 6		NO READING
JAN 8		NO READING
JAN 13		NO READING
JAN 15		<u>GIVE ME LIBERTY,</u> (HEREAFTER <u>GML</u>) CHAPTER 1, A NEW

		WORLD
JAN 20		<u>GML</u> , CHAPTER 2, BEGINNINGS OF ENGLISH AMERICA
JAN 22		<u>GML</u> , CHAPTER 3, CREATING ANGLO-AMERICA
JAN 27		<u>VOICES OF FREEDOM (HEREAFTER VOF)</u> : DOCUMENTS 2,5,6, 10, 11, 17, 18, VERRAZANO, BRÉBEUF, MICMAC, WINTHROP, HUTCHINSON, PA IMMIGRANT, MITTELBERGER
JAN 29		NO READING
FEB 3	TEST 1	TEST 1
FEB 5		<u>GML</u> , CHAPTER 4, SLAVERY, FREEDOM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EMPIRE
FEB 10		<u>GML</u> , CHAPTER 5, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FEB 12		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 6, THE REVOLUTION WITHIN
FEB 17		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 7, FOUNDING A NATION
FEB 19		<u>VOF</u> : DOCUMENTS 21, 24, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 41, 42 EQUIANO, ZENGER PAINE, CHALMERS, ADAMS, JEFFERSON, PA ACT, MADISON, WINTHROP,
FEB 24		NO READING
FEB 26	TEST 2	TEST 2
MAR 3		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 8, SECURING THE REPUBLIC
MAR 5		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 9, THE MARKET REVOLUTION
MAR 10		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 10, DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA
MAR 12		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 11, THE PECULIAR INSTITUTION

MAR 17		SPRING BREAK
MAR 19		SPRING BREAK
MAR 24		<u>VOF</u> DOCUMENTS: 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 59-63, 66-68 MURRAY, TUCKER, TECUMSEH, BAKER, IMMIGRANTS, ADAMS, CALHOUN, SHARITASH, CHEROKEE, JACKSON, BOW, FITZHUGH, NORTHUP
MAR 26	TEST 3	NO READING
MAR 31		TEST 3
APR 2		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 12, AN AGE OF REFORM
APR 7		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 13, A HOUSES DIVIDED NO READING
APR 9		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 14, A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM: THE CIVIL WAR
APR 14		<u>GML</u> CHAPTER 15, WHAT IS FREEDOM?: RECONSTRUCTION
APR 16		<u>VOF</u> DOCUMENTS: 75, 76, 77, 83, 85, 86, 88, 95, 97 BEECHER, GRIMKÉ, SENECA FALLS, LINCOLN-DOUGLAS, STEPHENS, SPIEGEL, DOUGLASS, ANDREWS, DOUGLASS
APR 21		NO READING
APR 23		NO READING
FINALS WEEK	TEST 4	TEST 4