

**HISTORY 2301E**  
**THE UNITED STATES: COLONIAL PERIOD TO THE PRESENT**  
**Summer 2020**  
**Online Distance Studies**

**Instructor: Dr. Nicolas Virtue**

Email: [nvirtue2@uwo.ca](mailto:nvirtue2@uwo.ca)

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**Course Description:**

Emphasis first term upon the emergence of the American nation, the egalitarian impulse, national expansion and sectional conflict; second term, upon the great transformations of the modern era: the growth of industrialism, big government, a pluralistic society, and international predominance.

***Antirequisite(s):***

History 2302F/G, History 2710F/G

**Course Syllabus:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain the significance of key events, people, and ideas in American history
- connect events from the American past to current political and social issues
- apply the historical method to challenge erroneous assumptions about the past
- express ideas and arguments clearly and concisely in writing
- write and properly format an essay that uses primary and secondary evidence to support a thesis statement

**Course Materials:**

***Required Textbook:***

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, Seagull 6th Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2020).

- Note: this is the COMBINED VOLUME (vols. 1 and 2); the most recent edition is recommended, but the 3rd, 4th, or 5th editions will also work

***Additional Readings:***

Additional readings will be provided via OWL.

## **Methods of Evaluation:**

Assignment #1	20%	due June 1
Assignment #2 – Proposal	5%	due June 12
Assignment #2 – Essay	25%	due July 6
Quizzes (x10)	20%	weekly
Critical Reading Assessments (x4)	10%	throughout term
Forum Contributions	bonus	weekly (optional)
Final Assignment	20%	due July 24

Note: Because this is an essay course, all written work must be submitted in order to pass the course.

Late Penalties: Late papers will receive a 2% deduction per day late (including weekends). No paper will be accepted after the final day of class.

### ***Assignment #1: Slavery and the American Revolution***

Students will be provided with a selection of primary and secondary sources relating to the topic of slavery and the American Revolution. Students will write a 1500-word essay that uses these sources to make an historical argument or answer a specific research question. Additional research is optional.

### ***Assignment #2: Research Essay***

Assignment #2 consists of two components: a Proposal and an Essay. The Proposal of 250 words should include research questions, a tentative argument, and a bibliography of 5–10 primary and secondary sources. Students are expected to develop their own topics and research questions. The final Essay will be approximately 2000 words.

### ***Quizzes:***

Course content is divided into weekly units. Each unit will include a short quiz based on lecture content and assigned textbooks and article readings. Quizzes may vary in makeup but will mostly involve multiple-choice and matching type questions. Quizzes will be timed and must be completed by the last day (Friday) of each unit.

### ***Critical Reading Assessments:***

There are eight additional article-length readings for the course to accompany Units 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11. Students are required to submit critical assessments on four of these readings, due at the end of the relevant units. Blank Critical Reading Assessment forms will be provided on OWL.

### ***Forum Contributions:***

Students are encouraged to participate in forum discussions. Questions are open and posted by unit at the beginning of the course. Each unit's forum will remain open until the end of that unit's week. Quality is preferred over quantity. Students are also encouraged to pose their own questions in the forum. Students can receive up to 5% bonus mark for consistent and high-quality contributions.

### ***Final Assignment:***

The Final Assignment takes the place of a final exam for this course. Assignment questions will be distributed via OWL at the beginning of Unit 12 (July 20) and students will have until the end of the week (July 24) to submit a 1500-word response that demonstrates engagement with course material.

## **Additional Statements**

### ***Academic Offences:***

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Medical Issues***

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please note: Please visit [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html) to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

### ***Plagiarism:***

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your

omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### ***Scholastic Offences***

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[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Copyright***

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

### ***Support Services***

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail [vangalen@uwo.ca](mailto:vangalen@uwo.ca).