

Winthrop University

Department of History

History 211-001 CRN 13325: United States History To 1877

Fall 2018, Kinard 215, 11:00-11:50 M/W/F

Instructor: Dr. Edward Lee

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Phone: (803) 323-4844

Credits: 3 undergraduate hours

Office: Bancroft 364

Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 M/W

and by appointment

Scope Of Course

Commencing with Christopher Columbus' voyage to America, this course moves swiftly through nearly four centuries of our nation's past. In History 211, we will examine the social, economic, and political factors which gave birth to our country and the forces, which by 1860, plunged us into a bloody Civil War. Along our journey, we will consider events such as colonialism, the Salem Witch Trials, the American Revolution, the drafting of the Constitution, and the Age of Jackson. This Course climaxes with the expansionism of the 1840s, the turmoil of the 1850s, and the rupture of the Union. We conclude History 211 with Reconstruction. Obviously, we have much material to discuss. You are expected to promptly attend every class session so that you do not fall behind. When

unavoidable absences occur, however, obtain notes and assignments from a classmate.

Goals

In History 211, we will improve our ability to interpret and analyze historical data and to orally and in written form use evidence to support our understanding of this data. Reading, writing, speaking, analytical skills will be sharpened in this course as we “think historically” about our past.

This course satisfies the historical perspective, arts and humanities, and Constitution requirements of the general education program for Winthrop University undergraduate students. It satisfies the following goals: “to communicate clearly and effectively in standard English,” Identify sound and unsound reasoning,” “analyze and use a variety of information-gathering techniques,” “use the library and other information sources competently,” and “to recognize and appreciate human diversity (both past and present) as well as the diversity of ideas, institutions, philosophies, moral codes, and ethical principles.”

There are several global learning components to this course, including analyses of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and their impact on other countries as well as America’s role internationally. As one of the required U.S. History survey courses, History 211 also satisfies core requirements for both history majors and minors. Thus, students will satisfy the following goals for student outcomes of the History Department’s B.A. degree: “students will be able to communicate effectively core themes, ideas, and subject matter, in both written and oral form” and “students will be able to discuss critically significant issues and themes of United States History.”

Grades

As noted earlier, we will proceed rapidly through this course. A successful experience in History 211 requires that you complete several tasks. Three essay/short answer exams (including a final exam) are scheduled for 9/12, 10/24, and 12/6 at 8:00. Each of these tests will count 20% of your course grade.

Additionally, students will prepare two book reviews (worth 20% each), scheduled for 10/10 and 12/3. Exam format and book review instructions will be discussed with you during our orientation meeting. We use a ten point grading scale in History 211 (e.g., 90=A, 80=B). Make-up exams and late book reviews are not normally permitted. Reading assignments from the textbook, A People and a Nation, vol. 1 will be announced in class.

Students With Disabilities

Dr. Lee will readily accommodate students with disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Office For Services For Students With Disabilities (Bancroft Annex), 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please contact Dr. Lee so that accommodations can be made.

The Instructor

Dr. Lee has taught at the university level for thirty-three years. He is the author or co-author of fifteen books, including South Carolina In The Civil War, and is the former president of the South Carolina Historical Association. He is easily accessible before and after each class meeting, during office hours, and by appointment. Contact information is found at the beginning of this syllabus.

Welcome To History211