

HI201, Section 1 – History of the United States to 1865
Fall 2020

Course Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:00-12:50

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://bac.zoom.us/j/94016437170>



The County Election (1852), by George Caleb Bingham. St. Louis Art Museum.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Hutchinson

Office: Room 308C, Robert Stowe Hall

Virtual Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 & TR 4:00-5:00, and by appointment

Scheduling Appointment: <https://bit.ly/hi201-appointment>

Office Phone: 704-461-5019

Email address: danielhutchinson@bac.edu

TEXTS:

Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *The American Yawp*. 2019-2020 edition.

<http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

Print edition via Stanford University Press: <https://www.sup.org/books/precart/?id=27850>

Caleb McDaniel, *Sweet Taste of Liberty A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America* (Oxford University Press, 2019)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of the major political, social, economic, religious, and cultural developments that shaped the United States to 1865. Because of time limitations, covering this material in a comprehensive manner poses considerable challenges. Thus, we will address particular themes that will provide a framework by which early American history can be understood. These themes include the settlement and development of colonial North America; the creation and formation of the early United States as a nation; the Westward expansion of the United States, and the challenges and opportunities inherent in this expansion; America's sectional crisis and the course of the American Civil War.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- For students to acquire an understanding of the notable personalities, ideas, and events that characterize the early history of United States.
- To fulfill the education mission of Belmont Abbey College: to enable students to “lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others.”

COURSE POLICIES:

Substantial alterations to typical course policies have been made in response to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Future adjustments may be required over the course of the semester in response to unfolding events. Please know the instructor will attempt to work with you to ensure both your health and your academic success. Regardless of these altered circumstances, success in this class requires your participation and engagement.

Class Format: Because of the present pandemic, this class will be taught online. Announcements, instructional materials, and assessment will be facilitated by Canvas, and live class sessions will occur via Zoom. This is not my preference, as I understand it may not be yours. Nonetheless, I am confident we will enjoy a stimulating and fulfilling experience this semester.

Belmont Abbey College Attendance Policy: While measuring attendance and regular class participation remains important, obviously the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic require flexibility and imagination. When conditions are optimal, you are expected to regularly participate in class sessions, both in-person and via Zoom. However, the present circumstances have enormously complicated the dynamics of every facet of life. If you believe you will be absent for a future class, **please alert the instructor so proper arrangements can be made**. Prolonged absences from class sessions or failure to turn in assignments (three consecutive absences/missed assignments; more than four total absences/missed assignments) will result in

communication from the instructor, and if continued, penalties to the student's final grade.

In addition to the present circumstances, excused absences also include: deaths or serious illness in the family, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official college activities. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Reading: This course is a reading intensive course. Students are expected to have read each assignment by the announced assigned time. Students are especially encouraged to start early on the texts that require written assignments, particularly the texts *American Yawp* and *Sweet Taste of Liberty*. Other readings will be assigned through the course of the semester. Do not put yourself in the position where you must read several hundred pages in a short period of time.

Late Assignments: For each written assignment, there will be a one-week window in which assignments can be uploaded to Canvas. After that window is closed, late papers will not be accepted. The only exception to this policy is for students with valid, documented reasons. Papers must be turned in digitally to Canvas; hard copies or copies submitted via email will not be accepted.

Politeness and decorum: because the content of this course deals with controversial material, both the student and the instructor are expected to act in a **civil manner** when engaging in classroom discussion. In addition, students are asked to refrain from actions that distract others during class, including but not limited to: talking, sleeping, eating, and texting.

Zoom Etiquette: When logged into Zoom, when appropriate please keep webcam activated so to facilitate greater engagement and class participation. Muting your webcam for brief periods as needed is acceptable.

GRADING/EVALUATION:

The course grade is composed of the following components and based on the following scale:

- **Class Engagement & Participation – 30% of course grade**
- ***American Yawp* Chapter Check-Points (Mondays) – 20% of course grade**
- **Primary Source Annotations (Wednesdays) – 20% of course grade**
- ***Sweet Taste of Liberty* Paper – December 10 - 20% of course grade**
- **Digital History Project Assessment – 10% of course grade**
- **Extra Credit Opportunities – up to 5% of course grade**

Grade Scale:

A : 100-92	C : 77-72
A- : 91-90	C- : 71-70
B+ : 89-88	D+ : 69-68
B : 87-82	D : 67-62
B- : 81-80	D- : 61-60
C+ : 79-78	F: 60<

Class Engagement & Participation: Despite the challenges of the pandemic, success in this class still requires active engagement and participation. Whether meeting in-person or in Zoom, class sessions will feature activities, discussions, and explorations of important topics. Your presence and contributions to class are crucial for understanding of the material.

American Yawp Chapter Quizzes: Most weeks you'll be assigned a chapter reading in the *American Yawp*. Comprehension of the reading will be measured by weekly online quizzes via Canvas. Students may take these quizzes twice, with the best quiz result counting as the final grade.

Primary Source Annotations: Most weeks you'll be assigned a primary source from the period we're studying. Using an app called Hypothesis, you and your classmates will collectively annotate the transcript with comments, analysis, questions, explications, or media. You'll share with your classmates your impressions of the source's message, audience, intent, and the larger historical context. Then we'll discuss in class our collective analysis of the episode and how it reflects American history.

Sweet Taste of Liberty Paper: A major writing assignment will be drawn from your reading and comprehension of the text *Sweet Taste of Liberty*. In an essay three to five-pages in length, students will analyze the major themes of this text and their broader connection to American history.

Digital History Project Assessment: In order to understand how digital research techniques are being used by historians, students will compose a 2-3-page assessment of a digital history project of their choice. In assessing these projects, students will examine the sources, methodologies, audiences, and technical elements of the project, and be prepared to **briefly** describe them to the class. This assignment will meet the requirements for the Digital Humanities minor designation.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES MINOR DESIGNATION:

This course is designated as an approved course for the Digital Humanities minor. This designation is fulfilled by meeting the following requirements: 1) Students will utilize a digital humanities method to further their comprehension of a humanities discipline; 2)

Supervising faculty will complete a Digital Humanities Project Report describing the methods and approach used in the approved course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE POLICY:

In accordance with the standards of Belmont Abbey College, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism (the appropriation of passages from the writing of another as one's own), collusion (improper collaboration with another in preparation of notes, term papers, or other written work), cheating (giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using illicit material in an examination or quiz), or fabrication of sources used in a paper and included in its bibliography. It also includes appropriating another's ideas, theories, or interpretation as one's own without proper attribution. Stern disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty. Should you cheat on an exam or paper, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment, and your transgression will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs to be recorded and thereby impact your permanent academic record.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS:

Belmont Abbey College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may refer you to Mrs. Kimberly Stallings, Accessibility Services Coordinator. If any accommodations are approved by her office, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to ensure that they are implemented in a timely fashion.

Contact information for Mrs. Kimberly Stallings, Accessibility Services Coordinator – KimberlyStallings@bac.edu; 704-461-6228.

Office location – Abbott Vincent Taylor Library, Lower Level, Room L1

Course Schedule:

This is a general outline that is subject to change.

08/19 Introduction/Syllabus

08/21 Practicing History – The Breakup Game

08/24 A New World

08/26 A New World

08/28 A New World

08/31 Colliding Cultures
09/02 Colliding Cultures
09/04 Colliding Cultures

09/07 British North America
09/09 British North America
09/11 British North America

09/14 Colonial Society
09/16 Colonial Society
09/18 Colonial Society

09/21 American Revolution
09/23 American Revolution
09/25 American Revolution

09/28 A New Nation
09/30 A New Nation
10/02 A New Nation

10/05 The Early Republic
10/07 The Early Republic
10/09 The Early Republic

10/12 Democracy in America
10/14 Democracy in America
10/16 Democracy in America

10/19 Religion and Reform
10/21 Religion and Reform
10/23 Religion and Reform

10/26 Cotton Revolution
10/28 Cotton Revolution
10/30 Cotton Revolution

11/02 Manifest Destiny
11/04 Manifest Destiny
11/06 Manifest Destiny

11/09 The Sectional Crisis
11/11 The Sectional Crisis
11/13 The Sectional Crisis

11/16 The Civil War

11/18 The Civil War

11/20 The Civil War

11/23 *** **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS** ***

11/25 *** **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS** ***

11/27 *** **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS** ***

11/30 The Legacies of the Past on the Present

12/02 Individual Paper Consults

12/11 *** **SWEET TASTE OF LIBERTY PAPER DUE** ***