

University of North Texas
Department of History

History 2610: American History to 1865

MAYMESTER

Dr. Chet

Office hours: by appointment (guychet@unt.edu).

The steady demographic and economic growth of England's North American colonies was facilitated by the commercial activity and naval security that characterized the "First British Empire". The rejection of the mother country by its colonists was, and still is, a remarkable and curious aberration for some, while for others it was the culmination of a long-term natural progression. This course will trace the growing social, cultural, economic, and political tensions between Great Britain and its American colonies. The class will examine to what degree these developments can explain the acrimony of the early 1770s and Americans' willingness to wage war against the British Empire for political independence. Furthermore, the class will examine how the dynamics and unresolved tensions of the revolutionary era led to the "second American Revolution" – the Civil War.

Students are expected to perform the reading assignments and attend all classes. During the course of the semester, students will also submit one midterm exam and a final exam (if a student cannot complete an exam, he/she should contact me *in advance* in order to arrange a make up exam). I grade on a scale of 0 to 100, assigning letter grades in the following fashion: A (96-100), A- (90-95), B+ (86-89), B (83-85), B- (80-82), C+ (76-79), C (73-75), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59). In grading the writing assignments, I will pay close attention to both substance and form (grammar, spelling, and clarity). In evaluating substance, I will examine whether the author has demonstrated a critical, historical understanding of the material, and whether he/she has presented and substantiated a thesis (a historical argument). In order to compute the final course grade, I will add the relative values of each student's number grades for the mid-term (40%) and the final examination (60%).

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Texts:

James A. Henretta *et al.*, *America: A Concise History*, vol. 1: To 1877 (6th ed., 2015; ISBN-10: 1-4576-4865-2; ISBN-13: 978-1-4576-4865-6). Earlier editions are perfectly suitable as well. Take advantage of the support website for the textbook. In it you'll find outlines, essays, self-evaluation quizzes, points of interest and further research etc.

Jack Greene, "The Glorious Revolution and the British Empire 1688-1783" [handout]

Schedule:

Week 1: From the Glorious Revolution to the American Revolution

Henretta chapters from chapter 1 to the ratification of the Federal Constitution.
Jack Green, "The Glorious Revolution and the British Empire" [handout]

Week 2: Post-Revolutionary Strife & Integration

TUESDAY: FIRST MIDTERM

Henretta chapters covering Washington's presidency to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Week 3: The Coming of the Civil War

Henretta chapters on the Civil War & Reconstruction.

WEDNESDAY: FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT (TAKE-HOME)

THURSDAY: FINAL EXAM DUE 12 NOON.