

History 217
American History through the Civil War
Samford University, Metro College

*To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say:
You, too, can be president of the United States.*

George W. Bush

Contact Information

Professor: Jeff Northrup
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: DBH 210A
Office Phone: 726-2333
Home Phone: 979-5926 (anytime before 9 pm)
E-mail: jjnorthr@samford.edu (probably the most convenient way to reach me)

Required Texts

All text material will be provided on Blackboard. If test taking is not your strong point, you have the option of adding Gore Vidal's novel **Burr** as part of your grade component, but you must let me know this by the first two weeks of the course (by Sept. 8). It is very entertaining, and largely accurate. It is available at your local library or you may purchase a paperback online (I would recommend purchasing a copy).

Course Description Learning Objectives

This course will survey the political, social, cultural events, themes and trends in United States history from its colonial beginnings to the outbreak of the Civil War. The class format will be an interactive online experience.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, the student:

- will have gained a broad appreciation of American historical themes across a wide range of cultural, social, and political subjects;
- will be able to place American historical events in chronological order and describe the interrelationship of these events;
- will have the ability to conduct a close reading of an historical text in order to gain a specific understanding of cultural, social, and political trends in American history;
- will be able to draw parallels between cultures, ideas, and belief systems in 17th, 18th, and 19th century America;

- will obtain an appreciation of tangential fields of study, including, but not limited to, religion, the arts, philosophy, science, communication, and geography in an American context;
- will be able to apply historical lessons to better comprehend, understand, and interpret contemporary events;
- will be able to identify causes and effects affecting major historical movements in 17th, 18th, and 19th century American history.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade will be determined in this way:

20% **Online responses to text questions**

The quality, thoughtfulness, and timeliness of your electronic responses to questions provided in the online text will be read throughout the course by the instructor (with appropriate feedback) and assigned a grade at the end of the course.

20% **Quizzes**

20% **1st Exam**

20% **2nd Exam**

20% **3rd Exam**

The exams may consist of short answers (multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the blank) and/or essays.

Optional Essay

If you choose to read the Burr novel, I will expect a 4-6 page written paper, with bibliography and footnotes. Your paper should include a very brief (one page or less) summation of the Vidal novel, **Burr**. In the rest of the paper, you should address Vidal's (the author's) viewpoint of either Jefferson, Hamilton, or Washington (please choose only one of the three), with references to the text and the results of your own research on the man you have chosen. Do you think Mr. Vidal is being fair and/or accurate in his portrayal of the person you have chosen? Why or why not. I will tell you that Mr. Vidal has done his homework – most of this novel is historical truth, even down to some of the conversations that take place. This should all be achieved in a flowing style (i.e. not a list of "correct" and "incorrect" assertions and facts). Above all, your efforts should reflect **your own work**, and **your own words**. Papers are due on the date assigned. Late papers are penalized one full letter grade per day. The grade on this paper will count equally to the other grades as listed above – a total of 6 grades instead of 5.

Class participation

A group discussion board (class and professor) will be created, and private (professor and you) discussion (via email) is available, and based on the quality and quantity of your participation, your grade may be raised or lowered (by not more than ½ a letter grade) at the discretion of the professor.

Grading Scale

A	92 - 100	B-	80 - 81	D+	68 - 69
A-	90 - 91	C+	78 - 79	D	62 - 67
B+	88 - 89	C	72 - 77	D-	60 - 61
B	82 - 87	C-	70 - 71	F	≤ 59

Disabilities

All students with disabilities seeking reasonable accommodation must register with Disability Support Services (726-4078 or 726-2105). Thereafter, please meet with the instructor to discuss reasonable accommodation requests verified by Disability Support Services.

Academic Integrity

The Samford Honor Code governs all work done in this course, written or otherwise. In all cases students are expected to present original work or to properly acknowledge the source of information gathered from other sources. Please refer to your copy of the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of the importance of academic integrity. If in doubt about a particular issue, consult the professor.

Calendar of Instruction

This online course has been constructed to allow the student to advance at his/her own schedule. The weekly schedule below is provided to give the student a minimal schedule by which to complete the assignments. You may, of course, progress faster as time permits. Please check with the professor via email, phone, or class discussion link as to early scheduling of exams.

Week 1:	Complete Unit 1 (provided on Blackboard) -	Spain in the New World
Week 2:	Complete Unit 2 (provided on Blackboard) -	Challenges to Spain
Week 3:	Complete Unit 3 (provided on Blackboard) -	The 13 English Colonies
Week 4:	Complete Unit 4 (provided on Blackboard) -	Colonial Life
Week 5:	Complete Unit 5 (provided on Blackboard) -	Colonial Administration

Exam 1 will be available online after completion of the first 5 Units

Week 6:	Complete Unit 6 (provided on Blackboard) -	Troubled Neighbors
Week 7:	Complete Unit 7 (provided on Blackboard) -	English Politics
Week 8:	Complete Unit 8 (provided on Blackboard) -	American Revolution
Week 9:	Complete Unit 9 (provided on Blackboard) -	Post-Revolution
Week 10:	Complete Unit 10 (provided on Blackboard) -	Washington - Jefferson

Exam 2 will be available online after completion of Units 6 through 10

Week 11:	Complete Unit 11 (provided on Blackboard) -	War of 1812
Week 12:	Complete Unit 12 (provided on Blackboard) -	Monroe and 1819
Week 13:	Complete Unit 13 (provided on Blackboard) -	Jacksonian America
Week 14:	Complete Unit 14 (provided on Blackboard) -	Manifest Destiny
Week 15:	Complete Unit 15 (provided on Blackboard) -	Civil War

Exam 3 will be available online after completion of Units 11 through 15. If you choose to do the Burr paper, it must be submitted via email by Dec. 8.