

U.S. History

Dr. Watts

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Unit I: British Colonial America 1620-1763

Assessments

Habits of Mind - collaborative and consistent participation in whole class and small group discussions, arrive on time and prepared for class, think critically and flexibly, show initiative and self-direction (10%)

Colonial America Map - project-based assignment due October 24 (15%)

History Labs, Quick Writes and In-class Essays - in-class investigative learning experiences and written reflections (30%)

Document-based Unit Assessment (45%)

Syllabus

Week 1-2: What is freedom? Why study history?

Big Idea: Freedom has many meanings. How people define freedom varies according to time and place.

Read and Annotate in Class

Voices of Freedom, *Frederick Douglass on the Desire for Freedom* (1845), 207-210

Voices of Freedom, *Tecumseh on Indians and Land* (1810), 158-159

Voices of Freedom, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Home Life" (1875), 14-16

Listen in class

Patrick Henry's speech to Virginia House of Burgesses (1775), <http://www.history.org/almanack/people/bios/biohen.cfm>

FDR's Four Freedoms Speech (1941), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iHKtrirjIY>

Martin Luther King Jr., I Have a Dream (1963) <https://freedomring.stanford.edu/?view=Speech>

Discussion Questions

Can more than one idea of freedom coexist within a single nation?

Are some freedoms more essential than others?

Is the idea of freedom universal?

What is the difference between studying history and studying the past?

What does it mean to think like a historian?

History Labs

- “Thinking like a historian: Snapshot Biography” <https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons/snapshot-autobiography>
- “Thinking like a historian: The Lunchroom Fight” <http://sheg.stanford.edu/lunchroom-fight>
- “Thinking like a historian: Evaluating Sources” <http://sheg.stanford.edu/evaluating-sources>

Week 3-4: Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660

Big Idea: The British colonies developed in distinct ways from each other - Chesapeake and New England

Discussion Questions:

What challenges did the early settlers face?

How was the English settlement of New England different from Virginia?

What was the Mayflower Compact? Why is it important?

How was Puritan society structured?

Who was Anne Hutchinson?

How did the English Civil War impact the colonies?

History Labs (in class)

- Thinking like an historian: Lunchroom Fight II <http://sheg.stanford.edu/lunchroom-fight>
- A City Upon a Hill <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/early-settlements/resources/%E2%80%9Ccity-upon-hill%E2%80%9D>
- The Trial of Anne Hutchinson
- Examining Passenger Lists: Chesapeake and New England http://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Examining%20Passenger%20Lists_0.pdf
- Did Pocahontas Save John Smith’s Life? [http://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Pocahontas%20Lesson%20Plan %202_1.pdf](http://sheg.stanford.edu/upload/V3LessonPlans/Pocahontas%20Lesson%20Plan%202_1.pdf)

Mental Mapping Activity (in class)

Week 5-6: The Growth of Colonial America

Big Idea: The colonies developed in distinct ways from each other: Middle Colonies and Lower South

Discussion Questions:

What is mercantilism? How were the colonies linked to Atlantic trade?

Why and how was slavery established in the colonies?

What was William Penn’s “Holy Experiment”?

How did the colonial social structure develop in the 1700s?

How did the social, economic and political roles of men and women, whites and blacks, rich and poor differ?

History Labs

- African Enslavement and the Slave Trade (1450-1850)
- Salem Witch Trials
- Comparison of Quaker and Puritan Views
- Stono Rebellion of 1739

Workshop: Writing Thesis Statements

Week 7-8: The Great Awakening and Enlightenment

Big Idea: British subjects in colonial America were fully integrated into the British Empire economically, politically and philosophically by the 1750s.

Discussion Questions:

How did the British colonists understand the meaning of liberty? Republicanism? Liberalism?

Why is the Zenger trial important?

How did the Enlightenment influence political thought in the 1700s?

How did the Great Awakening influence religious thought and structure in the 1700s?

History Labs

- The Great Awakening <http://sheg.stanford.edu/great-awakening>
- Colonial American by the Numbers

Week 9: The French and Indian War

Big Idea: The French and Indian War, or Seven Years War, was a global conflict between the British and French.

Discussion Questions:

What were the effects of the French and Indian War on imperial relations? On Native American relations?

U.S. History Resources for Primary and Secondary Source Documents

Libraries, Historical Societies, and Institutes

American Historical Association <https://www.historians.org>; Massachusetts Historical Society <http://www.masshist.org>; Virginia Historical Society <http://www.vahistorical.org>; Historical Society of Pennsylvania <http://hsp.org> ; New York Historical Society <http://www.nyhistory.org>

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/collections>

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/topics/americanhistory.php>

National Archives <http://www.archives.gov>

U.S. History Resources - Digital texts with links to primary sources

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org> ushistory.org

digitalhistory.uh.edu <http://historymatters.gmu.edu> archive.org