

HIS 103
American History to 1877

Summer Session-I

Satisfies: DIV, SBS, USA

Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: Karl Nycklemoe

The United States began as an unstable settler-colonial republic amidst many Indigenous polities and European empires with no certain future. By the end of the nineteenth century, the US was an emergent global power. This course offers a broad survey of the historical events of continental America from Indigenous America through the end of US Reconstruction (~1877). We will explore three primary themes in this course: First, the interactions between Indigenous polities and European empires and nations throughout the entire period. Second, the role of social identity and political ideology in American politics, including subjecthood, citizenship, gender, race, and religion. Finally, the technological, economic, and social ‘revolutions’ that changed daily life for many Americans. These themes are tied together by the central question: How did the United States form as a republic, and then emerge as a growing international imperial power? The course is organized through six modules: Indigenous America, Imperial and Colonial America, Revolutionary America, The Early US, Expansionist US, and Reconstructing the US.

Students should expect to engage with several chapters from our textbook, *The American Yawp*, alongside primary source materials and digital lectures *every* week. Students will be graded in this course on the basis of weekly analyses of the assigned primary source material and textbook, alongside a midterm essay and final paper.