

Molly Persaw

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HIS220 American Civilization I
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Purpose of the Course:

This course considers what it means to be an American citizen. Readings and discussions focus on major developments in American life prior to the Civil War. Important topics include: the Puritans and their legacy; the founding of the United States; Alexis de Tocqueville's *America*; slavery, freedom, and the problem of race; and the influence of the frontier in American life. In examining these subjects, students will read primary texts by acute observers of American life and secondary accounts by major historians. Class discussions, course examinations, and assigned papers are devised with the intent of improving each student's skills as a writer, speaker, and thinker.

Requirements:

- 15% Class participation
- 0 15% Paper One (1,500 word analytical essay on a work of literature.) EEE
- 15% Paper Two (1,500 word analytical essay on a historical problem.)
- 12 20% Midterm Examination BBBB
- 35% Final Examination

Required Texts:

Jon Gjerde and Elizabeth Hoffman, Major Problems in American History, vol. 1.
Nathaniel Hawthorne, Tales and Sketches
Benjamin Franklin, Autobiography
Ed. John Grafton, The Declaration of Independence and Other Great Documents of American History.
Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America.
Henry Thoreau, Civil Disobedience and other essays.
Henry Thoreau, Walden.
Henry Longfellow, Favorite Poems.
Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

1/7 Introduction to the Course