

Virginia History To 1800
SYLLABUS 391

Fall 2012
Dr. T. McCord
TR 10:30-11:45 am
Robinson B 124

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

TEXTS: Warren M. Billings, *Sir William Berkeley and the Forging of Colonial Virginia* (2004)
T. H. Breen, *Tobacco Culture* (1985)
Douglas R. Egerton, *Gabriel's Rebellion* (1993)
Michael Kranish, *Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War* (2010)

<u>Week of</u>	<u>General Topics</u>	<u>Readings Due</u>
Aug. 28	Introduction, Native People, European Arrival	
Sep. 4	English arrival to Royal Takeover 1624/5 (4 th last add day; last drop day w/o penalty)	
11	17 th Century life: political, social & economic. Billings Quiz	Billings
17	Bacon's Rebellion—its political and social impact	
25	Rise of the Gentry leadership (28 th last drop day w/o permission)	
Oct. 2	Mid-term Exam ; 18 th century life	
9	18 th century political culture (Tuesday class does not meet)	
16	French threat; toward revolution. Breen Quiz	Breen
23	Revolutionary Virginia—the early years	
30	Revolutionary Virginia—later years. Kranish Quiz. (No class Thursday)	Kranish
Nov. 6	Results of the Revolution	
13	Battle for the U.S. Constitution	
20	Slavery and Insurrection; Egerton Quiz. (Thanksgiving Thursday)	Egerton
27	Fear of Federal power, 1789-1800	
Dec. 4	Catch-ups and conclusions	
18	Final Exam 10:30 am	

NATURE OF THE COURSE

Virginia, the largest and most populous of the 13 British colonies, holds a unique place in American history, for it was the first permanent English colony in America and thereby provided lessons for future North American settlements. During the revolutionary era, Virginia produced many political and military leaders who contributed to the early republic and who also became national icons. In this class we will discuss the ordeals of the early colonists—their false perceptions of America against the realities of 17th century life and death. New documentary and archaeological discoveries will be incorporated into the 17th century profile. By the 18th century, a leadership gentry controlled every aspect of Virginia life, which was made possible often by their good educations and by their English connections. Also, they acquired vast land-holdings in Virginia and forced English servants and African slaves to cultivate tobacco, the crop upon which the Chesapeake economy depended. Between these leading families and the colony's geographic advantages, the character of Virginia was shaped for at least two centuries.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This is a lecture course that will be supplemented with documentary films and with classroom discussion on the assigned readings. Required books, listed above, focus upon key aspects of early Virginia history. Although there is no general text assigned, the lectures and the chronological handouts provide the organizational structure. Students, by this stage in their educations, must develop a competent method of taking notes.

EXAMINATIONS

The student will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, texts, and classroom discussion. As in most upper level courses, there will be a mid-term and a final examination; but also there will be quizzes on each of the assigned readings. There will be no make-up examinations without a medical doctor's written excuse, or, without being cleared with the professor ahead of time.

ATTENDANCE

Full attendance is expected and is necessary because lectures will cover points that are not in the readings. Attendance will be considered in the final grades. According to the university catalogue, "students are expected to attend the class periods of the course for which they register. In-class participation is important to the individual student and to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non-participation."

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

You may have three unexcused absences. Your fourth absence will lead to a full grade drop in your participation grade; your sixth absence will result in another full grade drop, etc. Any combination of being tardy or leaving class early five times without an adequate reason will result in a full grade drop in your participation grade. In other words, your grade will be reduced on the fifth, the tenth, the fifteenth time, etc. An excused absence must be supported with a written note from a medical doctor, or, through consultation with the professor. At no time will an email message constitute a valid excuse.

HONOR CODE

This code applies to all examinations and written work. This means that you may neither give nor receive any information during an examination. It also means that you may not use any material, written or oral, during an exam. Guidelines for assigned papers will be discussed as the projects arise, but at all times the student must guard against plagiarism.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Computer skills are not required for this class; however, the use of email and word processing are not only useful, but have become virtually essential to one's academic life.

CELL PHONES, ETC.

Cell phones, earphones, cameras, radios, or any communication devices are not to be used in class at any time! Please turn off your cell phones before the start of class. Lap top computers may be used in the front rows for taking notes, but not for exams or anything else; the professor will inspect screens at random. Abuse of lap tops may result in the total elimination of them from the room.

GRADING

Each exam is worth 30% of your final grade. The four quizzes will be averaged together as 20% of your final grade (the lowest quiz grade will be dropped). Class participation is worth 20%.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

If anyone has a physical condition that requires a special seating location, please inform the professor after class.

OFFICE HOURS, EMAIL ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

My office is in Robinson B 226C, second floor

Office hours: Tuesday 2:15-2:45; Wednesday 3:45-4:15

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