I. Course Purpose and Objectives

In this three-quarter sequence, we will examine the history of America, from the colonial period to the present, as “contested ground” over the origins and meaning of liberty and equality and the conditions for a just and stable democratic/republican society. Using some secondary source texts from different political perspectives, such as the New York Times’ 1619 Project and Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of America contrasted with the more “patriotic” Wilfred McClay’s Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story, combined with primary source readings, we will seek to find a common meaning in America’s historical development.

The first quarter examined the period from Discovery in 1492 to the election of 1800, the Winter quarter from 1800 until 1917, and Spring quarter from 1917 to the present. There are no prerequisites, and students can take one, two, or all three courses.

II. Course Materials

NYT 1619 Project.
ISBN-10 : 9780062397348
Wilfred McClay, Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story,

Primary source readings, emailed to students each week.

III. Course Evaluation

This course is non-credit; there are no papers, no exams, no grades! (Education in its essence!)

IV. Course Outline (readings in italics, and subject to change) “A” = first half of class; “B” after break


McClay, c6 “From Jefferson to Jackson: The Rise of Democratic Man”
Zinn, c6, “The Intimately Oppressed”

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, et al. Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls, (1848)
   McClay, c7 “The Culture of Democracy”  
   Zinn, c7 “As Long as Grass Grows or Water Runs”
   Tecumseh, *Call for Pan-Indian Resistance* 1810

**Jan. 17: No Class – Martin Luther King Day Holiday**

3. Mon. Jan 24: **The Old South and the Problem of Race**  
   McClay, c8 “The Old South and Slavery”  
   Zinn, c8 “We Take Nothing By Conquest, Thank God”
   D. Walker, *Appeal . . . to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (1829)  
   F. Douglas, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” 1852

4. Mon. Jan 31: **The Impending Crisis**  
   McClay, c9 “The Gathering Storm”  
   Zinn, c9, “Slavery Without Submission, Emancipation Without Freedom”  
   H. Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience,” 1849  
   Does TBD

5. Mon. Feb 7: **The War Between the States**  
   McClay, c10 “The House Divides”  
   A. Lincoln, Speeches: “Lyceum Address” (1838), “House Divided” (1858)  
   Lincoln and Douglas, The Freeport Debate, (1858)

6. Mon. Feb 14: **Reconstruction**  
   McClay, c11 “The Ordeal of Reconstruction”  
   Zinn, c10, “The Other Civil War”  
   T. Stevens, Speeches  
   U.S. Grant, *Memoirs* (selections)

7. Mon. Feb 21: **The Gilded Age**  
   McClay, c12 “A Nation Transformed”  
   Zinn, c11, “Robber Barons and the People”  
   H. D. Lloyd, “The Lords of Industry,” (1884)  

8. Mon. Feb 28: **The United States as a Global Power**  
   McClay, c13 “Becoming a World Power”  
   Zinn, c12, “The Empire and the People”  
   R. Bourne, “Transnational America” (1916)