This course is an introduction to American history roughly from the sixteenth century to the early national period. This course examines the initial European conquest of the Americas; the rise of the British colonies; the causes of the American Revolution; the meaning of American independence for different groups in the nation; conflicting views of the federal constitution; slavery and the origins of racism; and changes in social structure, religion, ethnicity, and gender roles. This course is intended to provide the student with a sense of the basic narrative of American history before 1820, while at the same time introducing the student to the salient issues in American historiography.

Required Readings:

Ryan Jordan, *Course Packet- HILD 2A*
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings: Revised Edition (Penguin Classics)*
Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*

Grading:

25% - Midterm
25% - 5 page paper on Equiano and Franklin reading (essay prompt handed out at the end of week 7)
35% - Final
15% - Discussion Section attendance

Reading & Lecture Schedule
September 26: Introduction

September 29: Native Peoples of the New World
*American Promise, pp.3-30*

October 1: Europe in the Age of Exploration
*American Promise, pp.35-52; Course Packet- Columbus and de las Casas documents, pp.1-6*

October 3: The New World and 16th Century Europe
*American Promise pp.52-64; Course Packet-Hakluyt document, pp.7*

October 6: Jamestown
*American Promise, pp.69-87; Course Packet- Frethorne and Alsop documents, Horn on Tobacco, pp.8-17*
October 8: From Servitude to Slavery
*American Promise, pp.87-98; Course Packet, Taylor on the West Indies, Bacon and Examples of the Slave Code, pp.18-26, 39-41*

October 10: *Africans in America Video: The Terrible Transformation*
*Begin Reading Equiano Narrative*

October 13: Puritans and the Settlement of New England
*American Promise, pp.103-120; Course Packet- Anderson article, Winthrop document, pp.27-38,42-43*

October 15: Expansion in the Northern colonies and Native Conflict
*American Promise, pp.120-131; Course Packet- King Philips’ document; Penn document & Lepore article, pp.44-45,46-47, 49-58*

October 17: A Growing Population in British North America
*American Promise, pp.137-150; Course Packet- Wokeck article and Mittleberger document,47-48, 59-66*

October 20: The British North American Economy
*Course Packet-Middleton article, 79-106*

October 22: The Growth of Conflict over Slavery
*American Promise, pp.151-157; Course Packet- Peter Wood article, pp.120-125; continue reading Equiano*

October 24: Anglicization and Imperial Tensions
*American Promise, pp.158-170; Course Packet- Hofstra and Lambert articles, pp.67-77, 107-119; begin reading Franklin’s Autobiography*

October 27: Wars with the French
*American Promise, pp.175-185*

October 29: Midterm

October 31: The Stamp Act and Townshend Crises
*American Promise, pp.186-196; Course Packet- Stamp Act Congress and Samuel Adams documents; Morgan and Meier articles; pp.126-148*

November 3: From the Boston Massacre to the Declaration of Independence
*American Promise, pp.196-222; Course Packet, Henry article, pp.129-130*

November 5: The Revolutionary War (Film: Liberty!)
*American Promise, pp.222-247*
November 7: Whose Revolution?
*Course Packet- Wood and Holton articles, pp.149-163*

November 10: The Crises of the 1780s
*American Promise- pp.251-271*

November 12: The Federal Constitution and Its Discontents
*American Promise, pp.271-282; Course Packet- Henry opposing constitution, Young article, Federalists docs, pp.164-178*

November 14: Washington and the Federalists
*American Promise, pp.287-302; Course Packet-Hamilton and Jefferson documents; Fears of Federalists essay, pp.179-192*

November 17: Conflicts West, East, and South
*American Promise, pp.302-310; Finish Equiano’s Narrative & Franklin Autobiography*

November 19: The Rise of Jefferson
*American Promise, pp.310-317; Course Packet- Dem.-Rep societies through Jefferson documents, pp.193-195*

November 21: The “Revolution of 1800”
*American Promise, pp.321-331; Course Packet- Appleby and McDonald essays, pp.196-204*

November 24: Women’s Status in the Early Republic
*American Promise, pp.337-344*

November 26: no class (paper due by this date, earlier if you are leaving for break)

December 1: Background to the War of 1812
*American Promise, pp.331-337*

December 3: The War of 1812 and the plight of Natives
*Course Packet- Horsman and Dowd essays & Tecumseh documents, pp.205-214*

December 5: Towards the Age of Jackson
*American Promise, pp.344-352*