

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

Course Number        HIST 3376 501  
Course Title         American Intellectual History, Colonial to the Civil War  
Term                    Spring 2013  
Days & Times         M 7-9:45  
Class Location        JO 3.906

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Professor's Name     Dr. Marina Ozernov  
Email                  [mlo041000@utdallas.edu](mailto:mlo041000@utdallas.edu)  
Office Location        JO 5.712  
Office Hours          6 pm-6:45 pm, by appointment

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

First-year students require faculty permission

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### **Course Description**

This course concerns the history of intellectual life in America from its colonial origins to the end of the Civil War. It will examine the realms of theology, education, and social and political thought in the general context of the relationship between Protestantism and Enlightenment.

Topics discussed will include the development of Protestant Christianity from Puritanism to Evangelicalism; the role of the American Enlightenment in the emergence of an American nation; religious, social, and political ideologies of Transcendentalism; the complex relationships between abolitionism, proslavery thought, economic ideologies, and political sectionalism; and ideas about race and sex.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will acquire knowledge of modern schools of thought and of individual thinkers and the ways in which they have changed over time by arranging a dialogue between ideas from multiple texts written from Colonial Times through the Civil War.

Students will develop ability to interpret texts through close reading and recognizing meaningful relationships among the ideas within their historical and ideological contexts.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

David Hollinger and Charles Capper eds., *The American Intellectual Tradition*, Vol. I, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford University Press  
Electronic Course Reserve





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## **Grading Policy**

Your course work will include two papers, all based on course readings (20% of the course grade); four class presentations of source responses (20%); take-home quizzes on current readings (20 %); participation in class discussion (20%); and final exam (20%).

A paper will be a 4-5 pages (double-spaced) interpretation of primary texts related to an historical and/or ideological context of a correspondent class unit. Neither paper will require additional research or reading outside the unit texts. More details will be provided about the specific requirements for these papers. In the most general sense they should demonstrate your ability to draw connections among ideas, texts, and ideological contexts.

A source response will be written in response to one of the readings. The response should consist of a brief summary of the text, its argument and perspective, and/or a specific question that the text raises for you and an attempt to suggest possible answers to your question. Your question might be one of interpretation (e.g. “what does X author mean by Y concept?”) or relationship (e.g. “How is this text (idea) related to some earlier writings we have read?”). The source response should be no less than 300 words in length. You are required to do four or five source response presentations in the course of the semester, at least one for each unit. You can do no more than one presentation per class meeting. The source response must be emailed to the instructor one week before that reading is designated in the schedule.

Class participation grades will be determined by the following factors: attendance, frequency of participation, and evidence of having read and understood required texts. The assessment will be largely qualitative; if you are concerned about how you are doing, feel free to make an appointment with the instructor.

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## **Course & Instructor Policies**

All course work must be completed in order to pass the course.

### **Make-Up Exam**

Make-up exam will be allowed only in a case of medical illness or family emergency; a physician’s note or other pertinent documentation will be required to schedule a make-up exam. Failure to take an exam will result in failure of the course.

### **Late Work**

All late papers will be graded down 1/3 letter grade per calendar date late. If you need an extension, you must ask in advance, and not on the day the paper is due. Extensions due to scheduling and other considerations will be allowed if the request is reasonable and timely.

### **Class Attendance**

There will be one class meeting per week mostly to take the form of discussion of readings. Students will be expected to complete all readings and be prepared to discuss them by the due dates. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Failure to attend class on a regular basis will result in failure of the course. Excused absences are for the following documented reasons: religious holidays, illness, and family emergencies. Examples of unexcused absences include: work was due in another class, you scheduled conflicting meeting times, your job required you to work during class time. If you are registered for this class, the instructor assumes that you have made the class meeting time available in your schedule. Because the class meets only once a week, more than one unexcused absence will result in a drop of one full letter grade for the class participation component of the grade; more than two unexcused absences will result in a drop of two full letter grades for class participation; more than four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. Persistent lateness will also result in lowered grades. It is your responsibility to be in class at the beginning of the meeting.

## Citizenship

Respect for your fellow students is a requisite for all serious education. Please treat all members of the class with respect. Rude comments, ridiculing the comments of others, or characterizing the views of others with derogatory terms are examples of unacceptable behavior. You are free to disagree with fellow students and the instructor (and are encouraged to do so), but do this in the spirit of intellectual exchange.

Turn off all cell phones and other devices while in class. No laptops will be allowed unless you receive specific permission from the instructor. While in class please give the class your full attention; do not have side conversations with other students, pass notes, or work on material for other classes.

Plagiarism and scholastic dishonesty are serious issues; any student found engaging in academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to university policy. It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is. You should always feel free to raise questions or ask for clarification about issues that you are unclear about. If you have questions about the class or problems with the material you should make an appointment to see the instructor.

Nothing in this syllabus will be held to conflict with university policies. If you have concerns about those policies and how they apply, please consult the university regulations available on the UTD website.

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*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change*