

University of Florida
Honors Program
Fall 2021

IDH2930: Alexander Hamilton

Professor Sean Adams
Wednesdays, Period 9 (4:05-4:55 pm)
Hume 0119

Course Introduction and Objectives

This course focuses on the unforgettable career of Alexander Hamilton, a rags to riches story set in the context of Revolutionary America. Born in 1755 in the British West Indies, and growing up poor in New York City might be setback to most, but Hamilton was able to secure an education and during the American Revolution he rose to serve as General George Washington's aide de camp. After the war, he moved to New York City and became a successful lawyer and a strong advocate of the new Constitution. In 1789, his old boss, George Washington, appointed Hamilton to be the nation's first secretary of the treasury and he held this position until 1796. Hamilton was mortally wounded in a duel with the sitting Vice President of the United States, Aaron Burr, in 1804.

Hamilton's service in the Continental Army, his prominent place among the Founding Generation, and his role in the creation of the early American economic system marks him as an important historical figure; his enduring impact on American political economy and, most recently, in Broadway fame, makes him a legend. This class will use the 2005 award-winning biography of Hamilton, written by Ron Chernow, as its central text, but will also use clips from stage, film, and the web in order to understand how Alexander Hamilton's legacy still lives in American popular culture. Students will discuss the Hamilton phenomenon weekly, write brief essays that link his life to contemporary issues, and compare Chernow's biography with another artistic work on the Founding Generation.

Required Reading

There is one (1) required text for purchase, rent, or borrow in this course:

Ron Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005). ISBN 0143034758

There is also a symposium that will be available on the e-learning site on Canvas.

Grading, Attendance, and Accommodations Policies

Students will be evaluated on three major components of this class. Most important will be the weekly discussion of the book. Students will also complete two (2) brief (500-750 word) reaction papers that link the events in Hamilton to current issues (although not

necessarily in song and dance) spread out across the seminar. Finally, there will be a final project that will compare Chernow's biography to a biography, novel, or film dealing with the Founding Generation. I will provide a list of those during the semester and you'll have plenty of time to secure copies.

Regular attendance in this course is not optional, but mandatory. Each student begins with a Participation grade of 100 points; any more than two (2) unexcused absences from our sessions will result in a reduction of the attendance grade by ten (10) points for each additional absence. More than four (4) absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

The breakdown of the final grades in this course is as follows:

Grade Calculation	Grading Scale	Grade Value
Participation 40%	100-93=A	A=4.0
First Brief Essay 15%	92-90=A-	A-=3.67
Second Brief Essay 20%	89-87=B+	B+=3.33
Final Project 25%	86-82=B	B=3.00
	82-80=B-	B-=2.67
	79-76=C+	C+=2.33
	75-72=C	C=2.00
	71-69=C-	C-=1.67
	68-66=D+	D+=1.33
	65-62=D	D=1.00
	61-60=D-	D-=0.67
	59-0=E	E=0.00

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to

the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don't justify the risk! All students must conform to UF's Honesty Code regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Your written assignments will be monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service, so please keep in mind that cheating on the assignments in this course will be much more difficult than actually doing the work.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Contacts, Confidentiality, and Recording Policies

It's always a good idea to meet with an instructor to track your progress in a college course. I am happy to meet with you in person during office hours—keep in mind that you can schedule a meeting with me outside of the scheduled hours—to discuss grades, assignments, or other course-related concerns during my regular office hours or appointments. If you have a brief question about the course, feel free to drop me an e-mail. However, I cannot accept assignments as e-mail attachments in this course without prior arrangement. I also cannot discuss grades over e-mail or the phone, as student records are confidential. UF views each student, not their parent(s), as the primary contact for all communication. For more information, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

I will keep a personal recording of class sessions, but am bound by the same restrictions on publication and distribution. These audio recordings are for my own use only.

COVID Policies

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility.

- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

If you sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Seminar Schedule (Subject to Revision by Instructor)

August 25	Introductions and Discussion of Course Expectations
September 1	West Indian Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 1-61
September 8	Patriot Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 62-106
September 15	Hero Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 107-166
September 22	New Yorker Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 167-218
September 29	Constitutionalist Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 219-290
October 6	Treasurer Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 291-361
October 13	Historians Weigh In

Reading: “Symposium on Hamilton, An American Musical,” in *The Journal of the Early Republic* 37 (Summer 2017): 251-303. (e-learning site on Canvas)

October 20	Rival Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 362-418
October 27	Federalist Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 419-481
November 3	Retirement? Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 482-545
November 10	Partisan Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 546-602
November 17	Counter-Revolutionary Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 603-656
November 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 1	Duelist Reading: Chernow, <i>Hamilton</i> , pp. 657-731
December 8	The Founders in American Life

Final Project Due: Monday, 13 December 2021 at 5 pm.

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 pm; Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 pm; by appointment.