History 310

Discussion Group Questions

These questions are designed to encourage you to think critically about how history is interpreted or understood.

Week 1 What does the life experience of First Nations peoples teach us?

Week 2 Was colonial culture uniquely ‘American’ or something else?

Week 3 Did racism cause the conflicts between colonists and Native Americans?

Week 4 Was colonial American a caste and class society?

Week 5 Were Bacon’s Rebellion and the First Great Awakening keys to the American Revolution?

Week 6 Could Great Britain have prevented American independence?

Week 7 Was the Constitution a racist and economic document?

Week 8 Did Jefferson ‘outfederalize’ the Federalists? Was the War of 1812 America’s first unnecessary war?

Week 9 Did women achieve greater freedom in the New United States?

Week 10 Did the Election of 1828 represent a democratic revolt of the People?

Week 11 Was the Antebellum reform movement motivated primarily by humanitarian goals?

Week 12 Was US foreign policy in the early 19th-century imperialistic?

Week 13 Were the Abolitionists ‘Unrestrained Fanatics’?

Week 14 Was America’s war against Mexico justified and moral?

Week 15 Does it matter who freed the slaves?

Week 16 Did Reconstruction ‘reconstruct’?

Extra credit: Is history true?