

TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM

Due Date: Thursday, March 29—hard-copy printout to be handed to me at the beginning of class. Papers will *not* be accepted by email.

How Answers Will Be Evaluated

- **Clarity and Strength of Argument:** Your answers must provide an argument that is debatable but supportable. The argument should be presented in a clear and definitive manner. Note that a summary of events *is not* an argument.
- **Answering the Question:** Your answers need to provide a direct response to the question. An answer that goes off on a tangent or is simply not relevant will be marked off accordingly.
- **Evidence:** The choice of evidence that you use and the way that you organize its presentation in each answer will be an important point of evaluation. Evidence should be relevant to the question and support your argument.
- **Originality of Analysis:** While it is difficult to bring a truly original analysis to the table, you will be given considerable credit for an answer that looks at an issue in a particularly thoughtful or innovative way.
- **Structure:** The way that you structure your answers will be assessed; each should have a introduction that presents a clear thesis statement, a body that uses evidence to support your argument, and a conclusion that rearticulates and reinforces your thesis statement (but not repeating its exact same language).

General Guidelines

- **Avoiding Plagiarism:** “General knowledge” information—such as dates or well known facts—do not need to be cited. But if you use a specific idea (for example, an interpretation of a particular historian) or quotation from the textbook or another source, please provide an informal parenthetical citation after the quote/idea.
For a book assigned in class: (Brinkley, p. 348) or (Wallace, p. 12)
For a web entry: (Wikipedia on Thomas Jefferson).
Note that if you use web sources, make sure that they are reliable and trustworthy ones! Crazy conspiracy-theory sites are NOT a good sources.
- **Format:** Essays must be in a twelve-point, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, and have one-inch margins.
- **Writing Style Counts:** Make sure that you write complete, clear, and coherent sentences. Don’t overreach in your writing: avoid overly long and convoluted sentences, pretentious language, or words or phrases with ambiguous meanings.
- **Spelling Counts:** Note that the spell-check function can sometimes be wrong!
- **Avoid repeating the language of the question in your answer.**
- **Avoid “non sequiturs”:** The phrase “non sequitur” means “it does not follow” in Latin. A non sequitur happens when a writer moves from one idea to the next without a logical flow. Make sure to provide a smooth transition between each section of your answer.

Questions

- 1) What were the three main reasons for the transition from indentured servitude to slavery over the course of the seventeenth century in the Chesapeake colonies? (two-page minimum; 20 points)
- 2) What were the three most significant differences between the Virginia and Massachusetts colonies of the 1600s and 1700s? (two-page minimum; 20 points)

- 3) How radical was the American Revolution? How much did the social and political order really change in the transition from the colonial period to the new era of the American republic? (three-page minimum; 30 points)
- 4) In your opinion, what were the two most important amendments in the Bill of Rights? What issues do you think James Madison was trying to address by proposing these two amendments? (two-page minimum; 20 points)
- 5) In the 1804 political cartoon below, what political move by President Jefferson is the cartoonist criticizing? What is the likely political position of the cartoonist? (one-page minimum, 10 points)

