

Out of Many: A People's History of the United States, 1783-1877

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Course Title and Description (100 words)

Who made the United States? This course examines how three peoples—Europeans, Natives, and Africans—encountered each other in the newly United States. The course begins with the American Revolution, and then proceeds through the early republic, the antebellum era, and then culminates with the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lesson tackle topics including the creation of the Constitution, early foreign policy, Jacksonian democracy, the transportation revolution, manifest destiny, abolition, and secession. Together, these lessons provide a great introduction to the latest scholarship on almost every aspect of early US history from the end of the American Revolution in 1783 to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Most importantly, the course places front and center the ordinary people whose lives and struggles made this new nation.

Week by Week Outline

Week One. Creating the Constitution + The Newly United States & the World

Week Two. Declaring Cultural Independence + Jacksonian Democracy

Week Three. The Transportation Revolution + The Second Great Awakening

Week Four. Manifest Destiny + Slavery & Abolition

Week Five. The Road to the Civil War + Secession & Civil War

Week Six. War in the Heart of America + Reconstruction

Objectives of the Course

To introduce participants to the latest scholarship on almost every aspect of early US history between the end of the American Revolution in 1783 and the end of Reconstruction in 1877

To encourage dialogue and discussion of historical evidence and arguments

Instructor Bio – Short paragraph (60 words)

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the new book *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home* which is shortlisted for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman

Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Professional website(s)

www.richard-bell.com