

Out of Many: A People's History of America to 1783

Who made America? This course examines how three peoples—Europeans, Natives, and Africans—encountered each other in North America. The course begins with first contact and then moves through the colonial period, culminating in the American Revolution. Lessons tackle topics including witch-hunting, the origins of slavery, the great awakening, Native America, slave revolts, immigration, inequality, sex and marriage, imperial conflicts, and the war for independence. Together, these lessons provide a great introduction to the latest scholarship on almost every aspect of early American history prior to the end of the American Revolution in 1783. Most importantly, the course places front and center the ordinary people whose lives and struggles made America.

Week by Week Outline

Week One. The World of 1492 + Contact Points

Week Two. The Origins of American Slavery + Fighting and Praying in Native America

Week Three. Witch-Hunting + The Great Awakening + The Balance of Power in Native America

Week Four. Southern Slavery+ Northern Slavery

Week Five. Immigration + Inequality + Sex & Society

Week Six. The French & Indian War + The American Revolution

Objectives of the Course

To introduce participants to the latest scholarship on almost every aspect of early American history prior to the end of the American Revolution in 1783.

To encourage dialogue and discussion of historical evidence and arguments

Instructor Bio

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

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