

**HISTORY 2111**  
**COURSE OVERVIEW**  
**BUCKNER F. MELTON, JR.**

In 1491 North America had had practically no contact with European civilization. The continent was populated by aboriginal peoples who had practically no industry and very few if any large cities.

In 1607, permanent English settlements appeared in North America. For the following century and a half these colonies remained small and somewhat isolated from each other, with no effective central government.

By the 1860s the native American population had been largely displaced and most of North America had become an outgrowth of European civilization. The United States had emerged as an independent nation with a central government and was growing in population and industry. Although torn by major internal issues of equality and government, the new nation was poised to become a great world power.

How and why did all of these changes occur? These are the main questions that this course will explore.