

American Colleges, 1636-2023 OSHER (Wilmington campus) Fall 2023

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Topics and Readings

- Week 1 Colonial academies and colleges: the small scope of higher education
Reading: Yale's 1745 code of conduct (3 pp)
- Week 2 The rapid expansion of colleges (1790—1861)
R: Delaware College catalog, 1843/44 (16pp)
- Week 3 Law, medicine, theology, and other forms of advanced education
before the Civil War R: Mid-19th century medical schools (3pp)
- Week 4 DuBois and Washington: two visions of higher education for black
Americans (and what about Native Americans?)
R: Excerpts from DuBois and Washington (4 pp)
- Week 5 The rise of the research university, 1870—1920
R: The creed of the University of Chicago (4pp)
- Week 6 Higher education for women, 1870-1920
R: M. Carey Thomas and Bryn Mawr (4pp)
- Week 7 College admissions: the origins of the SAT & Jewish quotas
R: Examples of early 20th century tests (6pp)
- Week 8 Boom and bust: higher education from 1920 to 1945
R: The University of Delaware thrives and suffers (5pp)
- Week 9 Complacency and Protest: 1950s—1970s
R: Excerpts from Zimmerman, The Amateur Hour (2020). How did
teaching methods change in those decades? (10pp)

- Week 10 Affirmative Action: From the G.I. Bill (1944) to Harvard's Asian Americans (2021)
R: Excerpts from several court cases (7pp)
- Week 11 The expansion of community colleges
R: Del Tech mission statements (6pp)
- Week 12 When and why did higher education become so expensive?
R: Charts and tables (8pp)
- Week 13 Free speech for students and faculty

Optional Reading

David Labaree, A Perfect Mess: The Unlikely Ascendancy of American Higher Education (University of Chicago Press, 2017). A lively history centered on the theme of how colleges learned to thrive in a very competitive marketplace.

Jonathan Zimmerman, The Amateur Hour: A History of College Teaching in America (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020). Wry humor plus indignation at the longstanding premium on research at the expense of teaching.

Paul Venable Turner, Campus: An American Planning Tradition (MIT Press, 1985). A beautifully illustrated history of campus architecture and landscaping.

John A. Munroe, The University of Delaware: A History (U of DE Press, 1986). Includes Newark Academy and Delaware College. Available online at <https://sites.udel.edu/uarm/the-history-of-delaware>