

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

Bob Hampel, Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware

hampel@udel.edu

Topics and Readings

- Feb. 6 Colonial academies and colleges: the small scope of higher education
Reading: Yale's 1745 code of conduct (3 pp)
- Feb. 13 The rapid expansion of colleges (1790—1865)
R: Delaware College catalog, 1843/44 (16 pp)
- Feb. 20 Law, medicine, theology, and other forms of advanced education
before the Civil War R: Mid-19th century medical schools (4pp)
- Feb. 27 DuBois and Washington: two visions of higher education for black
Americans (and what about Native Americans?)
R: Excerpts from DuBois and Washington (4 pp)
- March 6 The rise of the research university, 1870—1920
R: The creed of the University of Chicago (4pp)
- March 13 Higher education for women, 1870-1920
R: M. Carey Thomas and Bryn Mawr (4 pp)
- March 20 College admissions: the origins of the SAT & Jewish quotas
R: Examples of early 20th century tests (5 pp)
- March 27 Boom and bust: higher education in the 1920s and 1930s
R: The University of Delaware thrives and suffers (5pp)
- April 10 Complacency and Protest: 1950s—1970s
R: Excerpts from Zimmerman, The Amateur Hour (2020). How did
teaching methods change in those decades? (10pp)

- April 17 Affirmative Action: From the G.I. Bill (1944) to Harvard's Asian Americans (2021)
R: Excerpts from several court cases (7pp)
- April 24 The expansion of community colleges
R: Del Tech mission statements (6pp)
- May 1 When and why did higher education become so expensive?
R: Charts and tables (8pp)
- May 8 Graduate and Professional Schools, 1960s—2023
R: The proposals of Harvard's President Bok (8pp)

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>