

**Common Course Syllabus
History 1301
Department of History**

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 1301

Course Title: United States History I

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, American History

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course Description: A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I includes the study of pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

Course Objectives addressed:

1. **critical thinking:** demonstrates creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **communication:** demonstrates effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **social responsibility:** demonstrates intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **personal responsibility:** demonstrates the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with the diversity of American history and to promote critical thinking in interrelating the past to the present. Fundamentally, the course promotes general understanding of a body of knowledge any literate person should possess about the

history of his own country.

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of American political, social, and economic institutions and traditions from the arrival of Europeans to the mid-nineteenth century. This would include the ability to:

- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.
6. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.
7. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
8. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
9. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
10. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
11. To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
12. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

Required Readings: History is a reading and writing intensive subject. It is imperative that you cover the assigned readings prior to class so that you can derive the full value from the lecture and to participate effectively in the discussions. There is one required text on order in the SPC bookstore.

Text: David Shi & George Tindall, America: A Narrative History, Vol. I, Brief 10th Ed., ISBN 978-0-393265972

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

five quizzes (@20 points each)	100
Writing Assignment	100
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Exam 4	100
Attendance/Class Participation	50
	650 total points

I will grade on the following scale:

650-585 pts (100%-90%)	=	A
584-520 pts (89.9%-80%)	=	B
519-455 pts (79.9%-70%)	=	C
454-390 pts (69.9%-60%)	=	D
389-0 pts (59.9%-0%)	=	F

Examinations:

I will allow students to take **ONE** make-up exam during the semester. (There will be **NO** make-up exams for the Final Exam. **The make-up exam will consist of 5 essay questions worth 20 points each.** The make-up exam will be given the last day of class, December 7, 2017 (before finals week). This is the **ONLY** time I will offer a make-up exam. If you cannot attend the make-up exam, you are out of luck. You are allowed to take **ONE** make-up exam during the semester. If you miss two scheduled exams, you are out of luck and will receive a zero for the second missed exam.

You will receive a study guide approximately one week before each exam. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions.

If you arrive late for an exam, you will only be allowed to work on your exam until the last student who arrived **on time** completes his/her exam.

The final exam will **not** be comprehensive.

Quizzes:

There will be six announced quizzes. **I will drop your lowest quiz score.** All quizzes will be drawn from the textbook and will be available through Blackboard. Once I announce a quiz, you will have until the beginning of the next class period to take the quiz. If you are not in class at the time the quiz is announced, it is still your responsibility to take the quiz by the due date. **There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason.**

Academic Writing:

South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Writing Assignment:

Students will be required to complete one writing assignment this semester. I will announce details of the writing assignment in class.

Formatting of your writing assignment must be as follows:

Writing assignments will be graded on proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. The font must either be Times New Roman 12 or Arial 11. All margins must be 1." The text of your assignment must be double-spaced. There will be a 5 point deduction for each formatting instruction not followed. Assignments are due by class time on **Tuesday, October 31**. No late work will be accepted.

You will submit a hard copy of your paper in class and also upload your paper as an attachment through the writing assignment submission link on Blackboard.

Student Privacy:

South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, I will **NOT** release or discuss your class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but you. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from me – if they need this sort of information they must ask you for it.

Civility/Academic Dishonesty:

Most students have a good sense of proper classroom behavior and seek to earn grades through their own efforts. Unfortunately, I occasionally encounter students who treat both myself and their peers disrespectfully, and who attempt to get through my courses through dubious means. Let me state my policy on these issues clearly:

A. Classroom Civility:

1. I expect you to show up on time and to pay attention while you are here.
2. I expect you to treat your instructor and peers with respect—and you should expect, and will receive, the same from me.
3. I expect you to stay awake in class. If you fall asleep, it is as if you are not in class and points will be deducted from your class participation grade.
4. Types of in-class behavior I will not tolerate: repeated lateness to class, carrying on conversations with your neighbors, reading your cell phone, **ringing/answering cell phones/pagers, text-messaging**, listening to personal stereos or any other activity I view as disruptive or disrespectful to either me or your peers.

Students who choose to act in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave, and their grades will be lowered significantly.

B. Academic Dishonesty: I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism, and will deal with these circumstances in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the South Plains College Policy & Procedures Manual, Section FF. **This will mean a failing grade on the exam/quiz/assignment in question at the minimum, and can entail failure of the course and/or expulsion from the college.** I take this stuff seriously. So should you.

Plagiarism is included, but not limited to, copying answers from another student's exam, submitting a paper written by someone other than you, writing an exam essay outside of class, and/or essays and writing assignments copied (in whole or in part) directly from a website, book, journal, etc.

Diversity Statement

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:
http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 911.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and I will take attendance every class. You will begin the semester with 50 points for attendance. I will deduct three points for each absence from your point total for the course. If you leave early without my approval, I will count you absent for the entire day. If you sign an absent friend's name on my sign in sheet, I will count you absent too. Points may also be deducted for disruptive behavior.

If you arrive late and miss the sign-in sheet, you will be counted absent. You will not be allowed to sign in at the end of class.

Students who have five or more absences may be dropped from the class with an F.

Although I would like to hold class discussions, the amount of material makes it difficult to do so every day. However, I believe in an interactive lecture presentation so please feel free to ask questions during lecture for clarification, and to add your input to our learning experience. Whether or not we discuss the readings assigned for a particular class period you are still responsible for reading them for the purpose of exams and quizzes.

Cell phones MUST be turned off in the classroom. Text messaging and any other type of phone usage will NOT be allowed under any circumstances. Students who violate these rules the first time will be asked to leave the classroom for the rest of the day. Ten points will also be deducted from the student's class participation grade. Students who violate these rules a second time will be dropped from the course immediately.

Syllabus subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Tentative Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

Additional readings may be assigned each week.

August 29:	Introduction
August 31:	Chapter 1: "The Collision of Cultures"
September 5:	Chapter 2: "Britain and its Colonies"
September 7:	Chapter 3: "Colonial Ways of Life" Submit Statement of Personal Responsibility/Syllabus Contract
September 12:	Chapter 4: "From Colonies to States," Part I
September 14:	Chapter 5: "The American Revolution," Part I Exam 1 Study Guide available on Blackboard
September 19:	Chapter 5: "The American Revolution," Part II
September 21:	EXAM 1
September 26:	Chapter 6: "Shaping a Federal Union," Part I
September 28:	Chapter 6: "Shaping a Federal Union," Part II
October 3:	Chapter 7: "The Federalist Era," Part I
October 5:	Chapter 7: "The Federalist Era," Part II
October 10:	Chapter 8: "The Early Republic" Exam 2 Study Guide available on Blackboard
October 12:	Chapter 9: "The Dynamics of Growth"
October 17:	EXAM 2
October 19:	Chapter 10: "Nationalism and Sectionalism," Part I
October 24:	Chapter 11: "The Jacksonian Era," Part I
October 26:	Chapter 11: "The Jacksonian Era," Part II
October 31:	Chapter 12: "The Old South" WRITING ASSIGNMENTS DUE!
November 2:	Chapter 13: "Religion, Romanticism, and Reform" Exam 3 Study Guide available on Blackboard
November 7:	Chapter 14: "An Empire in the West"

- November 9: **EXAM 3**
- November 14: Chapter 15: “The Gathering Storm,” Part I
- November 16: Chapter 15: “The Gathering Storm,” Part II
Last day to drop a course.
- November 21: Chapter 16: “The War of the Union,” Part I
- November 23: **Thanksgiving Holiday!**
- November 28: Chapter 16: “The War of the Union,” Part II
- November 30: Chapter 16: “The War of the Union,” Part III
- December 5: Chapter 17: “Reconstruction: North and South”
Final Exam Study Guide available on Blackboard
- December 7: **Make-up Exams**
- December 12: **10:15 a.m. – FINAL EXAM for 1301.210 (TT 11:00 class)**
- December 14: **8:00 a.m. – FINAL EXAM for 1301.208 (TT 9:30 class)**

Acknowledgement Form: Each student is required to sign and date the Personal Responsibility Statement/Syllabus Contract provided and return it to the instructor no later than September 7, 2017. **Failure to return this form by the prescribed date will result in the student being administratively dropped from the class with an X.** Your signature indicates that you have read the Syllabus, you understand the policies outlined, and you agree to be bound by these regulations as a condition for continued enrollment in this course. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact me.

Statement of Personal Responsibility (Student Copy)

Successful completion of this course depends on the student accepting personal responsibility for:

- following the guidelines of the syllabus,
- attending class (arriving on time) with an attitude to actively participate in the classroom learning experience and intellectually acquire the material presented, without texting or messaging during class,
- setting aside adequate study time to read and prepare for classes,
- budgeting sufficient time in advance of exams and the research paper due dates to successfully accomplish each course requirement,
- evaluating personal performance as reflected in each individual grade received and the cumulative effect of those grades on the successful completion of this course,
- taking responsibility for strategies and tasks which will improve study skills and habits during this semester,
- and accepting personal responsibility for the choices, actions, and consequences made as a student of this history course.

I, _____(printed name), have read the entire syllabus for Mrs. Roberts' history course, and understand the contents, requirements and obligations. I agree to accept personal responsibility for my performance as a student in this course and the consequences for my decisions and actions.

(Signature)_____

Date_____

Course, Section _____

*This signed Statement of Personal Responsibility must be returned to the instructor by the end of class on September 7, 2017. Failure to return the signed Statement may result in the student being dropped from the class with an "X" on or about the Official 4th Class Day. If you have any questions regarding the syllabus and course requirements, please contact **Mrs. Roberts** to resolve your concerns. Examine the syllabus thoroughly to ensure you will have no conflicts which may prevent successful completion all of the requirements.*

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