

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, Lubbock, 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:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **personal responsibility:** to include 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.

Syllabus: HISTORY 1301
History of the United States to 1877
South Plains College
Fall 2017

Instructor: Abel Rios
Office: RC 321
Office Hours: By appointment
E-mail: arios@southplainscollege.edu

Class Meets: **MW 7-8:15 pm – RC 321** (Reese Center)

Required Texts:

OpenStax College. *U.S. History*

This is a FREE online textbook located here: <https://openstax.org/details/us-history>

If you want to order a hard copy you can do so online or at the South Plains College Bookstore. Here is the ISBN#: 978-1-938168-36-9

Primary Documents will be emailed to you. You are expected to read the specific document assigned before class.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Mineola, New York: Dover Press. ISBN# 978-0-486-28499-6

Grades:

Essay – 20 points (Turn in as a hardcopy)
Attendance – 20 points
Quizzes (3 X 20 points each) – 60 points
Exam 1 – 100 points
Exam 2 – 100 points
Final Exam – 100 points
Total – 400 points

Final Grade:

A (100-90) = 400-360 points
B (89-80) = 359-320 points
C (79-70) = 319-280 points
D (69-60) = 279-240 points
F (59-0) = 239-0 points

Course Work Descriptions:

Quizzes

There will be three quizzes. Each quiz will cover material for the weeks prior to the quiz. For example, the first quiz will cover weeks 1-4, the second quiz will cover weeks 5-9, and the third quiz will cover weeks 10-13. Quizzes will include lecture material and assigned readings.

Exams

There will be three exams also. Each exam will cover material from the weeks prior to the exam and will be the week after the quiz. For example, the first exam will cover weeks 1-5, the second exam will cover weeks 6-10, and the final exam will cover weeks 11-15. Exams will include lecture material and assigned readings. Exams will include multiple choice and fill-in-the blank questions. Also, there will be an essay question.

Essay

A prompt for the essay will be given out two weeks prior to the due date. The essay will cover the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

South Plains College and Class Policies:

Attendance: You are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class period. **Absences will only be excused with acceptable documentation provided in a timely manner, and at the sole discretion of the course instructor.**

- Material relevant to an overall understanding of history as well as material that will appear on examinations will be presented in class, and much of that information may NOT appear in your text or supplemental readings. Material presented in class will NOT be repeated during office hours or any other communication forum such as e-mail.
- FOUR missed assignments (at any time; for any reason) will result in you being dropped from the course.

Dropping the course:

- If you are considering dropping the class you should speak with me first. YOU must drop this course at the SPC Registrar's Office (there is **no on-line drop system**, so on-line students must take care of this in person at the Registrar's Office). This is an official procedure which is described in the SPC Catalog. ONLY the student can initiate the drop and it must conform to the procedure for dropping a course. Failure to initiate and finalize the drop procedure will result in an "F" grade on your transcript. The drop cannot be made retroactive. The drop date can be found on the SPC calendar.

Late or make-up work:

- Your work must be turned in on schedule to receive credit.
- If a student is absent for a quiz or exam it is your responsibility to contact the Instructor. Make-up quizzes or exams will be done on the make-up day or during a time with the Instructor.

Academic integrity:

- Anything that borders on cheating, plagiarism, or affects the academic integrity of the assignment or of the course will be dealt with -- the least thing that could happen to the student is dismissal from the class roster with a failing grade.
- Your work must be *in your own words* and it must be original (cheating and plagiarism -- that is copying someone else's work or copying from another source). Students who cheat or plagiarize will be dropped from the class with an "F".

Plagiarism: At South Plains College we take plagiarism very seriously.

Plagiarism is a very simple thing to spot: a struggling student all suddenly writes an essay that ought to be published – and guess what it usually is published! A mediocre student suddenly starts to use words and phrases that if asked to explain what the word or phrase means the offender cannot do so. You are young students with little experience and I expect you to write like it – I do not ask you to write like professional historians and I certainly will not grade your work from that benchmark.

Plagiarism is the theft of another person's work without giving proper acknowledgment of the source material. **If you take anything from this section remember this: all anyone has to do to check for plagiarism is take a random phrase from an essay, copy it, and paste it into a Google search and the source comes up.** The internet has made plagiarism much easier but it has also made catching it much easier, too!

Plagiarism can also be defined as one or more students turning in the same or similar papers. SPC also maintains a file of every paper submitted by every student and student papers are automatically scanned for similarities.

Plagiarism also includes anything copied from an internet source, such as Wikipedia.

The consequence of plagiarism in my classes is this: the offender(s) will be receive zero credit for the entire assignment or exam or will be automatically dropped from the class with an F.

SPC Policy regarding "standard English": All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. 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.

Disability 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) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

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. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

Diversity Statement: In this class, I 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.

Tobacco Policy: South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25 foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.

Classroom Conduct: All students are expected to act responsibly and respectfully. Below you will find some general guidelines covering some actions that are to be avoided during this course, but as a general rule any behavior that disrupts the class will not be tolerated.

- The use of tape recorders, cell phones, laptops, or any other electronic recording device in class is prohibited without the instructor's permission.
- It is imperative that you turn off or silence cell phones and other communication devices before entering the classroom. **Texting in class is not acceptable.**
- You are expected to take adequate notes on the lecture material. **Personal laptop computers, tablets, and/or similar electronic devices may be used only to type lecture notes.** Playing games, surfing the internet, or communicating on social network sites in class is unacceptable. You are strongly encouraged to take notes by hand.
- Students who disrupt the class may be asked to leave.
- **The Instructor retains the right to amend the schedule as necessary.**

Course Schedule

Week 1

Read Chapter 1, *U.S. History*

Mon., August 28 – Introduction

Wed., August 30 – The Pre-Columbian Americas, Europe, and Africa

Week 2

Read Chapters 2 & 3, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: *John Smith Describes the “Starving Time” at Jamestown, 1609-1610*

Mon., September 4 – **Labor Day**

Wed., September 6 – Europeans Colonize North America

Week 3

Read Chapters 3 & 4, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: *Nathaniel Bacon, Declaration in the Name of the People (30 July 1676)*

Mon., September 11 – Establishing the Colonial Societies

Wed., September 13 – Becoming America: Colonial Life and Religion

Week 4

Read Chapter 5, *U.S. History*

Mon., September 18 – The Seeds of Revolution

Wed., September 20 – The Seeds of Revolution

Quiz 1

Week 5

Read Chapter 5, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: Jonathan Edwards, *The Great Awakening in New Hampshire, ca. 1735*

Mon., September 25 – The Seeds of Revolution

Wed., September 27 – The Seeds of Revolution

Exam 1

Week 6

Read Chapter 6, *U.S. History*

Mon., October 2 – The American Revolution

Wed., October 4 – The American Revolution

Week 7

Read Chapter 7, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: *Articles of Confederation* (see Appendix).

Mon., October 9 – Establishing a New Republic

Wed., October 11 – Establishing a New Republic

Week 8

Read Chapter 8, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: *The Declaration of Independence* (see Appendix).

Mon., October 16 – Defining the Nation

Wed., October 18 – Defining the Nation

Week 9

Read Chapter 9, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources:

Mon., October 23 – The Northern Industrial Revolution

Wed., October 25 – The Northern Industrial Revolution

Quiz 2**Week 10**

Read Chapter 10, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave, 1853* (Not the movie)

Mon., October 30 – Jacksonian Democracy and Slavery?

Wed., November 1 – Jacksonian Democracy and Slavery?

Exam 2

Week 11

Read Chapter 11, *U.S. History*

Mon., November 6 – Westward Expansion

Wed., November 8 – Westward Expansion

Week 12

Read Chapter 12, *U.S. History*

Mon., November 13 – The Rise of the South

Wed., November 15 – The Rise of the South (**Last day to drop course**)

Week 13

Read Chapter 13, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: John L. O'Sullivan, 'Annexation' (1845)

Mon., November 20 – The Impending Crisis (**Make-up day**)

Quiz 3

Response Writing Assignment (Turn in as a hardcopy)

Wed., November 22 – **Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 23-26)**

Week 14

Read Chapters 14 & 15, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: Abraham Lincoln's *Second Inaugural Address*

Mon., November 27 – The Impending Crisis

Wed., November 29 – The Impending Crisis

Week 15

Read Chapter 16, *U.S. History*

Primary Sources: *Louisiana Black Code*

Mon., December 4 – The Civil War

Wed., December 6 – The Civil War and Reconstruction

Final Exam Schedule:

HIST 1301.207 - Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:30 – 7:30 pm