

**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:** 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 1301.006, United States History to 1877

Fall 2017: Hist1301.006: T-TR 1:00AM – 2:15PM, LIB 319

Instructor: Dr. Scott Buchanan

Email: sbuchanan@southplainscollege.edu

WARNING: there are two of us on campus, **make sure** you are contacting **the History Professor!**

Office: LIB 330 Levelland Campus

Office Hours:

M: 10:45 – 11:00AM, 12:15 – 1:00PM, 2:15 – 2:30

***T:** 12:15PM – 1:00PM, 3:45 – 5:30PM. In RC319

W: 10:45 – 11:00AM, 12:15 – 1:00PM, 2:15 – 2:30

***TH:** 12:15 – 1:00PM, 3:45 – 4:00PM. In RC319

F: 10:00 – 12:00PM, and by appointment

***Tuesday - Thursday office hours are at Reese Center Bldg. 3, Room RC319**

Office Phone: (806) 894-9611 ext. 2465

Textbook: *Retrieving the American Past*

There are three primary objectives for the student of American history at the college level. First is the acquisition of facts about American history that will give the student a degree of cultural literacy that is required for an individual to be considered college educated. Second is to imbue and develop in the student a faculty for critical thinking when addressing political, economic, cultural or social issues and institutions. The third objective is the combination of one and two. To create opinions and discussions rooted in fact and refined by the student's own logic.

The subject matter will begin with theories of how humans first came to the western hemisphere and proceed through the ages of discovery and colonization, the formation of the United States and its history through the Civil War and Reconstruction. This instructor will focus primarily on the political, technological, military and economic facets of the period. Religious, social and cultural history will not be ignored, but will be secondary themes.

Class Format: The teaching style will consist almost universally of lecture. Students should not hesitate to ask the instructor to define a term with which they are not familiar. Students are expected to take notes from the lecture to help them learn the material and study for exams. Laptops are no longer acceptable for note taking. Recording devices are allowed, but must be placed on the table at the front of the classroom prior to the start of class.

Class Behavior: Behavior during the class period that interferes with the learning process of other students, such as talking, excessive tardiness, and reading non-class materials or sleeping will not be tolerated. Cell phones in any incarnation will not be tolerated. Students attempting to communicate with the outside world (via text messaging or other technology) will be dropped with a grade of F, this policy applies until the class has ended and the student is outside of the classroom. If a student's cell phone or other technology interrupts the class, the student will be counted as absent for the class period. Playing audio devices in the classroom is not allowed.

Attendance: Attendance is expected and required. Roll will be taken at each class meeting. On the fifth unexcused absence, or on the third consecutive absence, the student will be dropped from the course with an F. Students who arrive late to class should talk with the instructor following the class or during office hours to prevent being counted absent.

Time Management: Success in a college level course requires that the student discipline themselves and spend significant time learning the course material outside of lecture. To determine the amount typically needed the student should take the number of credit hours of a given class and multiply by three. Thus for History 1302, a three credit hour class, the student should expect to spend nine hours a week outside of class working with the material.

Students with Disabilities: 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 Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days: A student who is absent from classes for the observation of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.

Grade Calculations: Three of Four Examinations at 25% each for 75% of total grade
Participation, attendance, lives and lecture quizzes 5%
Quizzes 20%

GRADE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE SENT VIA EMAIL

Blackboard: This class does NOT utilize Blackboard. Final grades are posted on CampusConnect.

Examinations: There will be four exams during the semester including the final exam. Exams will primarily be composed of multiple choice, matching and true/false questions. There will be identification or essay questions on at least two of the exams. There will be four exams given; the lowest grade from exams One, Three, or Four will be dropped from the average. The grade from exam Two will not be dropped. If a student misses an exam, they will be allowed to take a **comprehensive** make up exam on Friday, Dec. 5th at 10:00AM in the Administration Building Room 129 (Levelland Campus).

Quizzes: There are four quizzes from online sources. The links to these sources will be provided two weeks before the due date.. On the date listed, students are expected to have read the correct section and will take a brief quiz over the material. Students will then be divided into small groups to answer questions. The assignments are each worth five percent of the final grade. Students made substitute the LIFE assignment for one of the quiz assignments. Instructions for the LIFE assignment are available from the professor upon request.

Make-up work: If a student misses an examination or quiz, they may be given an opportunity to make-up the work if they can do so within a reasonable amount of time. In such a situation it is the responsibility of the student to schedule a make-up time and place with the instructor and to confirm the make-up via email one day previous to the scheduled make-up. If a student fails to keep a scheduled makeup appointment, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned for the assignment that cannot be removed from the average.

Extra-Credit: Often during the semester students will find themselves in need of an extra-credit assignment to offset poor exam performance or an attendance issue. Students opting to undertake this assignment will produce a book review four pages in length over a historical monograph they have selected with the instructor's approval (see book review instructions below). The student will turn in a typed, double-spaced, twelve-point font, four page review of the work and meet with him during his regularly posted office hours to discuss the concepts of the work. This meeting will not normally exceed twenty minutes. The application of the extra-credit points will be agreed on before the project commences. Extra-credit assignments will improve the final grade **up to** five percent if completed satisfactorily. An additional two percent may be earned by reading the completed assignment to the class. Extra-credit assignments must be approved by March 28th and the final version is due April 20th, see the instructor between now and March 28th to receive the required cover sheet for the assignment.

Extra-credit is accepted in hardcopy only, it cannot be submitted electronically.

Note Taking: Students are expected to take notes from the lectures. If a student wishes to use an electronic device to take notes, they must clear such with the professor and abide by the pertinent rules. Likewise students who believe they can function as auditory only learners must make the professor aware of their intention. Recording devices are allowed. However, uses of the lectures for any purpose other than classwork are strictly forbidden.

The Instructor retains the right to amend this schedule as necessary.

“Studying history, my friend, is no joke and irresponsible game. To study history one must know in advance that one is attempting something fundamentally impossible, yet necessary and highly important. To study history means submitting to chaos and nevertheless retaining faith in order and meaning. It is a very serious task, young man, and possibly a tragic one.”

---Herman Hesse, *Magister Ludi* 1943

Course Schedule: History 1301.006

The World before 1492

Age of Discovery

Columbian Exchanges; politics, germs and resources

Renaissance & Reformation

Colonial America

The Salem Witchcraft Trials.

EXAM #1

Scientific Revolution and Absolutism

The British Empire and the Road to Revolution

The American Revolution and the French Revolution

The Early Republic and the Philadelphia Convention

The American Revolution.

Exam #2

Jeffersonian to Jacksonian America

Industrial America

Work in America.

EXAM #3

The Mexican-American War The 1850s

***** Extra-Credit DEADLINE*****

The Mexican-American War.

The Civil War

Reconstruction

FINAL EXAM: in LIB 319