

**Common Course Syllabus
History 1301
Revised December 10, 2024**

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 1301

Course Title: United States History I

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

This course partially satisfies a core curriculum requirement: American History Foundational Component Area (060)

Available Formats: Conventional (Fully Face-to-Face), Fully Online, Hybrid, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview, Dual Credit

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.

Student 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.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

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

Attendance Policy: Students must make every effort to attend face-to-face courses. Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Classroom Syllabus

Term: Spring 2026

I. Course: HIST 1301: United States History I

- a. Description: This course is a survey of United States history up to 1876. The course may examine such topics as the major cultural, economic, diplomatic, political, and social trends in the United States. The overall emphasis will be on understanding and interpreting history more than just the memorization of dates.

- II. Instructor: Thomas H. Payton
Office: Lubbock Downtown Center, office 1018
Phone: 806-716-2908
Office hours: As posted on office door or by appointment
E-mail: tpayton@southplainscollege.edu
Website: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/faculty/payton-thomas.php>
Technical Support: Email: blackboard@southplainscollege.edu
Phone: 806-716-2180 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

III. General Course Requirements:

Textbook: OpenStax US HISTORY, 978-1-938168-36-9. NOTE: I will provide a free copy via PDF format. If you prefer a physical copy, you may purchase it at the bookstore or online.

- IV. Attendance Policy: This is an online course, so there is no attendance as such. However it is expected that students will access the class at a minimum of at least once per week, excluding holidays. A STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING THEIR OWN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE, if that becomes necessary. Any student who consistently misses deadlines, fails to maintain contact within the course, and/or if the instructor feels the objectives of the class will not be met due to lack of online participation within the class will be considered to have quit and will be assigned an F at the end of the semester, if still enrolled at that time. Translation: stay in touch, get the work done and, if you are going to quit the class, be sure to drop unless you want an F. **One note: failure to complete the Syllabus Quiz and Syllabus Contract on time will be taken as having never shown up for the class and you may be dropped accordingly following the 12th class day.**

Related to this: Even though this is an online class, you need to be aware of the SPC requirements regarding Covid. So here they are: if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 3-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
 - a. **Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.**
2. COVID reporting
 - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
 - b. The home tests are sufficient but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at dedens@southplainscollege.edu.
 - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
 - The 3-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
 - they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 3-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

V. Grading and Related Information, Definitions, Etc:

There is a total of 290 points possible for the course. Grades will be determined as follows:

Syllabus Quiz	20
Syllabus Contract	10
Discussion Questions (13 @ 10 points each)	130
Quizzes (13 @ 10 points each)	130
Total Points	290

I will grade on the following scale:

290 - 261 (100%-90%)	A
260 - 232 pts (89.9%-80%)	B
231 - 203 pts (79.9%-70%)	C
202 - 174 pts (69.9%-60%)	D
173 - 0 pts (59.9%-0%)	F

Instructor's Prerogative:

I also reserve the right to adjust quiz grades if I find that misleading questions have appeared on the test. For example, let's say that after you take the quiz, I find that 90% of you have missed a particular question. I'll review the questions and if, in my opinion, it is vague or misleading, I'll throw it out and add one point to everyone's score (all test questions are worth one point).

Plagiarism:

For purposes of this class, plagiarism can mean several people turning in the same or closely related work for the weekly discussions, including copying work from a student who took this course a previous semester. **Discussion responses that are copied directly from the book and/or website (in whole or in part) will also fall under this category. Likewise, any use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) is considered to be the equivalent of Plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly.**

Additionally, I know it may be tempting to download work from the Internet. However, please remember that there are many powerful software programs designed to detect plagiarism available to me and I know how to use them. I also have a pretty good idea of what student writing looks like. Finally, I have read the textbook and it's pretty easy for me to look up and see whether someone has merely copied from the text and turned it in as their answer. I take this stuff seriously. So should you.

Plagiarism of an assignment may result in a zero (0) for that assignment. Repeated plagiarism may result in being dropped from the class with an F.

Quizzes:

There will be thirteen multiple choice quizzes this semester. Each quiz is worth 10 points and can only be taken once.

Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions over the material covered in the textbook. You will have 10 minutes in which to take the quizzes. For purposes of this class, this means 10 consecutive minutes. To access the quizzes for this course, click on the appropriate unit link found on the course homepage and then click on the unit quiz link found in the Table of Contents of each unit.

Be sure you have a working computer and stable network connection. If you have computer problems while taking your quiz, please send me a course message immediately. It is your responsibility to let me know that you have a problem as soon as the problem occurs. **That said, computer problems are not a valid excuse for submitting late work or quizzes.** Generally speaking, quizzes will not be reset unless it's a systemic problem on our end. However, under some circumstances, such as a problem right when a quiz starts early in the semester, as determined by the internal tracking of the quiz, I may grant a reset. Therefore, if you do have computer problems when taking a quiz, contact me as soon as possible so I can make that determination on a case by case basis. In any case a reset, if allowed, generally will only be granted once per semester in any case. Also take the quiz early as a rule so there is plenty of time to contact me and make your case (for example, if you contact me at 11:45pm for a midnight deadline, this reduces the likelihood of getting a second chance on that quiz). If you do not let me know about the problem until after the quiz closes, you will for sure not be able to re-start the quiz.

You may use your books and notes on these quizzes. You may **not** use past exams or any type of answer key on these quizzes.

Academic Writing:

SPC Policy regarding "standard English": All written assignments (including discussions) 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.

Unit Discussions:

Required:

I will post one question to the course discussion forum for each of thirteen units this semester. In order to receive full credit for the weekly discussions, you must actually carry on a discussion about the question with your peers. You must first post a response to my question and then you must post responses to other student's response(s). ("I agree with your response" does not qualify as part of a discussion posting.) **One posting by itself does not constitute a discussion and will not receive full credit. In addition to the initial posting, you must also post at least two thoughtful discussion responses to other students in order to earn full credit in addition to your initial response.** To be clear: you are to post one (1) initial response to my question and then you must post at least two (2) responses to your classmate's postings or responses, so at least 3 postings total are expected, each at least a paragraph long. **A paragraph should be least 5 good sentences in length conveying a clear, connected thought. Be aware this is writing assignment as well as discussion –therefore spelling, grammar, etc count towards your grade.**

When responding to another student, **do not** give a critique of their submission. You should be carrying on a discussion about the question rather than telling them whether or not they did a good job or what they should have done. I will grade the discussions. The student needs to discuss the question.

In order to allow your peers time to respond to your discussion postings, you must post your initial response to the discussion question by the first discussion deadline for that unit in order to receive full credit. You must then post a response to the other student's discussion submissions by the second discussion deadline for that unit in order to receive full credit. You will only be eligible for up to half credit if you fail to submit your first discussion response (your response to my discussion question) by the first discussion deadline or fail to respond to another student's discussion submission. For example, if your initial response for the Unit 2 discussion were due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11 and you post after that, you won't get credit for the initial postings. Your final responses (responses to other student's postings) would be due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 14. If you do not post your responses by then, you will have missed your chance to get credit for the Unit 2 discussion.

Additionally, each response should be at least one paragraph in length (**at least 5 sentences, just like in an essay**) to receive credit. This does not mean that five sentences will automatically receive full credit. You must adequately discuss the question and fully respond to another student in order to receive full credit. This often cannot be done in just five sentences.

You must post your responses within the threads I start for each question. To do this, click on the question and then hit "reply" found below the question I have posted. I will not grade responses outside of the original thread of my question and will also not grade replies posted to another unit's discussion question.

Your comments should reflect careful thinking and should be phrased in proper English (you know – capitalization, correct spelling, punctuation, complete sentences, etc.). Your comments should be normally between a paragraph and a page in length. **I expect you to cite page numbers when quoting the textbook, and you should enclose the direct quote in quotation marks.** Here is how you do that:

"In the short run the horse brought prosperity and mobility to the Plains Indians." (20)

If you cite sources outside the textbook, be sure to do so in standard MLA or Turabian citation format.

Students who turn in discussion responses that include direct quotes from the text not enclosed in quotation marks and that do not cite a page number from the text will receive a grade of zero for that assignment.

These discussions will be closely monitored and no foul language, personal insults, or meandering off topic will be tolerated. Students who break the rules will be warned once; if they continue to violate the rules, they will receive a zero for the Weekly Discussion grade for the entire semester.

Grading Time Frame:

I will post grades for your assignments approximately one week after the assignments are due.

Late Assignment Policy:

As a rule, work will not be accepted late for any reason other than a documented and verified extended problem with the Blackboard server. In rare cases, primarily associated with events like a lengthy medical event such as hospitalization, an exception may be granted. But this would be a rare exception and determined on a case by case basis by the instructor. In other words, get it done early so that there is no reason for it not to be done.

If you plan to be out of town or involved in any extracurricular activity that interferes with a deadline, it is your responsibility to submit the work prior to the deadline. **As a rule, (except as noted for extended Blackboard issues) late work is NOT accepted. Period.**

Submission of Assignments:

It is your responsibility to double-check the submission of your work. If your work is not submitted (even though you may have attempted to submit it), I will not accept the assignment late.

Computer Problems:

If your computer and/or internet has a tendency to freeze or crash right before an assignment is due, you will need to plan ahead and allow sufficient time in which to submit your work. Computer problems are not a valid excuse for submitting late work. If you do have computer problems when submitting an assignment, you will need to find another computer to use in order to submit your work. (Family members, friends, and libraries are excellent sources for locating another working computer.)

Final Note: **Be sure to review the comments I leave on assignments/discussions in order to improve.** You should generally be able to click on the assignment after it is graded and review those comments. The same errors made consistently will only lower your grade.

- VI. **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.
- VII. **ACCOMMODATIONS:** For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/> .

VIII. **Academic Integrity:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as their own work any work which they have not honestly performed, including work done by artificial intelligence (AI), is regarded as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, up to and including possible suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see “Academic Integrity” and “Student Conduct” sections). This will also mean a failing grade on the exam/assignment in question at the minimum, and can entail failure of the course and/or expulsion from the college.

IX. Schedule of Assignments for History 1301 Spring 2026

Online courses are designed to give students flexibility – and they do to some extent. However, some structure is also necessary in order to fit the course into a one-semester format. Please note the dates and times, as well as governing rules, for your assignments and quizzes below. If you miss an assignment or quiz, you are out of luck except as noted under the Late Assignment Policy.

Jan. 12 (Mon.) – First class day. All students must log into online classes. **Please read and print out the syllabus. Also, please read and complete all assignments in the Course Introduction learning module found on the Course Content page.**

- **Introductory Unit opens**—note: there are no weekly discussions due for a grade for the Introductory Unit.

Jan. 16 (Fri.)

- Syllabus Quiz and Syllabus Contract must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST on due date. Failure to complete this on time will be taken as non-attendance in the class and you will be dropped. **You must take the Syllabus Quiz until you earn full credit (20 points). This is the only quiz you may take more than once.**

Jan. 20 (Tues)

- Unit 1 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59pm CST.

Jan. 23 (Fri.)

- Unit 1 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 1 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Jan. 27 (Tues.)

- Unit 2 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Jan. 30 (Fri.)

- Unit 2 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 2 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 3 (Tues)

- Unit 3 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 6 (Fri.)

- Unit 3 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 3 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 10 (Tues.)

- Unit 4 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 13 (Fri.)

- Unit 4 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 4 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 17 (Tues.)

- Unit 5 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 20 (Fri.)

- Unit 5 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 5 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 24 (Tues.)

- Unit 6 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Feb. 27 (Fri.)

- Unit 6 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 6 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 3 (Tues.)

- Unit 7 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 6 (Fri.)

- Unit 7 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST..
- Unit 7 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 10 (Tues.)

- Unit 8 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 13 (Fri.)

- Unit 8 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 8 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Spring Break March 16-20 – Enjoy the time off

Mar. 24 (Tues.)

- Unit 9 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 27 (Fri.)

- Unit 9 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 9 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Mar. 31 (Tues.)

- Unit 10 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 3 (Fri.)

- Unit 10 final discussions responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 10 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 7 (Tues)

- Unit 11 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 10 (Fri.)

- Unit 11 final discussions responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 11 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 14 (Tues.)

- Unit 12 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 17 (Fri.)

- Unit 12 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 12 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 21 (Tues.)

- Unit 13 initial discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Apr. 24 (Fri.)

- Unit 13 final discussion responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.
- Unit 13 quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CST.

April. 30 (Thursday): LAST DAY TO DROP!

Syllabus Quiz and Syllabus Contract: Now that you have read the syllabus, it is time to complete your first assignments of the semester for credit. These assignments are **due by Friday, Jan 16, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.** The Syllabus Quiz is worth 20 points and the Syllabus Contract is worth 10 points. ***You must take the Syllabus Quiz until you earn full credit (20 points).***

Please access the Syllabus Contract and Syllabus Quiz through the Start Here Part 2 folder found under the Start Here tab, towards the bottom of the content under that tab, just below the videos you should watch for this class in Blackboard.