

**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/>.

Term: Fall 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.
- b. Be aware this is a traditional Face to Face class – we will meet two days a week, excluding SPC holidays. Likewise be aware attendance is a component of your grade.

II. Instructor: Thomas H. Payton

Office: Lubbock Downtown Center, office 1018

Phone: 806-894-9611, ext. 2908

Office hours: As posted on office door or by appointment

E-mail: [tpayton@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tpayton@southplainscollege.edu)

Website: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/faculty/payton-thomas.php>

III. General Course Requirements:

Textbook: Our History: A Survey of United States History Volume 1 To 1877 by Steven M. Gillon, Version 1.0, ISBN: 9781453395875

If you want the electronic version, use this link to purchase:

<https://students.flatworldknowledge.com/engage/courses/2617906>

- IV. Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is very important in this course. A STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING THEIR OWN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE, if that becomes necessary. Note that each absence reduces your final grade potential. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor concerning absences. Each absence will count 0 to 10 points off, as discussed in class, depending upon timeliness with which the instructor is contacted and the reason for the absence. For example quarantine due to Covid exposure will NOT result in lost points for attendance, though the student will be required to contact the instructor in a timely manner and keep up with any work assigned. However a student who misses class for no clear or responsible reason (as determined by the instructor) and/or does not contact the instructor in a timely manner will lose the full 10 points. **If you decide to quit the class, YOU are responsible for dropping. If you have not met the requirements of the class, you will be assigned an F at the end of the semester if still enrolled (see grade table below).**

Special Pandemic Note: If classes get moved online for any reason including pandemic, it will continue through a mix of email, Blackboard postings and video conferences unless otherwise directed. The extent of use of each and final implementation will be determined at the time based upon circumstances at that point. Be sure you have working SPC email!

Related to this: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Examination Policy: There will be four (4) major tests given, of which the lowest grade will be dropped. Because one test will be dropped in any case, no makeups are allowed except in rare and extreme cases (at the discretion of the instructor) or as required due to an accommodation (see *Accommodations* below).

Quiz Policy: There will be 4 RANDOM, UNANNOUNCED, in class quizzes given during the semester. Each quiz will count 25 points and makeups, generally, WILL NOT be allowed (See Notes on the last page of the syllabus for more information). These will be brief short answer, multiple guess or true false given in class from time to time to ensure students are staying current on their reading and on their studies.

- VI. Grading Policy:

There is a total of 500 points possible for the course. Grades will be determined as follows:

4 Random Quizzes, 25 points each	100
Exams (4, but I drop lowest, so 3 @ 100 points ea)	300
Attendance and <b>participation</b> (10 points off each absence, if appropriate; <b>points off for not participating in class discussion as well</b> )	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>500</b>

I will grade on the following scale (normal rounding rules have been applied):

500 - 448 (100%-90%)	<b>A</b>
447 - 398 pts (89%-80%)	<b>B</b>
397 - 348 pts (79%-70%)	<b>C</b>
347 - 298 pts (69%-60%)	<b>D</b>
297 - 0 pts (59.4%-0%)	<b>F</b>

Class outline notes will be provided to the class. Students are expected to write/typo or otherwise work up their notes on the material using these outlines. Students are also expected to stay current on reading and studying so they are prepared for quizzes and tests whenever they should occur. In addition, **participation in the classroom is also expected and will contribute to the final grade.**

- VII. **General Course Outline:** The following course outline is subject to change during the semester as may be necessary.
- Weeks 1 – 4: Chpts. 1 – 5  
Test 1
  - Weeks 5 – 8: Chpts. 6 – 8  
Test 2
  - Weeks 9 – 11: Chpts. 9 – 12  
Test 3
  - Weeks 12 – 15: Chpts. 13 – 16  
Test 4 (FINAL)
- Tests will generally follow the pattern of 80% multiple choice, True/False, matching; and 20% essay, short answer questions or fill in the blank (spelling and grammar WILL be graded). The final will not be comprehensive.
- VIII. **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.
- IX. **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.
- X. **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/> .
- XI. **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, 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).

## Additional Notes on Notes

1. All work must be your own
2. Random unannounced quizzes mean just that – these will be in class quizzes given randomly and without prior notice to help ensure you are reading, studying and understanding the material. They may or may not include allowing you use your resources, depending upon the quiz.
3. To be clear: there will generally not be makeups allowed for exams or quizzes. Exceptions may be made on a case by case bases for extreme situation such as extended hospitalization but are not guaranteed.
4. Outlines of key material will be provided on the screen in class. It is your responsibility to copy these notes down and, if you are absent, to get them from a fellow student.
5. It is also your responsibility to add to these notes so that you have sufficient material (based upon the reading and lecture) to study for quizzes and tests.
6. Sleeping during class or showing up late may result in being counted absent.
7. Any additional clarifications made in class supersede these rules.