

Syllabus HISTORY 1301, United States History to 1877

Spring 2026: HIST1301.003: M – W 1:00 – 2:15, LIB 337

Instructor: Scott Buchanan, Ph.D.

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Office: LIB 330 Levelland Campus

Office Hours:

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

T: 10:45 – 11:00, 12:15 – 12:30

W: 10:00 – 11:00, 12:15 – 1:00, 2:15 – 3:00, 3:45 – 4:00

TH: 10:45 – 11:00, 12:15 – 12:30

F: 11:15 – 1:15, and by appointment

Office Phone: (806) 716-2465

Reading materials for this course will be provided by professor.

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. The board will be used to spell some terms from the lecture. Students should not hesitate to ask the instructor to define a term with which they are not familiar. Recording devices are allowed but must be placed on the table at the front of the classroom prior to the start of class. However, any use of the lecture recording for any purpose other than classwork is a violation of this contract. Students who believe they can function as auditory only learners must make the professor aware of their intention.

SEE YOUR INSTRUCTOR TO REVIEW GRADES

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, earpieces, or any other devices should be turned off and put away before entering the classroom.

The cell phone policy: Cell Phone or other devices = F as the course grade.

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. 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 Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

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: Midterm: 25%
Best two of three: Exams 1,3,4 (final): 25% each = 50%
Participation and attendance: 10%
Quizzes 15% (top three of four)

GRADE INFORMATION CAN NOT BE SENT VIA EMAIL

Blackboard: This class does NOT use Blackboard. Final grades are posted on MySPC (TexanConnect).

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 midterm grade cannot be dropped.

Road Conditions: When faced with adverse weather conditions, use your discretion. In other words, if you do not feel safe on the roads, do not be on the roads. Monitor your email daily for notifications regarding class cancellations.

“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