

United States History to 1877, History I (HIST 1301)
South Plains College
Syllabus Fall 2026

Instructor: Gene Burton

Room: 210

Campus: Levelland High School

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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 1301 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.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis
- Evaluation and synthesis of information
- Empirical and quantitative competency skills—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- Social Responsibility—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

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.

Supplies: Charged school-issued Chromebook *and* its charger. Students will also need something to write with for every class period, along with a folder and/or a binder in which to store their class notes. The class notes provided by the instructor will be used as the class textbook. It will be the student's responsibility to keep up with their issued notes documents throughout the semester.

Writing Sample: At the start of the semester, students will be required to submit a short hand-written writing sample which will be completed in class. This writing sample will be used as a control in order to combat the use of A.I.

Homework and Quizzes: Homework will consist primarily of reading assignments provided by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to read these passages and excerpts before class in order to be able to discuss and write about these excerpts in class. Daily work will consist of class discussions, multiple-choice checkpoints, weekly quizzes and weekly writing assignments. All homework is due the day following the class during which it is assigned, unless otherwise noted.

IF YOU ARE TAKING THE US HISTORY STAAR TEST DURING THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, you will be assigned additional readings throughout the Fall semester to help prepare you for the STAAR test in the spring. This will save you from having to cram as much information during the Spring semester if you are planning to take History 1302 and are required to take the US History STAAR test.

Late Work: Late assignments will be deducted 10 points per day late. Assignments turned in 10+ days after the due date will result in a 0. Extensions will be given for missed class days and extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for keeping up with class lectures when they are absent. All lectures will be recorded and posted daily via Google Classroom.

Exams: There will be an in-class exam at the end of each unit of notes completed and a comprehensive final exam at the conclusion of the class in December.

Bell Ringers: When assigned, bell ringers will consist of a discussion question, short writing prompt, or multiple-choice assignment to be completed in the first five minutes of class.

Technology: This class will use Google Classroom for all notes and class videos. Grades will be uploaded to Skyward. We will not use Blackboard in this class. Student must bring their charged school-issued Chromebooks and their chargers to class. *The use of artificial intelligence for the purpose of completing assignments is strictly prohibited.*

Cell Phones: It is now the law in the state of Texas that students are not allowed any personal communication devices during the school day. Students are expected to have their cell phones turned off and put away at all times. All cell phones should be out of sight for the duration of the school day. If a student is using their phone at any time during class and passing period, it will be taken up and given to the office. This applies even if the phone/device is merely visible and not being actively used. The same goes with smart watches, ear buds, tablets, and personal laptops. In short, pretend that you are a time traveler back in the 1990s, and you must keep all of your personal modern tech devices out of school. If your personal modern tech devices are discovered, you will cause a rip in the time-space continuum and doom us all. Additionally, your parents will have to visit the office to recover the device for you.

Food and Drink: No food or drink is allowed in the classroom. The only exception is bottled water.

Classroom Expectations: Students are expected to:

- Be prepared to learn (have all supplies ready when class begins and make sure you have completed the assigned readings).
- By the time the tardy bell rings, you should have your notes out in front of you and be seated at your desk.
- Be kind to each other.
- Be respectful to the instructor.
- Keep your personal tech devices out of the school at all times.
- Refrain from bringing food or drinks into the classroom. The only exception is bottled water.

Testing Expectations: During tests, students are expected to focus on their own work and complete their exam without the use of notes or any other external reference.

Students who do not comply with these expectations will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including an automatic zero on the exam.

Grading Policy: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%).

The student's final grade will be calculated with the following category weights. All grades will be kept in Skyward.

Gradebook Categories

Category	Consists of	Weight
Daily Work	Bell Ringers, Writing Assignments, Checkpoints, Quizzes	50%
Exams	Tests	50%

South Plains College Common Syllabus Statements

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect from the student and the instructor. Neither the instructor nor the student should be subject to others' rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning behavior. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

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

South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.