



US History 1301-350
History of the United States to 1877
Course Syllabus
FALL 2026

Jonathan Ramirez M.Ed.

Classroom: 206

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Conference Hours: 1:30-2:15

Class Meetings: M-F

Required Readings:

History is a reading and writing intensive subject. It is imperative that you cover the assigned readings prior to class so that you can derive the full value from the lecture and to participate effectively in the discussions. Additional readings may be handed out in class or made available on Google Classroom.

Openstax, U.S. History (OER), 21 st Ed, ISBN 9781938168369

(<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>)

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: demonstrates creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. communication: demonstrates effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. social responsibility: demonstrates intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

4. personal responsibility: demonstrates 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 a 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.

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.

Civility in the Classroom:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor; students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Examples of inappropriate behavior include cellular phones, internet surfing (this includes Facebook, Twitter, email and Blackboard), hostile or excessively aggressive behavior towards other students or the instructor, excessive tardiness, leaving class early, making offensive remarks, prolonged chattering, reading newspapers during class, sleeping, arriving late to class, dominating discussions, overt inattentiveness, etc

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Quizzes (5 @ 20 points each) 100

Exam 1: 100

Exam 2: 100

Exam 3: 100

Final Exam 100

Discussion Questions (5 @ 20 points each) 100

Attendance/Class Participation 50

650 total points

I will grade on the following scale:

650-585 pts (100%-90%) = A

584-520 pts (89.9%-80%) = B

519-455 pts (79.9%-70%) = C

454-390 pts (69.9%-60%) = D

389-0 pts (59.9%-0%) = F

Assignments

1. Examinations:

There will be four exams this semester. **I will allow students to take ONE make-up exam during the semester. The make-up exam will consist of 5 essay questions worth 20 points each.** The make-up exam will be given as arranged between instructor and student. You are allowed to take ONE make-up exam during the semester. If you miss two scheduled exams, you must provide documentation of your emergency for the second missed exam. You will receive a study guide approximately one week before each exam. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions. If you arrive late for an exam, you will only be allowed to work on your exam until the last student who arrived on time completes his/her exam.

*****You will be given 90 minutes to complete your exam. This will be done in 2 class periods (back to back or on separate dates) or in 1 scheduled block to be determined if applicable*****

2. Quizzes:

All quizzes will be drawn from the textbook and will be available through Google Classroom or on paper. Once I announce a quiz, you will have until the beginning of the next class period to take the quiz. If you are not in class at the time the quiz is announced, it is still your responsibility to take the quiz by the due date.

3. Discussion Questions:

Students will be required to complete 5 discussion question sets per semester regarding a specific topic/idea regarding the current unit being taught. I will announce details of the class discussion in class and post instructions in Google Classroom. You will have at least 1 class period to complete the discussion question.

****Make-up Policy****

*** ALL MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE ESSAY ONLY (4 questions).**

FAILURE TO TAKE AN EXAM WILL RESULT IN FAILURE FOR THE SEMESTER.

If you miss an assignment due date, you will not get any points for that assignment. There will be no curves on exam grades or assignments.

Assignment Dates (subject to change with advanced notice)

Quiz #1	August 27
Discussion #1	September 3
Exam #1	September 16-17
Discussion #2	September 23
Quiz #2	September 29
Discussion #3	October 7
Exam #2	October 13-14
Quiz #3	October 28
Discussion #4	October 29
Exam #3	November 4-5
Quiz 4	November 6
Discussion #5	Nov 12
Quiz #5	Nov 18
Make-up Exam	Dec. 6
Finals Week	Dec. 7-10

South Plains College Required Information Regarding the following topics can be found at this link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

- Intellectual Exchange Statement
- Disabilities Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations
- Statement Artificial Intelligence Statement
- COVID-19

- Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Statement