

**Common Course Syllabus
History 1301
Department of History**

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 1301

Course Title: United States History I

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, American History

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center, Plainview

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:** 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

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.

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

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

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.

History 1301.001 & .002, U.S. History to 1876

Instructor: Angela Roberts
Office Hrs: MW: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
TTh: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
F: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
e-mail: aroberts@southplainscollege.edu

Fall: 2026
Office: AD 146A (Levelland)
Phone: 716-2456

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. There is one required text on order in the South Plains College bookstore. Additional readings may be handed out in class or made available on Blackboard.

Openstax, *U.S. History* (OER), 21st Ed, ISBN 9781938168369 (A link to the textbook will be provided in Blackboard.)

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Chapter Quizzes (5 @ 20 points each)	100
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Final Exam	100
Writing Assignment	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

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.

Quizzes:

There will be six announced quizzes. **I will drop your lowest quiz score.** All quizzes will be drawn from the textbook and will be available through Blackboard. 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. **Since I will drop your lowest quiz grade, there will be no make-up quizzes for any reason.**

Academic Writing:

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.

In addition to content, writing assignments and discussions will be graded on using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Writing Assignment:

Students will be required to complete one writing assignment this semester. I will announce details of the writing assignment in class and post instructions in Blackboard.

Papers will be uploaded as an attachment through the writing assignment submission link in Blackboard.

In addition to content, writing assignments and discussions will be graded on using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Late Assignment Policy:

Late work is not allowed unless there is a documented emergency or illness. The student **must** contact the instructor prior to the deadline about the emergency or illness in order to submit the assignment late.

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.

Civility/Academic Dishonesty:

Most students have a good sense of proper classroom behavior and seek to earn grades through their own efforts. Unfortunately, I occasionally encounter students who treat both myself and their

peers disrespectfully, and who attempt to get through my courses through dubious means. Let me state my policy on these issues clearly:

A. Classroom Civility:

1. I expect you to show up on time and to pay attention while you are here.
2. I expect you to treat your instructor and peers with respect—and you should expect, and will receive, the same from me.
3. I expect you to stay awake in class. If you fall asleep, it is as if you are not in class and points will be deducted from your class participation grade.
4. Types of in-class behavior I will not tolerate: repeated lateness to class, carrying on conversations with your neighbors, reading your cell phone, using your laptop for non-class related activities, **ringing/answering cell phones, text-messaging**, wearing earbuds, or any other activity I view as disruptive or disrespectful to either me or your peers.

Students who choose to act in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave, and their grades will be lowered significantly.

B. Academic Dishonesty: I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism, and will deal with these circumstances in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the South Plains College Policy & Procedures Manual, Section FF. **This will mean a failing grade on the exam/quiz/assignment in question at the minimum, and can entail failure of the course and/or expulsion from the college.** I take this stuff seriously. So should you.

Plagiarism is included, but not limited to, copying answers from another student's exam, submitting a paper written by someone other than you, writing an exam essay outside of class, and/or essays and writing assignments copied (in whole or in part) directly from a website, book, journal, etc.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:

No use of AI permitted. Because writing and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, it is a violation of academic integrity to employ generative AI at any point in this course.

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.

If you have problems submitting an assignment through the correct submission link, it is your responsibility to send the assignment to me through email by the assignment deadline or you will not receive credit.

Computer Problems:

You will need to plan ahead and allow sufficient time to submit your work. Computer problems (including WiFi 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.) Waiting until the last minute to submit your work and discovering that you have a computer problem is not an acceptable excuse for submitting late work.

Always, always, always back up your work on your computer. I recommend saving a copy to your hard drive and also saving a copy to a flash drive (or even email it to yourself). Losing your work because you have computer problems and do not have a back-up copy is not a valid excuse to submit late work.

South Plains College policies concerning diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry Statements can be found here: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](http://southplainscollege.edu/SyllabusStatements).

Attendance:

Attendance is required and I will take attendance every class. You will begin the semester with 50 points for attendance. I will deduct three points for each absence from your point total for the course. If you leave early without my approval, I will count you absent for the entire day. If you sign an absent friend's name on my sign in sheet, I will count you absent too. Points may also be deducted for disruptive behavior.

If you arrive late and miss the sign-in sheet, you will be counted absent. You will not be allowed to sign in at the end of class.

Syllabus subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Schedule of Exams and Assignments

Week 1:	Chapter 1: "The Americas, Europe, and Africa Before 1492"
Week 2:	Chapter 2: "Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492-1650"
Week 3:	Chapter 3: "Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500-1700"
Week 4:	Chapter 4: "Rule Britannia! The English Empire 1660-1763"
Week 5:	Chapter 5: "Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests, 1763-1774" Exam 1 (September 23)
Week 6:	Chapter 6: "America's War for Independence, 1775-1783"
Week 7:	Chapter 7: "Creating Republican Governments, 1776-1790"
Week 8:	Chapter 8: "Growing Pains, the New Republic, 1790-1820"
Week 9:	Chapter 9: "Industrial Transformation in the North, 1800-1850" Exam 2 (October 19)
Week 10:	Chapter 10: "Jacksonian Democracy, 1820-1840"
Week 11:	Chapter 11: "A Nation on the Move: Westward Expansion, 1800-1860"
Week 12:	Chapter 12: Cotton is King: The Antebellum South, 1800-1860" Exam 3 (November 9)
Week 13:	Chapter 13: "Antebellum Idealism and Reform Impulses, 1820-1860" Chapter 14: "Trouble Times, the Tumultuous 1850s"
Week 14:	Chapter 15: "The Civil War, 1860-1865"
Week 15:	Chapter 16: "The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877"
Week 16:	Final Exam (December 9 at 9:00 a.m.)

October 26: Writing Assignments Due