



**Common Course Syllabus**  
**HIST 1301**  
**Department of History**  
**Revised: June 2026**

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Discipline:** History

**Course Number:** HIST 1301

**Course Title:** United States History I

**Available Formats:** Conventional, INET, ITV

**Campus:** Levelland, Online, Dual Credit

**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.

**Prerequisites:** TSI compliance in Reading

**Credit:** 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

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

**This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:** American History Foundational Component Area (060)

**Course Objectives addressed:**

1. **Critical thinking:** demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Social responsibility:** demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **Personal responsibility:** demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

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**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 or her own country.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of the nation and its role in the world from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twenty-first 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.

**Course Evaluation:** See the instructor's grading policy for specific details 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.

**Dropping a Course:** Students may drop courses through their Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After Late Registration is closed, a student must complete the [Student Drop Form](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Drop Form. Complete a [Student Drop Form](#) at the Levelland Admissions 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 a "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/>

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### Contact Information

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b> Cristal Vidales                                                                 | <b>Semester:</b> Fall 2026 |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> By Appointment                                                                | <b>Office:</b> SS 110B     |
| <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:cvidales@southplainscollege.edu">cvidales@southplainscollege.edu</a> | <b>Phone:</b> 806-716-2565 |

### Course Information

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**Required Textbook:** There is one required text for this class:

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

Any additional readings will come from websites I have linked to the units and will be free.

**Time Zones:** All deadlines for exams, assignments, etc. listed in any of the course materials, units and communications of all types will be in Central Standard Time (CST). If you are taking this course from another time zone, it is your responsibility to convert these times to those appropriate for your own area.

### Grading:

There is a total of **730** points possible for the course. Grades will be determined as follows:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Syllabus Quiz                         | 40         |
| Syllabus Contract                     | 15         |
| Discussion Board (3 @ 25 points each) | 75         |
| Second Amendment Writing Assignment   | 100        |
| Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)         | 100        |
| Exams (4 @ 100 points each)           | 400        |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>730</b> |

I will grade on the following scale:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 730 – 657 points (100% - 90%)  | <b>A</b> |
| 656 – 584 points (89.9% - 80%) | <b>B</b> |
| 583 – 515 points (79.9% - 70%) | <b>C</b> |
| 510 – 438 points (69.9% - 60%) | <b>D</b> |
| 437 – 0 points (59.9% - 0%)    | <b>F</b> |

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**Extra Credit:** There will be a Practice Exam available for you to complete for 10 points extra credit.

**Academic Dishonesty:** I have a zero tolerance for plagiarism and cheating. Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F or X in the course, if circumstances warrant.

The use of AI including ChatGPT and Grammarly is not permitted. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. **This is plagiarism.** If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

### **Examinations:**

There will be four (4) major exams in this course. The use of any additional resources when taking the exam is not permitted. You **must** have Honorlock installed on your computer in order to take the exams. Instructions for installing Honorlock can be found in the Syllabus and Course Information folder in Blackboard. You will have 60 consecutive minutes to take each exam.

To access the exams for this course, click on the appropriate Exam folder found on the Course Content page.

You will receive a study guide for each exam. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and will come from the lectures.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be ten (10) unit quizzes. These quizzes will be taken from the textbook and will be open book. You will have unlimited time to take them. Quiz deadlines are found in the Schedule of Assignments in Blackboard.

### **Discussions:**

I will post one question to the course discussion forum for three units this semester. In order to receive full credit for the discussions, you must actually carry on a discussion about the question with your peers. One posting does not constitute a discussion and will not receive full credit. You must post at least **two** thoughtful discussion responses (a response to the question and a response to another student's submission) in order to earn full credit. ("I agree with your response" does not qualify as a discussion posting.) In order to submit these two responses, you must first post a response to my question and then you must post a response to another student's response.

In order to allow your peers time to respond to your discussion posting, you must post your initial response to the discussion question by the first discussion deadline for that unit in order to receive full credit. You must then post a response to another student's discussion submission by the second discussion deadline for that unit in order to receive full credit. You will only

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receive up to half credit if you fail to submit your first discussion response (your response to my discussion question) by the first discussion deadline or fail to respond to another student's discussion submission. For example, your initial response for Unit 3 is due by 11:59 p.m. by Thursday, September 14. Your final response (response to another student's posting) is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 17. If you do not post your responses by then, you will have missed your chance to get credit for that unit's discussion.

Additionally, both responses should be at least one paragraph in length (**at least 5 sentences**) to receive credit. This does not mean that five sentences will automatically receive full credit. You must adequately discuss the question and fully respond to another student in order to receive full credit. When responding to another student, do not give a critique of their submission (e.g. good job, you should have said . . . etc.) Instead, you should contribute to the **discussion of the topic** when responding to another student rather than telling them how well you think they did.

Your comments should reflect careful thinking and should be phrased in proper English. Your comments should be between a paragraph and a page in length. I expect you to cite page numbers when quoting and/or paraphrasing the textbook, and you should enclose the direct quote in quotation marks. Here is how you do that:

"The most significant aspect of the Columbian Exchange was, by far, the transmission of infectious diseases." (32)

Students who turn in discussion responses that include direct quotes from the text not enclosed in quotation marks or paraphrasing that does not cite a page number from the text will receive a grade of **zero** for that assignment.

All responses to the question must have citations. You either need to include the page number from the textbook or a website from which you obtained your information. If you do not include a citation for your response to the question, you will not earn credit for that response. Citing a page number from the textbook or a website does not mean you can copy directly from your source. If you quote from a source, you must use quotation marks. Otherwise, it is plagiarism.

These discussions will be closely monitored. No foul language, personal insults, or meandering off topic will be tolerated. Students who break the rules will be warned once; if they continue to violate the rules, they will receive a zero for the Discussion grade for the entire semester.

### Writing Assignments:

There will be one major writing assignment this semester worth 100 points. Instructions for this assignment can be found within that week's folder. Deadline for assignments are found in the Schedule of Assignments.

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### **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.

### **Grading:**

I will post grades for your assignments approximately one week after the assignments are due.

### **Late Assignment Policy:**

Late assignments will not be accepted.

### **Technological Issues:**

Technological failure is not a justification for submitting assignments late. Manage your time wisely to ensure you are submitting the assignments on time and working through technical issues if they arise.