

**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.



## Grading:

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

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Syllabus Quiz                                  | 20         |
| Syllabus Contract                              | 10         |
| Short Writing Assignments (2 @ 20 points each) | 40         |
| Discussion Questions (3 @ 20 points each)      | 60         |
| Major Writing Assignment                       | 100        |
| Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)                  | 100        |
| Exams (4 @ 100 points each)                    | 400        |
| <b>Total Points</b>                            | <b>730</b> |

I will grade on the following scale:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 730 - 657 (100%-90%)      | <b>A</b> |
| 656 - 584 pts (89.9%-80%) | <b>B</b> |
| 583 - 511 pts (79.9%-70%) | <b>C</b> |
| 510 - 438 pts (69.9%-60%) | <b>D</b> |
| 437 - 0 pts (59.9%-0%)    | <b>F</b> |

## Extra Credit (WOW!):

Students may also submit an additional writing assignment (instructions provided in a separate link on the Course Content page) for a possible 20 extra credit points. The extra credit assignment will be due by Sunday, April 30, at 11:59 p.m. **If you plagiarize an assignment, you will lose the extra credit opportunity.**

**Because I am offering this extra credit opportunity, late papers and exams will not be accepted for any reason other than a documented emergency or a verified problem with Blackboard.**

## 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.

## Academic Dishonesty:

Most students work hard to earn grades through their own efforts. Unfortunately, I occasionally encounter students who attempt to get through my course through dubious means. Let me state my policy on these issues clearly:

I have zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism and will vigorously 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/assignment in question at the minimum, and can entail failure of the course and/or expulsion from the college.**

**Plagiarism:** For purposes of this class, plagiarism can mean several people turning in the same or closely related papers for the writing assignments or discussions, including copying work from a student who took this course a previous semester. **Discussion responses that are copied directly from the book and/or a website and Writing Assignments (including the Extra Credit Writing Assignment) without citations or copied directly from a website and/or book, in whole or in part, will also fall under this category.**

Additionally, I know it may be tempting to download papers from the Internet. However, please remember that there are many powerful software programs designed to detect plagiarism available to me and I know how to use them. I also have a pretty good idea of what student writing looks like. Finally, I have read the textbook and it's pretty easy for me to look up and see whether someone has merely copied from the text and turned it in as their answer. I take plagiarism seriously. So should you.

**Exams will be taken using Proctorio. You are not allowed to use any outside sources for the exams (notes, online sources, textbook, etc.) If you use any resources to take the major exams, you will receive a zero for the exam.**

**Plagiarism of an assignment or cheating on an exam will result in the loss of the extra credit opportunity. Plagiarism of one assignment or cheating on an exam will result in a zero and a warning. Plagiarism of two assignments and/or cheating on two exams will result in being dropped from the course with an F.**

#### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:**

There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. **This is plagiarism.** I am not asking AI to write a paper, I am asking you, the student, to create this content. 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 major exams in this course. **You may not use any resources when taking the exams.** You **must** have Proctorio installed on your computer in order to take exams. Instructions for installing Proctorio will be contained in the Blackboard course. You will have 60 minutes to take each exam. **For purposes of this class, this means 60 consecutive minutes.**

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

If you have computer problems while taking your exam, please send me an email immediately. It is your responsibility to let me know that you have a problem as soon as the problem occurs. If you do not let me know about the problem until after the exam closes, you will not be able to take the exam.

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 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.

**To access the quizzes for this course, click on the appropriate unit folder found on the Course Content page.**

If you have computer problems while taking your quiz, please send me an email immediately. It is your responsibility to let me know that you have a problem as soon as the problem occurs. If you do not let me know about the problem until after the quiz closes, you will not be able to take the quiz.

### **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 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 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. on Thursday, February 9. Your final response (response to another student's posting) is due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 12. 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. This often cannot be done in five sentences. When responding to another student, do not give a critique of their submission (e.g. good job, you should have said . . . etc.) 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 (you know - capitalization, correct spelling, punctuation, complete sentences, etc.). Your comments should be normally 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. Quotations should be used sparingly.**

**These discussions will be closely monitored and 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 and two short writing assignments worth 20 points each. Instructions for these assignments will be contained within that unit's learning module. Deadlines for assignments are found in the Schedule of Assignments.

### **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 1-2 weeks after the assignments are due.

### **Late Assignment Policy:**

Late assignments and exams will not be accepted for any reason other than a documented emergency, illness, or a verified problem with the Blackboard server. If you cannot submit your assignment on time due to an accepted excuse, you **must** contact the instructor prior to the deadline in order to submit the assignment late.

If you plan to be out of town or involved in any extracurricular activity that interferes with a deadline, it is your responsibility to submit the writing assignment, discussion, and/or quiz prior to the deadline. Late work will not be accepted due to a trip or extracurricular activity.

### **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 \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/syllabus-statements).**

**South Plains College policies, return to campus plan, and protocols regarding COVID-19 can be found here: [COVID Response \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/covid-response).**

### **Syllabus Quiz and Syllabus Contract:**

You must submit the Syllabus Contract and Syllabus Quiz by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 22. You **must** take the Syllabus Quiz until you earn **full credit** (20 points).

**Course Schedule:** Online courses are designed to give students flexibility - and they do to some extent. However, some structure is also necessary in order to fit the course into a one-semester format. Please note the dates and times for your assignments, quizzes, and exams in the Schedule of Assignments and course calendar. If you miss an assignment, quiz, or exam, you are out of luck unless you have a documented excuse.

**Syllabus subject to change at instructor's discretion.**