

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

Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum: American History

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, 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:

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 student know.

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, they 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 demonstrate familiarity with the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. This would include the following themes:

- American settlement and diversity
- American culture
- religion
- civil and human rights
- technological change
- economic change
- immigration and migration
- creation of the federal government

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- 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.

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/>.

**Early American History
Course Instructions
HIST1301**

Instructor: Christina Bearden-White Office: SS 115
 Email: cbeardenwhite@southplainscollege.edu Telephone: 806/716-2646
 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1 – 3pm.
 Or by appointment, in person or virtually. Please email me 24 hours in advance.

Required Texts: (This is also the correct bibliographic entry for the course texts.)

Corbett, P. Scott, et al. *U.S. History*. OpenStax College.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>. Accessed January 6, 2026. Web.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Mineola, New York: Dover Publications, 2001. Print.

You may download a free copy, read the textbook online for free, or purchase a copy from the bookstore. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* is NOT available for free. However, this is a thrift edition and should be available in the bookstore.

Grading of Course work:

Essay on <i>Incidents</i>	10%
Exam Essays	40%
Chapter Assignments	50%

Primary Document Essay (10% of your grade)

A prompt for the essay over the book *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* is available in the Course Contents folder in Blackboard. This is a formal 3 – 5-page essay and should conform to MLA standards. The final draft is due in Blackboard on April 9th.

Exams (40% of your grade)

There will be 4 Exam essays approximately four weeks apart. Each exam will cover materials for those weeks. For example, the first exam will cover weeks 1 – 4 and the final exam will cover weeks 13 – 16. This will include assigned readings, discussion questions, and videos. The essays are not timed and can be completed in advance, however, there will be no essays accepted after the due date. These essays will connect specific information from the readings with the broader themes of the course. All essays for this class are formal, persuasive essays. They should conform to MLA format. Please review the rubric and the sample paper posted in Course Documents. **Do not use outside sources**; the assigned readings will be all that you need to complete the essays.

Weekly Assignments (50% of your grade)

Each chapter in *U. S. History* has a corresponding writing assignment in Blackboard. Complete each assignment as you finish the readings. Please note: no assignment will count after its due date.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Weekly Assignments	Each Thursday, due in Blackboard by 11 pm.
Exam Essays	Weeks 4, 8, 12, due in Blackboard on Thurs. by 11 pm.
Essay on <i>Incidents</i>	Week 13, due in Blackboard on Thurs. by 11 pm.
Final exams are in person during finals week.	

Course Rules

Late Assignments: Make-up exam, quizzes, and papers are not allowed without a written excuse for incomplete work. Only when you have presented your written excuse from a healthcare provider or other professional will you be allowed to make up an exam or assignment and it must be within ONE WEEK of your return to class. There may be a 5-point penalty for each day an assignment is late after the original due date.

Feedback: I will reply to all messages or emails within 48 hours during the week. I will grade exams within two weeks. I typically grade Discussion Board posts in 1 week. I will not respond to every discussion post, rather, I might add something or emphasize a point made in the post. Sometimes I ask for clarification if I am unsure what the poster was trying to share.

Attendance: Students must make every effort to attend face-to-face courses. Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period. After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online Student Initiated Drop Request to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a Student Initiated Drop Form and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records 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 "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>.

Discussion Boards: Some of your weekly assignments will use the Discussion Board tab in Blackboard. Those will be indicated by date. Please do not hesitate to email me or message me through Blackboard. I check my messages and emails for the last time each weekday before 3 pm; please do not expect an answer after 9 pm or while I am in a class.

Blackboard Messages: The best way to contact me is through Blackboard Messages. Messages are private, and all correspondence about the course should go through Messages. Please only use my email if Blackboard is unavailable. Do not send assignments through email; **I will not accept any assignment through email or Messages.**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated: I consider academic dishonesty (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference with another student's work) to be serious misconduct. Anything that is plagiarized will receive an automatic Zero (0) and possible expulsion from the course or disciplinary action through the school. Simply stated, plagiarism is claiming another author's work as your own. It is theft. **If you quote or use another author's work, you must cite that author.** You can find information about proper citation here: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library/cslibrarylvl/plagiarism.php> If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please email or meet with me as soon as possible.

Other concerns: I strongly encourage you to meet with me or email to discuss any circumstances that might affect your performance in this class. I cannot assist you if I do not know you have a problem.

Course Schedule

Week 1, January 12 - 16, Welcome and Native American Societies before 1492

Readings: Chapter 1, *U. S. History*

Week 1 Assignments, complete by Thursday by 11 pm.

Week 2, January 19 - 23, Early Contact and European and African Settlement

Readings: Chapter 2, *U. S. History*

Week 2 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 3, January 26 - 30, Religious Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and Southern Colonies

Readings: Chapter 3, *U. S. History*

Week 3 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 4, February 2 - 6, Colonial Crisis

Readings: Chapter 4, *U. S. History*

Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11.

Exam Essay 1 due in Blackboard on Thursday by 11 pm.

Week 5, February 9 - 13, Road to Revolution

Readings: Chapter 5, *U. S. History*

Week 5 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 6, February 16 - 20, Revolution and War

Readings: Chapter 6, *U. S. History*

Week 6 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 7, February 23 - 27, Impact of the Revolution

Readings: Chapter 7, *U. S. History*

Week 7 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 8, March 2 – 6, Unsettled Domestic Issues

Readings: Chapter 8, *U. S. History*

Week 8 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Exam Essay 2 due in Blackboard on Thursday by 11 pm.

Week 9, March 9 - 13, Industrial Revolution

Begin reading *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Readings: Chapter 9, *U. S. History*

Week 9 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 10, March 16 - 20, Spring Break

Week 11, March 23 - 27, Jacksonian America and Slavery in a Democracy?

Readings: Chapter 10, *U. S. History*

Week 11 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm

Week 12, March 30 April 3, Manifest Destiny

Easter Break, April 3 - No office hours.

Readings: Chapters 11, *U. S. History*

Week 12 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Exam Essay 3 due in Blackboard on Thursday by 11 pm.

Week 13, April 6 - 10, Industrial Growth and Abolition, Religion, and Reform

Registration for Fall and Summer opens on April 10th.

Readings: Chapter 12, *U. S. History*

Week 13 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11pm.

Essay on *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, due on April 9, in Blackboard by 11 pm.

Week 14, April 13 - 17, Uneasy Peace to Bitter Conflict

Readings: Chapter 13, *U. S. History*

Week 14 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 15, April 20 - 24, The Civil War

Last Day to Drop a Class – Thursday, April 23.

Readings: Chapter 14, *U. S. History*

Week 15 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

Week 16, April 27 – May 1, Death and the Civil War and Reconstruction

Readings: Chapter15, *U. S. History*

Week 16 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11pm.

Final Exam Week, May 4 - 8. TBA

Amnesty Day May 4 by 11 pm.