

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: HISTORY 1301**  
**Revised 1/26**

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Discipline:** History

**Course Number:** HIST 1301

**Course Title:** United States History I

**Available Formats:** conventional, internet, hybrid

**Campuses:** Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Lubbock Downtown, 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.

**Prerequisite:** TSI compliance in Reading

**Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

**Textbook:** Varies according to instructor.

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

**Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:**

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

**Student 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.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** A pre- and post-test and/or a writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

**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.

**Student Code of Conduct Policy:** Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**For information regarding official South Plains College statements about Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and Artificial Intelligence, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.**

**Syllabus: HISTORY 1301**  
**History of the United States to 1877**  
**South Plains College**  
**Spring 2026**

**Professor Information:**

Dr. Abel Rios

Office: 1015A, Lubbock Downtown Center; AD 128, Levelland Campus, Admin. Building  
Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 12:30-2:30 pm; Fri. 9:00-11:00 am; Mon./Wed. 2:30-3:30 pm  
(Levelland)

E-mail: [arios@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:arios@southplainscollege.edu). Do not send me a message through "Course Messages" in *Blackboard*.

Class Meets: **Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:15 pm – Lubbock Downtown, 1009 (HIST 1301-604)**

**Required Texts:**

[\*The American Yawp\*](#), vol. 1

This is a FREE online textbook. If you want to order a hard copy, you can do so online or at the South Plains College Bookstore. ISBN 9781503606715

Douglass, Frederick. [\*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass\*](#). Mineola, New York: Dover Press. ISBN 9780486284996

**Access to Blackboard:**

You will need reliable internet service for this course. Please use a recommended browser, such as Google Chrome, and sign in with your SPC login information at <http://southplainscollege.blackboard.edu>.

**Grades:**

*Frederick Douglass* Essay – 40 points  
Film Analysis Project – 100 points  
Quizzes (3 X 20 points each) – 60 points  
Exam 1 – 100 points  
Exam 2 – 100 points  
Final Exam – 100 points  
Total – 500 points

**Final Grade:**

**A** (100-90) = 500-460 points  
**B** (89-80) = 459-420 points  
**C** (79-70) = 419-380 points  
**D** (69-60) = 379-340 points  
**F** (59-0) = 339-0 points

## Course Work Descriptions:

### Quizzes

There will be three (3) quizzes. Each quiz will cover material for the weeks prior to the quiz. For example, the first quiz will cover weeks 1-5, the second quiz will cover weeks 6-10, and the third quiz will cover weeks 11-15. Quizzes will include lecture material and assigned readings.

### Exams

There will be three (3) exams also. Each exam will cover material from the weeks prior to the exam and will be the week after the quiz. For example, the first exam will cover weeks 1-5, the second exam will cover weeks 6-10, and the final exam will cover weeks 11-16. Exams will cover lecture material and assigned readings. Exams will include multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. Also, there will be an essay question.

### *Frederick Douglass Essay*

An essay on *Frederick Douglass* will be due at the end of the semester. I will give you instructions during class. See the syllabus for the due date.

### Film Analysis Project

Students will choose a film that relates to an important historical event or period covered in the course. They will analyze the film's historical accuracy and its impact on historical memory. The project will include several components: an annotated bibliography and a narrated digital presentation (e.g., PowerPoint or Google Slides). More instructions will be provided. See the syllabus for the due date.

## South Plains College and Class Policies:

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. You are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class period. **Absences will only be excused with acceptable documentation provided in a timely manner, and at the sole discretion of the course professor.**

- **FOUR (4) missed assignments OR absences** (at any time; for any reason) will result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records.
- A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the professor.
- When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the professor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the professor.

- Class attendance is recorded by the professor or on a sign-in sheet. The sign-in sheet will be available until the scheduled time that class starts.
- A student should plan to be in class for the entire period. A student who leaves class **regularly** will be marked absent even if he/she was present for the majority of the time.
- Tardiness is disruptive to the classroom setting. If you arrive **AFTER** class starts, then you will be counted absent.
- Material presented in class will **NOT** be repeated during office hours or any other communication forum such as e-mail. **If you are absent, request class notes from another student.**

#### **Dropping the course:**

- If you are considering dropping the class, you should speak with me first. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. If you decide to drop the class, then you should submit a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) online from the SPC website. Failure to complete the drop procedure will result in an "F" grade on your transcript. The drop date can be found on the SPC calendar.

#### **Late or make-up work:**

- Your work must be turned in on schedule to receive credit.
- If a student is absent for a quiz or exam, it is your responsibility to contact the professor.
- **All work must be turned in BEFORE the Final Exam week. There are no exceptions.**

#### **Academic integrity:**

- Anything that borders on cheating, plagiarism, or affects the academic integrity of the assignment or of the course will be dealt with -- the least thing that could happen to the student is dismissal from the class roster with a failing grade.
- Your work must be *in your own words*, and it must be original (cheating and plagiarism - that is, copying someone else's work or copying from another source). Students who cheat or plagiarize will be dropped from the class with an "F."

**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 will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student. This includes a paper generated by AI (artificial intelligence) technology such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, or similar programs.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation.
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion.
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given.
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment.
4. Taking an examination for another.
5. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.
6. Rewriting another student's work to the point that the original student's writing is absent.
7. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**Remember this: to check for plagiarism, the professor can take a random phrase from an essay, copy it, and paste it into a Google search, and the source will appear.** The internet has made plagiarism much easier, but it has also made catching it much easier, too!

**The consequences of plagiarism in my classes are: the offender(s) will receive zero credit for the entire assignment or exam, or will be dropped from the class with an F.**

**SPC Policy regarding "standard English":** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. 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.

**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. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

**Tobacco Policy:** South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25 foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.

**E-mail Etiquette:** I will respond to your e-mail within two business days. I will selectively respond to e-mails after 5:00 pm and on the weekends. In addition, I am your professor and expect a certain level of respect when addressed via electronic or face-to-face communiqué. Your e-mails should begin with a proper salutation (i.e. Dear/Hello Professor Rios). Informal or familiar language (i.e. “Hey,” “What’s up,” or writing text with no salutation or context) should be avoided when addressing your professor. You should identify yourself and your class. Professors teach several sections and are not always familiar with each student, especially in large sections. Please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: HIST 1301.156).

**Classroom Conduct:** All students are expected to act responsibly and respectfully. Below you will find some general guidelines covering some actions that are to be avoided during this course, but as a general rule any behavior that disrupts the class will not be tolerated.

- The use of tape recorders, cell phones, laptop computers, or any other electronic devices in class is prohibited without permission.
- Turn off or silence cell phones and other communication devices before entering the classroom. **Texting in class is not acceptable and is considered a class disruption.**
- **A student who uses a cell phone in class may be dismissed from class and/or will be notified with a warning by e-mail. After the first warning, each time the student uses their phone, the student will be notified by email, and there will be a deduction of ten (10) points from the student’s final grade for each violation. For example, the final grade was 95 (A) and was reduced to 85 (B). The student was notified twice (the warning email and a second email).**
- **A student who disrupts the class may be asked to leave and counted absent.**  
See the “[Student Conduct](#)” section within the *South Plains College Student Guide*.

**Note:** The professor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes at any point during the semester.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1

Read chapter 1, *The American Yawp*

Tues., January 13 – Introduction. The Pre-Columbian Americas, Europe, and Africa

Thurs., January 15 – The Pre-Columbian Americas, Europe, and Africa

### Week 2

Read chapter 2, *The American Yawp*

Tues., January 20 – Europeans Colonize North America, 1500-1650

Thurs., January 22 – Europeans Colonize North America, 1500-1650

### Week 3

Read chapter 3, *The American Yawp*

Tues., January 27 – Establishing the Colonial Societies, 1650-1720

Thurs., January 29 – Establishing the Colonial Societies, 1650-1720

### Week 4

Read chapter 4, *The American Yawp*

Tues., February 3 – Becoming America: Colonial Life and Religion, 1720-1763

Thurs., February 5 – Becoming America: Colonial Life and Religion, 1720-1763

### Film Analysis Project: First Part Due

### Week 5

Read chapter 4, *The American Yawp*

Tues., February 9 – A Treaty, Protests, and the Transformation of America, 1754-1774

Thurs., February 12 – A Treaty, Protests, and the Transformation of America, 1754-1774

**Quiz 1** (The first quiz will cover weeks 1-5.) Go to *Blackboard* for the quiz.

### Week 6

Read chapter 5, *The American Yawp*

Tues., February 17 – American Revolutions, 1775-1783

Thurs., February 19 – American Revolutions, 1775-1783

**Exam 1** (The first exam will cover weeks 1-5.)

### Week 7

Read chapter 6, *The American Yawp*

Tues., February 24 – Federalist America, 1783-1800

Thurs., February 26 – Federalist America, 1783-1800

### Week 8

Read chapter 7, *The American Yawp*

Tues., March 3 – Jeffersonian America, 1801-1823

Thurs., March 5 – Jeffersonian America, 1801-1823

### Film Analysis Project: Second Part Due



**Week 9**

Read chapter 11, *The American Yawp*

Tues., March 10 – The Antebellum South

Thurs., March 12 – The Antebellum South

**Quiz 2** (The second quiz will cover weeks 6-9.) Go to *Blackboard* for the quiz.

**Week 10**

Tues., March 16 – No class

Thurs., March 18 – No class

**Mar. 16-20 – Spring Break**

**Week 11**

Read chapter 8, *The American Yawp*

Tues., March 24 – The Northern Industrial Revolution, 1800-1850

Thurs., March 26 – The Northern Industrial Revolution, 1800-1850

**Exam 2** (The second exam will cover weeks 6-10.)

**Week 12**

Read chapters 12-13, *The American Yawp*

Tues., March 31 – America's Westward Expansion, 1800-1860

Thurs., April 2 – America's Westward Expansion, 1800-1860

**Week 13**

Read chapters 9-10, *The American Yawp*

Tues., April 7 – Jacksonian America, Expansion, and Reform, 1824-1860

Thurs., April 9 – Jacksonian America, Expansion, and Reform, 1824-1860

**Week 14**

Read chapter 14, *The American Yawp*

Tues., April 14 – The Civil War, 1860-1865

Thurs., April 16 – The Civil War, 1860-1865

**Frederick Douglass Essay Due**

**Week 15**

Read chapter 15, *The American Yawp*

Tues., April 21 – Reconstruction: An Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

Thurs., April 23 – Reconstruction: An Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

**Week 16**

Read chapter 15, *The American Yawp*

Tues., April 28 – Reconstruction: An Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

Thurs., April 30 – Reconstruction: An Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

**Quiz 3** (The third quiz will cover weeks 10-15.) Go to *Blackboard* for the quiz.

**Last day to drop the course (April 30)**

**Final Exam Schedule:**

**All work must be turned in BEFORE the Final Exam week. There are no exceptions.**

HIST 1301-604 (TR 11:00 am-12:15 pm):

**Tuesday, May 5, 10:15 am-12:15 pm Final Exam (The exam covers weeks 11-16.)**