

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, 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. Do not send me a message through "Course Messages" in Blackboard.

This is an online class (HIST 1301-155)

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.

You can access the book online. If you want to order a hard copy, you can do so online or at the South Plains College Bookstore. ISBN 9780486284996

Access to Blackboard:

You will need a 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 Quiz – 40 points

Assignments/Quizzes (16 X 10 points each) – 160 points

Exam 1 – 100 points

Exam 2 – 100 points

Final Exam – 100 points

Total – 500 points

Final Grade:

A (100-90) = 500-450 points

B (89-80) = 449-400 points

C (79-70) = 399-350 points

D (69-60) = 349-300 points

F (59-0) = 299-0 points

Course Work Descriptions:

Quizzes

There will be sixteen (16) assignments/quizzes, except the weeks when an exam will be given. Each weekly assignment/quiz will cover 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 include lecture material and assigned readings.

Frederick Douglass Quiz

A quiz will be given over *Frederick Douglass* at the end of the semester. See the syllabus for the exact date.

South Plains College and Class Policies:

Attendance: Since this is an online class, attendance revolves around you completing your assignments and exams. **If you fail to complete any FIVE assignments/exams, you will be dropped from class for non-attendance.**

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.

If you are unable to drop the course because of distance, then here is a suggestion:

- First, log in to MySPC, click on Admissions and Records, find Student Forms and Tools, and download and print the **Student Initiated Drop Form**.
- Fill out and sign the form and arrange for me (your professor) or your advisor to sign it.
- Then you can take the drop form to the SPC Registrar's Office at the Levelland, Reese, or Lubbock campus. Call 806-716-2187 or 806-716-2375 for more information.
- If you are not able to come in person to one of the campuses, then you need to submit an email requesting to be dropped to either amorin@southplainscollege.edu or aruiz@southplainscollege.edu and they will work with you. The email should be from your SPC email account and should include a brief statement that you wish to drop and the reason you are unable to come to an SPC campus to accomplish that task. Include your name and the course and section you need to drop.

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. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage.
5. Taking an examination for another.
6. Altering grade records.
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.
8. Rewriting another student's work to the point that the original student's writing is absent.
9. 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 from receipt. I will selectively respond to emails 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).

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.

Distance/Online Course Conduct

1. Remember that you are addressing a group. This means several things:
 - a. Don't say things that you wouldn't say publicly or face-to-face.
 - b. Don't address comments to individuals unless you want everyone to know what you are telling that person.
 - c. Don't share confidential information.
 - d. Read your message before you send it, since once it is out you can't change it.
2. Access your electronic mail regularly and read through all the messages that have been sent before you reply.
3. Remember humor and sarcasm might be misunderstood in electronic or distance communication. Carefully employ good word choice so that your meaning comes through clearly.
4. Aim for clarity and readability in your communication.
5. If you are in a class with microphones (ITV) make sure that the device close to you is on silent. Unless the professor asks you a question.

Technology Problems/ Late Work

1. Start early and finish early: The professor will NOT accept late work.
2. If there is a problem with Blackboard and it is the fault of the professor or Blackboard, you will not be penalized. If you are unable to complete any assignment because of problems with your computer or server, your work will NOT be accepted late. Please make sure you are using a reliable server and computer.
3. THERE IS NO MAKEUP, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you miss an assignment, you should evaluate your progress to determine if you need to drop. If you fail to turn in three (3) assignments or parts of assignments by the posted day/time you will receive a grade of "F" in the class.

Blackboard Problems and Tech Support

1. If you have any questions concerning the operation of the Blackboard system you should contact Student Support at 894-9611, ext. 2180.
2. Drop Policy: The student that ceases to submit assignments, as indicated above, can be dropped from the course.
3. Saving Your Exams/Assignments: When you take an exam/assignment, make sure that you SAVE your answer(s), wait a minute or two, then submit your exam/assignment. If you do not follow this procedure then your exam may not be submitted correctly, which could result in a zero (0) for the exam/assignment. Your grades will be released after the period to take the exam/assignment has ended. Remember: It is the student's responsibility to submit the exam/assignment correctly. If you do not save your exam/assignment or if you exceed the time limit, then I will not receive an answer(s) and you will receive a zero (0) for the exam/assignment.

Course Schedule

Week 1, January 12-15, Pre-Columbian Americas, Europe, and Africa

Read chapter 1, *The American Yawp*

Week 1 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 2, January 19-22, Europeans Colonize North America, 1500-1650

Read chapter 2, *The American Yawp*

Week 2 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 3, January 26-29, Establishing the Colonial Societies, 1650-1720

Read chapter 3, *The American Yawp*

Week 3 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 4, February 2-5, Becoming America: Colonial Life and Religion, 1720-1763

Read chapter 4, *The American Yawp*

Week 4 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 5, February 9-12, A Treaty, Protests, and the Transformation of America, 1754-1774

Read chapter 4, *The American Yawp*

Week 5 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 6, February 16-19, American Revolutions, 1775-1783

Read chapter 5, *The American Yawp*

Exam 1, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm (The first exam will cover weeks 1-5.)

Week 7, February 23-26, Federalist America, 1783-1800

Read chapter 6, *The American Yawp*

Week 7 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 8, March 2-5, Jeffersonian America, 1801-1823

Read chapter 7, *The American Yawp*

Week 8 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 9, March 9-12, The Antebellum South

Read chapter 11, *The American Yawp*

Week 9 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 10, March 16-19

No assignment/quiz is due

Mar. 16-20 – Spring Break

Week 11, March 23-26, The Northern Industrial Revolution, 1800-1850

Read chapter 8, *The American Yawp*

Exam 2, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm (The second exam will cover weeks 6-10.)

Week 12, March 30 - April 2, America's Westward Expansion, 1800-1860

Read chapters 12-13, *The American Yawp*

Week 12 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 13, April 6-9, Jacksonian America, Expansion, and Reform, 1824-1860

Read chapters 9-10, *The American Yawp*

Week 13 Assignment/quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 14, April 13-16, The Civil War, 1860-1865

Read chapter 14, *The American Yawp*

Frederick Douglass quiz, complete by Thursday at 11:00 pm

Week 15, April 20-23, Reconstruction: An Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877

Read chapter 14, *The American Yawp*

No assignment/quiz is due

Last day to drop the course (April 30)

Week 16, Final Exam Week:

HIST 1301-155 – The exam is due by **Thursday, April 30 by 11:00 pm**