

HIST 1301 US HISTORY TO 1865

FALL SEMESTER 2025

Instructor: Cassie H. Clark

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Classroom/Office: Room 205 Madla Building

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 or by appointment CAB Room 325

Course Description:

This survey course will cover the period of American History from European Exploration to the Civil War. Throughout the course, students will identify the significance of political, economic, cultural, religious, and social contributions to the early settlements, continued migration to North America, the fight for American Independence, Westward Expansion, the Early Republic, and the Civil War. Additionally, students will learn and understand the critical role religion, economics, and politics played towards Native Americans and Slavery in the United States.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will engage in historical discussion that examines the evidence used to create and support educated arguments concerning events in U.S. History. Primary and secondary sources will be used to analyze historical events and interpret historiography. Understanding essential elements that affect U.S. History's historical, social, political, economic, and cultural aspects will broaden the student's understanding of how different methodologies can be applied to research. This will all be combined within lessons and discussions to assist students in forming an analysis of historical events using critical thinking skills, analytical reading, writing, effective communication, and collaboration with peers. Effective communication throughout the course is crucial to a successful experience and understanding of the course content.

Required texts

Primary text: Joseph L. Locke and Ben Wright. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook*

<https://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

Attendance will be taken in every class and considered in the final grade. You are required to attend class, be on time, and participate in class discussions by completing the readings and assignments for each week. There will be no earbuds, cell phones, or random internet searches; students will be expected to be engaged in the course and the discussion. It amounts to class participation, which will enhance the student experience and the student's overall ability to complete the course successfully.

An absence from class for school-sponsored functions will be considered an excused absence. Students must notify the instructor before the absence with supporting evidence of the school-sponsored event. This applies to the potential for any make-up exams as well.

For online course students, Blackboard tracks log-in activity, and your active participation and completion of work will justify attendance.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

We will discuss properly citing any primary or secondary sources you use in your work this term. Your work will be reviewed for plagiarism using institutional services, and if any failure to note work through citations is indicated, the grade for the work will be impacted. The instructor is always available if you have any questions about properly citing your work. You can also utilize the university Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center for assistance.

Citation Writing Guide:

You are required to cite your sources throughout the course. Use the **Citation Styles Guide** provided by the TAMUSA library. MLA or APA is authorized, but be consistent and use the styles and formatting correctly. <https://libguides.tamusa.edu/citationstyles>

Grade Scale:

Total Points: 1500

A: 1500-1200, B: 1199-900, C: 899-600, D: 599-300, F: 299 or less

Exams: 600 points (300 each)

Quizzes: 300 points (50 each)

Primary Source Analysis: 300 points

Discussions: 300 points (50 each)

LATE POLICY

All graded assignments will be turned in by the deadline. Any late submissions will be counted as a zero at the end of the grading week. Late submissions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with no guarantee of approval.

Important Dates to Remember:

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 25 | First Day of Classes |
| September 1 | Labor Day No Class |
| October 6-17 | Midterm Grading Period |
| November 14 | Last Day to Drop with a grade of "W" |
| November 26 | Study Day No Class |
| November 27-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes |
| December 4 | Last Day of In Person Classes |
| December 5 | Study Day No Classes |
| December 6-12 | Final Examinations |
| December 12 | End of Term |

Course Assignments: Additional notes on assignments will be available in Blackboard.

1. *Discussion posts* and *quizzes*, will be assigned alternately throughout the course. For discussion posts, students are required to post at least 300 words on the topic assigned in the modules on Blackboard (BB). Quizzes will be multiple-choice and timed, posted in Blackboard. These assignments will serve as evidence of learning on the course subjects assigned throughout the term. Any references to the course text or outside sources must be cited in your work. **Online course students will participate in discussion posts and complete a timed quiz in Blackboard.**
2. All students who take core curriculum courses such as HIST 1301 or 1302 must complete an individual assignment called the *CORE Curriculum Assessment*. This midterm course evaluation will be a midterm multiple-choice exam taken in class on a date that will be provided to you.
3. The *Primary Source Analysis* is a written assignment that will be due on October 6 (midterm). You will choose from a list of primary source documents provided to you that pertain to the historical period covered in the class. You will examine and research the document and complete the assignment according to the posted instructions in Blackboard. You will cite any resources used to complete this project using MLA or APA citations.
4. *Exams*, there will be two examinations during this course, the midterm and final. Both will be multiple choice exams taken in class on dates that will be provided to you. **Online course students will complete both the midterm and final via an online posted exam in Blackboard that will be timed and open for a specified period to complete.**

Course Breakdown:

Week 1

Class introductions, syllabus review, and course expectations.

Chapter 1 Indigenous America – The first Americans, European Expansion, Spanish exploration and conquest.

Discussion post.

Week 2

Chapter 2 Colliding Cultures – Spanish America, Spain's rivals, English colonization, Jamestown, New England.

Quiz.

Week 3

Chapter 3 British North America – Slavery and the making of race, turmoil in Britain, new colonies, rebellions and riots.

Discussion post.

Week 4

Chapter 4 Colonial Society – Consumption and trade in British Atlantic, slavery and the Atlantic exchange, pursuing freedoms, the Seven Years' War, Pontiac's War.

Quiz.

Week 5

Chapter 5 The American Revolution – Origins, causes, Independence, the war, and consequences.

Discussion post.

Week 6

Chapter 6 The New Nation – Shay's Rebellion, the Constitutional Convention, ratifying the Constitution, rights and compromises, Hamilton and money, Whiskey Rebellion and Jay's Treaty, French Revolution, religious freedoms, and the election of 1800.

Quiz.

Week 7

Chapter 7 The Early Republic – Challenging slavery, Jeffersonian Republicanism, President Jefferson, Native American power, the War of 1812

Midterm

Week 8

Chapter 8 The Market Revolution – Republic economic development, King Cotton, labor organizations, gender roles and family life, Industrial Labor in Antebellum America.

Discussion post.

Week 9

Chapter 9 Democracy in America – the Early Republic, Missouri Crisis, Andrew Jackson, Nullification Crisis, the Eaton Affair, the Bank War, Panic of 1837, Whigs, Anti-Masons and Anti-Immigrants, Race and Jacksonian Democracy.

Quiz.

Week 10

Chapter 10 Religion and Reform – Revivals and Religious change, Reforms, The Benevolent Empire, Anti-Slavery and Abolitionism, Women in Antebellum America.

Discussion post.

Week 11

Chapter 11 The Cotton Revolution – The importance of cotton, Cotton and Slavery, South and the City, Southern Cultures, Religion and Honor in the Slave South.

Quiz.

Week 12

Chapter 12 Manifest Destiny – Western Migration and Indian Removal, Culture and life in the West, Texas/Mexico and the U.S., Manifest Destiny and the Gold Rush, Monroe Doctrine and Manifest Destiny.

Discussion post.

Week 13

Chapter 13 The Sectional Crisis – Sectionalism and the early Republic, crisis joined, Free Soil and Free Labor, Sectional to National crisis.

Quiz.

Week 14 and Week 15

Chapter 14 The Civil – The election of 1860 and Secession, A war for Union 1861-1863, war for Emancipation 1863-1865, Conclusion.

Holiday Week 14 (no class Wednesday, Nov 26)

Dec 1 Last lecture, Dec 3 Final Review

Week 16

Finals