



US HISTORY 1301: US History to 1865

Fall 2026

Texas A&M University, San Antonio

Instructor: Mindi Sitterud-McCluskey, Ph.D. ABD

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Office Hours: Tuesdays by appointment

Course Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00-12:15 in Madla 209

Course Description

Credits: 3 (3-0-0)

Incorporating many perspectives, this course examines pre-Columbian societies, colonial America, the American Revolution, the early Republic, westward expansion, and the Civil War, among other topics.

TSI Restriction(s): Reading and Writing.

Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.

Learner Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create a thesis argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.
4. Develop analytical writing skills.

Course Readings

Students do not need to purchase a textbook for this course. Weekly readings can be accessed online:

- *The American Yawp* at americanyawp.com.

Instructor

I am Mindi Sitterud-McCluskey. I teach history courses at Texas A&M San Antonio, the University of the Incarnate Word and the University of Arizona. I earned my doctorate degree at the University of Arizona and my master's degree at Boston College, with specialties in economic history, labor and working-class studies, slavery, social movements, transnational migrations, and the human experience of American foreign policy. The courses I teach reflect these specialties and my interest in the lives of ordinary people.

What to Expect:

This class meets twice a week for interactive lectures, discussion, and collaboration. Attendance is required and part of the course grade. Students are expected to arrive on time and having completed and submitted assigned materials. Students are also expected to take notes and participate in class discussion and small group exercises. In addition to a weekly assignment, the assessments for this class include three exams and a final paper.

Learning Activities and Assessments

In-Class Lectures & Lecture Guides

Core historical content and context are conveyed through interactive powerpoint lectures. Students are expected to attend class, take notes, and participate in discussion. To facilitate note-taking and discussion, lecture guides are provided (uploaded in Blackboard). These lecture guides are not graded assignments. Students are free to pursue their own note-taking methods if they choose

- **Lecture Guide Benefits:** Although the lecture guides are not assigned, there are benefits associated with putting a genuine effort into completing them. 1). They are intended to narrow the content discussed in lectures to a limited number of essential points and areas of consideration, 2). They can be used while taking the three unit exams, 3). They could be an aid in the composition of the final paper, and 4). Those who complete all of the lecture guides can submit their collection for extra credit at the end of the semester.
- **Lecture Guides and Absences:** Students who must miss class due to a recognized school commitment, such as participation in a school athletic event, military duty or physician-verified sickness/injury can receive attendance points by using the powerpoint slides or recorded lesson associated with the class meeting that was missed to complete the corresponding lecture guide. The completed lecture guide should then be emailed to me with the date of the absence and any relevant documentation. These materials are posted in Blackboard each week. This requirement is meant to assure that an absence is followed by a review of the material covered in class during the absence and, therefore, does not contribute to a student falling behind or performing poorly on an assessment. Attendance points for absences that fall outside the above-mentioned categories can also be earned by following the same process of completing the lecture guide for the lesson missed and emailing the completed guide. However, such cases are limited to two absences.

Weekly Homework Assignments

Each week, students will be expected to complete one homework assignment. These assignments take a variety of forms, including readings, multimedia, and primary sources. Students are required to complete & submit questions associated with these homework assignments before the beginning of class on the appropriate due date. Submissions should be made through Blackboard. If a student has trouble submitting through Blackboard, he/she should email the assignment to the instructor (also before the beginning of class).

Unit Exams

Three online unit exams assess learning and engagement regarding in-class lessons, hybrid lessons, and homework assignments. Each exam is to be completed outside class via Blackboard. No more than half credit will be awarded for late exams.

Final Paper

At the end of the semester, each student is required to submit an essay in response to specific prompt, requiring the integration of course materials and the application critical thought processes. This essay does not constitute a research paper. Rather, students will be primarily assessed according to a demonstrated ability to respond to the prompt by drawing upon & critically analyze specific course themes and materials, including weekly assignments, lectures and class discussions. General requirements:

- 5-6 pages
- Typed, double-spaced
- 11-12 pt font

. Grading Scale

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| • Homework | 30% |
| • Quizzes | 30% |
| • Essays | 30% |
| • Attendance and participation | 10% |

Classroom Policies

Participation and Courtesy: Class discussion is an important part of this course, and we will not always agree. All points of view are welcome, as long as they are informed (meaning, you have done the required assignments for class) and are not deliberately discriminatory or demeaning of other students. As we engage in the material and in conversation with each other, we must remember to do so respectfully and constructively.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones and earbuds should be muted and put away at the beginning of class. Laptops are permitted as long as they are being used for class purposes. Violations of these policies will result in becoming dismissed from class and losing attendance points.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all on-campus sessions. The material discussed and presented in class is a vital part of the course, needed to complete additional learning activities and assessments. In cases where attendance is not possible, students can have up to 2 class absences excused by completing and submitting the lecture guide which accompanies the lecture/s missed. This process can be repeated without such limitations for those with school excused absences, military duty and physician-verified illness/ injury (see “Lecture Guides and Absences” for more information)

Roll Call: Because attendance is graded, the roll will be called at the beginning of class. Students should make a habit of being to class on-time. If lateness cannot be avoided, it is the student’s responsibility to speak with the professor promptly after class to request attendance points. Excessive or significant lateness may result in a loss of attendance points.

Late Work: Due to in-class discussion needs, no more than half credit will be awarded for late exams and assignments. Exceptions can be made under certain circumstances (please speak with professor)

Email Communication: Email communication is welcome. All emails should include your name and the specific course in which you are enrolled (“Monday 12:30 class,” for example). This information will facilitate the process of accessing information about grades and attendance.

AI and Plagiarism: All written work must be the product of student engagement with learning activities and the application of analytical thought. Although AI platforms and internet searches do have the capacity to provide constructive assistance regarding the essay-writing process if utilized in a certain manner, simple outputs cannot substitute quality student work nor mimic the level of engagement expected by this course. This course approaches history according to a collection of thematic frameworks not readily translated into accurate and sufficient AI outputs. It addresses select events, concepts, and terminology in their historical context, further apt to defy accurate AI outputs. Because written assignments require students to work within specific thematic frameworks and draw clearly upon materials uniquely compiled for this course, AI generated essays and essays lifted from the internet will not sufficiently align with course expectations. Submitted work that reflects an AI output and/or internet search rather than genuine engagement with the distinct themes, subject matter, and learning activities selected for this course will be subject to a denial of credit and might put the student at risk of university protocols for plagiarism, including dismissal.

Important Dates

August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday (no class)
September 9	Census Date
October 5-16	Midterm Period
November 13	Last day to drop with a “W”
November 25	Study Day (no class)
November 26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)
November 30	Last day to withdraw from the university
December 4	Last day of scheduled classes
December 5-11	Final Exam Period

Common Questions

- *What if I cannot attend class due to military commitments, athletic competition, or some other school-excused absence?*
 - Attendance points can be earned for such absences by using the powerpoint slides or recorded lesson associated with the class meeting that was missed to complete the corresponding lecture guide. The completed lecture guide should then be emailed to me with the date of the absence and any relevant documentation. These materials are posted in Blackboard each week. This requirement is meant to assure that such an absence does not disadvantage the student by leaving him/her without understandings needed to perform well on assessments.
- *What if I cannot attend class due to an illness?*
 - All students are allowed to earn attendance points for two absences by using the powerpoint slides or recorded lesson associated with the class meeting that was missed to complete the corresponding lecture guide (the school excused absences addressed in the prior bullet point are not limited). You do not need to provide a doctor’s note or excuse to earn attendance points by this process. Just email me the completed lecture guide with the

date of the absence. If a physician-diagnosed illness requires missing more than two classes, a doctor's note must be submitted to extend this opportunity beyond two.

- *Do you accept late work?*
 - Yes. For weekly assignments, points will be deducted according to the severity of the "lateness." No more than half credit will be awarded for late exams. In both cases, it is "worth it" to complete the work even with a point penalty.
- *What if I miss roll/attendance?*
 - Speak with me immediately after class (before I log-out of Blackboard) to be added to the roll.
- *What is the Blackboard system is down and I cannot upload my assignment?*
 - Email the assignment to be before the beginning of class. Please include the day and time of the class in which you are enrolled.
- *What is your email address?*
 - MSitteru@tamusa.edu. Please include your full name and the day and time of the class in which you are enrolled.
- *How do I submit the lecture guides?*
 - You are not required to submit the lecture guides. They are provided as a note-taking tool, conducive to improving performance on exams and the final paper. If you end the semester with a full set of completed lecture guides, you can submit them and receive extra credit. Just compile these guides into one document (copy/paste) and email the document to me.
- *Do you have office hours?*
 - Yes. If you have a simple question, feel free to speak with me before or after class. Otherwise, send me an email with your availability and I will set up an appointment that works for us both. I am typically available on Tuesdays and Fridays until 4:00, and before noon on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Assignment Schedule

<u>Week 1</u>	August 24-30
Monday	The 1492 Moment: New World
Wednesday	The 1492 Moment: Old World
<u>Week 2</u>	August 31- September 6
Monday	New Spain I
Wednesday	New Spain II
	Due: Homework Packet 1
<u>Week 3</u>	September 7-13
Monday	No Class- Labor Day Holiday
Wednesday	New England I
	Due: Homework Packet 2

<u>Week 4</u>	September 14-20
Monday	New France
Wednesday	Slavery and Servitude Due: Homework Packet 3
<u>Week 5</u>	September 21-27
Monday	New England II Posted: Unit 1 Exam
Wednesday	Revolutionary Stirrings I Due: Homework Packet 4
<u>Week 6</u>	September 28-October 4
Monday	Revolutionary Stirrings II Due: Unit 1 Exam
Wednesday	American Revolution I Due: Homework Packet 5
<u>Week 7</u>	October 5-11
Monday	American Revolution II
Wednesday	American Revolution III Due: Homework Packet 6
<u>Week 8</u>	October 12-18
Monday	Early Republic I
Wednesday	Early Republic II Due: Homework Packet 7
<u>Week 9</u>	October 19-25
Monday	Jeffersonian and Jacksonian America Posted Unit 2 Exam
Wednesday	Antebellum Slavery I Due: Homework Packet 8
<u>Week 10</u>	October 26-November 1
Monday	Antebellum Slavery II Due: Unit 2 Exam
Wednesday	Westward Expansion I Due: Homework Packet 9
<u>Week 11</u>	November 2-8
Monday	Westward Expansion II
Wednesday	Antebellum Waged Labor and Capitalist Developments I Due: Homework Packet 10
<u>Week 12</u>	November 9-15
Monday	Antebellum Waged Labor and Capitalist Developments I
Wednesday	The Abolitionists

Due: Homework Packet 11

Week 13 **November 16-22**

Monday The Suffragists

Wednesday Rising Tensions

Due: Homework Packet 12

Week 14 **November 23-29**

Monday Lincoln's Republican Party

Wednesday No Class- Study Day

Week 15 **November 30-December 6**

Monday Civil War I

Posted: Unit 3 Exam

Wednesday Civil War II

Due: Homework Packet 13

Week 16 **December 7-11**

Final Exam Period

Due by the last day of final exams: Unit 3 Exam and Final Paper Assignment

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily

functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students

enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A nonpunitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country. *Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity,

gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/studentrights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-andresponsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.



The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.