

Texas A&M University- San Antonio
History 1301-002 (24243)
United States History to 1865
Spring 2024

Monday, Wednesday 11:00 am-12:15 pm, Madla 236

Dr. Amy M. Porter

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30 pm-2:00 pm and by appointment in person or online

Course Catalog Description:

Even before the American Revolution, “America” represented an entirely new vista of possibilities to Europeans, from conquest and profit to rebirth and independence. At the same time, “America” held quite different meanings for Indians, free and enslaved Africans, lower-class white Europeans, and successive waves of immigrants. The United States is thus the product of contests between social groups, cultural and intellectual traditions, and political movements. In this class, we will explore how the *idea* of America emerged and evolved from pre-Columbian times through the end of the American Civil War. What did it mean to be an American? Who was included or excluded, and on what terms? Along the way we will examine a host of themes that continue to resonate today: racial and ethnic conflict, the role of women, family and childrearing, civil rights and liberties, the changing meaning of democratic citizenship, the politics of national expansion and empire, the rise of a market system, urbanization, modernization and modernity, and national identity.

“This course meets the standards for the American History category of courses under the core curriculum.”

Student Learner Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Create a clear written 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.

Assessment of Student Learner Outcomes

The student learner outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed through exams, while outcomes 1, 2, and 3 will be assessed through performance on the essays. All three outcomes will be assessed through participation.

Basic Components of the Course:

- 1) Two classes per week, consisting of lecture, discussion, and in-class writing
- 2) Examinations: Three exams
- 3) Essays: Two essays
- 4) Participation: Attendance, in-class discussions, and in-class writing assignments

Testing and Grading:

Grades are assigned on a ten-point scale: A- 90-100%, B- 80-89%, C-70-79%, D-60-69%; F- 59% and below

The final grade will be based on the following formula-

Exams- 20 % each

Essays- 15% each

Participation- 10%

No Extra Credit will be offered. I do not add points onto final grades even if a student is close to another grade.

Graded work should be returned within 2 weeks if not sooner.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is required. I take attendance at the beginning of class, so if you enter the class significantly late, you will be counted absent. If you leave class early, you will be counted absent as well. As much of the course work happens in class, missing **four classes** or more will result in a loss of one letter grade (-10 points) for this class. All students (whether present or absent) are responsible for all announcements made in class and all assignments given in class because it is sometimes necessary to make changes to the syllabus.

Make-ups:

All essays and assessments are due on blackboard through a turnitin assignment on the date and time indicated on the syllabus. Late essays will be accepted with a penalty of five points off each day the assignment is late. **I will not accept assignments that have not been submitted through blackboard. Keep your submission receipt in case there is a problem.** If you have an emergency and cannot submit your assignment on time, you must talk to me right away and provide documentation of the emergency.

Civility Code:

This course may discuss controversial topics that could lead to disagreements. Voice those disagreements openly and thoughtfully. But be sure to do so in a respectful way, in the tone and content of your comments. Remember that misunderstandings can arise easily online. Per the A&M-SA Student Code of Conduct, students should never engage in name-calling, personal insults (open or veiled), bullying, hate speech, or inappropriate profanity.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the

course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

In my class, plagiarism or cheating on a test will result in a 0 for that assignment and reporting of the violation.

AI Policy:

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves. Students may not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT or any others. Use of any AI-generated work in this course constitutes academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Required Reading:

- *The American Yawp*; can be accessed at <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>
- Other primary sources provided in Blackboard or in *The American Yawp*

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

Note: I may make some changes to this schedule. These changes will be announced in class.

January 17:

Introduction to the Course

January 22:

Pre-Contact America

Reading Assignment: [Chapter One in *The American Yawp*](#) (sections 1 and 2 on indigenous peoples)

January 24:

Class Topics: European exploration and early contact/conquest

Reading Assignment: Complete reading of [Chapter One in *The American Yawp*](#)

And primary sources: [Journal of Christopher Columbus](#), [Bartolomé de las Casas](#), [The Story of the Virgin of Guadalupe](#)

January 29:

Class Topics: European exploration and early contact/conquest

Reading Assignment: Read [Chapter Two in *The American Yawp*](#)

January 31:

Class Topics: European exploration and early contact/conquest

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Richard Hakluyt](#), [A Gaspesian](#), [Accusations of witchcraft](#)

February 5:

Class Topics: Early colonization continued and British North America

Reading Assignment: Read [*Chapter Three in The American Yawp*](#)

February 7:

Class Topics: Early colonization continued and British North America

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Olaudah Equiano](#) and [Rose Davis](#)

Essay #1 due by class time

February 12:

Class Topics: Colonial Society

Reading Assignment: Read [*Chapter Four in The American Yawp*](#)

February 14:

Class Topics: Colonial Society

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Jonathan Edwards](#), [Samson Occom](#), [Pontiac](#)

February 19:

Catch up day/discuss test

February 21:

Test One in Class

February 26:

Class Topics: The American Revolution

Reading Assignment: Read [*Chapter Five in The American Yawp*](#)

February 28:

Class Topics: The American Revolution

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Thomas Paine](#), [Declaration of Independence](#), [Abigail and John Adams](#)

March 4:

Class Topics: The Constitution

Reading Assignment: Read [*Chapter Six in The American Yawp*](#)

March 6:

Class Topics: The American Revolution and the Constitution

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Mary Smith Cranch](#), [George Washington Farewell Address](#)

Week of March 11:

Spring Break

March 18:

Class Topics: The Early Republic and War of 1812

Reading Assignment: Read [*Chapter Seven in The American Yawp*](#)

March 20:

Class Topics: Washington as President, Jeffersonian America, the War of 1812

Reading Assignment: Read Primary Sources: [Thomas Jefferson](#), [Tecumseh](#), [Congress debates war](#)

March 25:

Class Topics: The Market Revolution and its impacts

Read [*Chapter Eight in The American Yawp*](#)

March 27:

Test Two in class

April 1:

Jacksonian Era

Read [*Chapter Nine in The American Yawp*](#)

April 3:

Second Great Awakening and Reform

Read [*Chapter Ten in The American Yawp*](#)

April 8:

Second Great Awakening and Reform

Read any three of the first seven documents in [Chapter Ten](#)

April 10:

Class Topics: Slavery

Readings: Read [Chapter Eleven in The American Yawp](#)

April 15:

Class Topics: Westward Expansion

Readings: Read [*Chapter Twelve in The American Yawp*](#)

April 17:

Class Topics: The Approaching Civil War

Readings: Read [Chapter Thirteen in The American Yawp](#)

April 22:

Class Topics: The Approaching Civil War

Readings: Read any three of the first seven primary sources from [Chapter 13](#)

Essay #2 Due

April 24:

Class Topics: The Civil War

Readings: Read [*Chapter Fourteen in The American Yawp*](#)

April 29:

Class Topics: The Civil War

Readings: Read primary sources: [William Henry Singleton](#), [Ambrose Bierce](#), [Lincoln](#)

FINAL EXAM- TBA, check final exam schedule online

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dsupport@tamusa.edu.

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/or 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 Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

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.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

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 Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/uploadfile/folders/sdbowen23/pdf/pdf-635073426137928167-10.100.20.116.pdf>

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.

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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@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 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 non-punitive 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, equality of 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, diversity, pluralism 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, or gender expression. 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 victims 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 or 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 responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C. 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, 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, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as 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 an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

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. Behaviors that infringe 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.