

**Hist. 1301 -- U.S. HISTORY to 1865**  
**Spring Semester, 2025**  
**Online Asynchronous**

**Instructor: Mr. Dylan Stephens**

**E-Mail: [dstephens@tamusa.edu](mailto:dstephens@tamusa.edu)**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday & Wednesday; 4:30 PM-5:30 PM (By Appointment Only)**

**<https://tamusa.webex.com/tamusa/j.php?MTID=mbc6bc1e531ae4092d9ef78348a129aa4>**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will cover U.S. history from before the arrival of the first colonists through the Civil War. Themes to be covered include: colonialism and imperialism, the Atlantic World, trade and economics, politics, diplomacy and warfare, westward expansion, and slavery. We will focus on historical interpretation and critical thinking, rather than merely memorizing names and dates, as so many history classes require you to do.

**LEARNING 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.

**REQUIRED COURSE READINGS**

**Textbook:**

*The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Vol. 1: To 1877.*

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

*The American Yawp Reader*

Online only: <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html>

**Additional Required Readings:**

*Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

**Online:** <https://archive.org/details/autobiobenfran00miffriech/page/n9/mode/2up>

By: Benjamin Franklin

*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

**Online:** <https://archive.org/details/incidentsinlifeo1861jaco>

By: Harriet Jacobs

## QUIZZES

There will be weekly quizzes covering the material from that week. These quiz questions will serve as a bank of knowledge for midterm and final exams. These will be in multiple choice format. Typically, these will be due Sunday evenings of that academic week by 11:59 PM, but there are exceptions for short weeks due to holidays or testing schedules.

## VIDEO RESPONSES

There will be six opportunities to engage with our Jaguar community through the use of video responses to questions and topics throughout the course. These responses will be available for submission in multiple video formats. You will be required to respond to **TWO** of your classmates as part of your grade. The assignments will be based on questions related to selected primary sources from *The American Yawp Reader* and other selected primary sources.

## EXAMS

There will be two exams: one midterm and one final. The exams are given in multiple choice and essay format in order to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of historical topics and to provide your own interpretations of historical events and themes. It is more important that you be able to exhibit critical thinking skills than to recall names and dates. **These exams will require use of the Repondus LockDown Browser.**

Prior to each exam, you will be provided with a list of five possible essay questions to study. Of those five, I will select two to be on the exam.

Exams will be cumulative (the midterm will cover all material prior and the final will cover all material from the semester), BUT the questions will be based on lecture, the textbook, previous quizzes, and supplementary readings.

## WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be required to write two reflection essays over the supplemental readings. Each of these essays must be at least 900 words in length (but no more than 1,500 words), double-spaced, Times New Roman font, with standard 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Cite your sources in either footnotes or in-text citations. The readings with the prompt will be provided. These assignments will be discussed in further detail in the weekly lectures ported online. **No internet sources are allowed for these assignments.**

## GRADING SCALE

Exams—500 points (1 midterm exam worth 250 points; final exam worth 250 points)  
Written Essays: 300 points (2 essays worth 150 points each)  
Weekly Quizzes: 140 points (14 quizzes worth 10 points each)  
Video Presentations: 60 points (6 videos worth 10 points each)

## **TOTAL POINTS: 1000**

**A= 1000-900; B = 899-800; C =799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599 and below.**

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. You will not be able to succeed in this course if you habitually miss class. Attendance will be tracked weekly through the use of a “check-in” assignment in the course Blackboard. The check-in will simply require you to respond to a weekly question not content-related.

**Extra Credit:** I do not offer extra credit.

**Blackboard:** This course has a Blackboard site, which is where your grades and assignment links will be posted. Powerpoint slides, lectures, and course announcements will also be posted to Blackboard.

**Make-Up Exams:** Make-up exams are only allowed for emergencies such as debilitating illness, a death in the immediate family, and religious or school functions. In any case, you must provide documentation of your absence in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

**Late Paper/ Assignment Policy:** I do not accept late papers/ assignments. All assignments must be turned in by the deadline.

**Communication:** Email me regarding questions or concerns that you might have. I will do my best to respond within one day. You may also schedule an appointment to speak with me during virtual office hours.

**Statement on Artificial Intelligence:** 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.

**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](mailto: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.

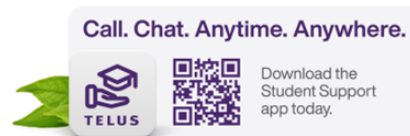
**Academic Learning Center:** The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto: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](http://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-a-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](mailto: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 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, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/student-rights-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-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**January 21: First day of class**

**January 26: First Video response by 11:59 PM**

**February 9: Second Video response due by 11:59 PM**

**February 23: First Reflection Paper Due (Franklin)**

**March 2: Third Video response due by 11:59 PM**

**March 7: Midterm Exam online due by 11:59 PM**

**March 10-15: Spring Break**

**March 30: Fourth Video Response due by 11:59 PM**

**April 13: Fifth Video Response due by 11:59 PM**

**April 20: Second Reflection Paper Due (Jacobs)**

**April 21: Last day to drop with an automatic "W"**

**April 27: Sixth Video Response due by 11:59 PM**

**May 7-13: Final Exam Window**

*The complete academic calendar is available online:*

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

### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **Week 1: Week of January 21**

Topics: Class Introduction & Syllabus/ Indigenous America

Assignments: Quiz #1 and Video Response #1 due 11:59 PM January 26

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 1**

#### **Week 2: Week of January 27**

Topics: Colliding Cultures and British Colonial America

Assignments: Quiz #2 and Quiz #3

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 2 and Chapter 3**

#### **Week 3: Week of February 3**

Topics: Colonial Society

Assignments: Quiz#4 Video Response #2 due 11:59 PM February 9

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 4**

#### **Week 4: Week of February 10**

Topics: The American Revolution

Assignments: Quiz #5



**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 5**

**Week 5: Week of February 17**

Topics: A New Nation

Assignments: Quiz #6 and Reflection Paper #1: *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* due 11:59PM February 23

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 6**

**Week 6: Week of February 24**

Topics: The Early Republic

Assignments: Quiz #7 and Video Response #3 due 11:59 PM March 2

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 7**

**Week 7: Week of March 3**

Topics; Review/ Midterm Exam

Assignments: Midterm Exam Online due by 11:59 PM March 7

**READINGS: N/A**

**Week 8: Week of March 10: Spring Break  
Spring Break 3/10-3/15**

**Week 9: Week of March 17**

Topics: The Market Revolution

Assignments: Quiz #8

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 8**

**Week 10: Week of March 24**

Topics: Democracy in America

Assignments: Quiz #9 Video Response #4 due 11:59 PM March 30

**READINGS: Textbook Chapters 9**

**Week 11: Week of March 31**

Topics: Religion and Reform

Assignments: Quiz #10

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 10**

**Week 12: Week of April 7**

Topics: The Cotton Revolution

Assignments: Quiz #11 Video Response #5 due 11:59 PM April 13

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 11**

**Week 13: Week of April 14**

Topics: Manifest Destiny

Assignments: Quiz #12 and Reflection Paper #2: *Incidents of a Slave Girl* due 11:59 PM April 20

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 12**

**Week 14: Week of April 21**

Topics: The Sectional Crisis

Assignments: Quiz #13 Video Response #6 due 11:59 PM April 27

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 13**

**Week 15: Week of April 28**

Topics: The Civil War

Assignments: Quiz #14

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 14**

**Week 16: Week of May 5**

Topics: Final Exam Review and Final Exam

Assignments: Final Exam

**Final Exam Window: May 7-May 13**

Assignments: Final Exam due by 11:59 PM May 13

Final Exam Time TBA

**\*\* All due dates are subject to change at instructor discretion\*\***