

Texas A&M University- San Antonio

History 1301-004 (24245)

United States History to 1865

Spring 2026

Monday, Wednesday 12:30 pm-1:45 pm, Madla 208

Dr. Amy M. Porter

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2-3 pm and by appointment

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 projects. 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: Four tests
- 3) Projects: Two projects
- 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-

Tests- 15 % each

Projects- 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:

Exams can only be made up in the case of a documented emergency, and they must be completed **within one week** of the testing date. Projects are due by the date and time marked on the syllabus. If submitted late, projects will accrue late penalties of five points per day late. The penalty will be applied to projects submitted more than 15 minutes late but won't accrue the next five points until 24 hours later. **The projects will only be accepted up to five days late.** All makeups must be completed before the last day of

classes per the academic calendar (prior to final exam week). All projects are due on blackboard through a turnitin assignment. I will not accept essays that have not been submitted through turnitin in blackboard. Keep your submission receipt in case there is a problem. If you have an emergency and cannot submit your project on time, you must talk to me right away and provide documentation of the emergency. Otherwise, your project grade will receive the penalty. You also need to use a program that turnitin accepts (like Microsoft Word).

Testing Procedures

Tests will be taken in class. Students must clear off their desks and place their phones face down. No headphones are allowed during the test. Students should only leave the room due to emergencies and must leave their phones in the classroom. Students arriving late cannot take the test if students have already completed the test and left the room.

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.⁰¹

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.

Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

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 21:

Introduction to the Course

January 26:

Pre-Contact America

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

January 28:

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](#)

February 2:

Class Topics: European exploration and early contact/conquest

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

February 4:

Class Topics: European exploration and early contact/conquest

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

February 9:

Class Topics: Early colonization continued and British North America

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

February 11:

Class Topics: Early colonization continued and British North America

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

Project #1 due by class time

February 16:

Class Topics: Colonial Society

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

February 18:

Class Topics: Colonial Society

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

February 23:

Test One in class

February 25:

Class Topics: The American Revolution

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

March 2:

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 16:

Class Topics: The American Revolution and the Constitution

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

March 18:

Class Topics: The Early Republic and War of 1812

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

March 23:

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

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

March 25

Test Two in class

March 30:

Class Topics: The Market Revolution and its impacts

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

April 1:

Jacksonian Era

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

April 6:

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 13:

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 20:

Test Three in class

April 22:

Class Topics: The Approaching Civil War

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

April 27:

Class Topics: The Approaching Civil War

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

Project #2 Due

April 29:

Class Topics: The Civil War

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

May 4:

Class Topics: The Civil War

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

FINAL EXAM (test 4)- May 6, 10 am-11:50 am

Turnitin: You will submit your projects to the turnitin assignment in blackboard. Once submitted, you will get a report with a percentage. Lower is better, and zero is best. But, the number doesn't tell the whole story. No matter how low your number is, click on the color next to the number (green, yellow, red) to see your actual results. Take a look at what is not original. If the matches are all citations, then you are fine. If it is a common phrase, it is OK (i.e., "the peculiar institution"). If a whole sentence comes up, you need to look at that. If a sentence comes up, minus 3 random words, you need to look at that too. All work must be your own. Changing a few words does not make it your own. You can submit your paper and make changes until the due date. When you resubmit, it can take one or two days for your originality report to be created. Turnitin now checks for AI as well. If your paper suggests AI usage over 25%, you need to tell me if and how you used AI in your project.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at the website 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 academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance. While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows: Appointments available, Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed, MONDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm, TUESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm, WEDNESDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm, THURSDAY 8 am – 6 pm 9 am – 5 pm, FRIDAY 8 am – 5 pm 11 am – 4 pm

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. 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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App. The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 system. 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. 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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing

Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website . The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

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 report for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; [click here for hours and contact information](#).

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 wide variety 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 on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu. 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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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 sex-based 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) 74-1331 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. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

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, 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, 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 or visit the resources available in the OSRR website

Important Spring 2026 Dates:

January 13 Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20 First day of class
February 4 Census date
March 23-March 6 Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14 Spring Break
April 3 Study Day – No classes
April 17 Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
May 1 Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University

May 4 Last day of classes

May 5 Study Day – No classes

May 6-May 12 Final exams

May 19 Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online