



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

## **US HISTORY 1301: US History to 1865**

Spring 2026

Texas A&M University, San Antonio

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

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**Office Hours:** Mondays by appointment

### **Course Description**

History 1301 is a United States history survey course. It begins with an examination of pre-Columbian societies and early encounters between Old World and New World peoples. It continues chronologically and topically through the Colonial Period, Revolutionary Era, Early Republic, Antebellum Period, and Civil War. Among other topics, this course devotes special attention to the role of markets and profit motives in historical change; the revolutionary Atlantic world as essential context for the American Revolution and resistance to slavery and waged labor, and the revolutionary and broadly transformative nature of the Civil War. Accordingly, this course strives to hone a foundational understanding of early U.S. history as well as an awareness of some of the broad processes and patterns which animate the past and intersect with the present.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically analyze primary and secondary source evidence to construct an argument.
2. Develop analytical writing skills.
3. Analyze and discuss the major historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces that mark this period of United States history.
4. Analyze and discuss how North America was imagined, and what it meant, to a diversity of people during different moment of early American history.
5. Analyze and discuss North America/United States as a part of global history.

### **Course Readings**

You do not need to purchase a book for this course. All course readings and assignments will be provided in our Blackboard course shell.

## **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: Online Asynchronous Modality**

Online courses entail distinct challenges and benefits. One benefit, of course, is flexibility. This course does not meet as a class (neither online nor on campus), allowing for greater flexibility regarding academic and non-academic obligations and goals. An important challenge, however, is an assertion of the self-discipline and commitment needed to meet certain standards each week and, thereby, earn credit for the course. Accordingly, each week, students are expected to complete a module uploaded in our Blackboard course site. This module includes a series of learning activities that should be completed in the order in which they are provided, a question packet to be completed with the learning activities, and a discussion board. The question packet and discussion board assignment are due by Monday of the following week. A new module will open each Friday, providing an early start to those who are ready to move ahead. There will be three online unit exams during the semester as well as a final paper due at the end of the semester.

## **Learning Activities and Assessments**

Comprehension Question Packet: Each weekly module includes a series of learning activities. The learning activities can take a variety of forms, including recorded lessons, documentary films, video clips, primary resources and readings. All learning activities correspond with questions included in the weekly question packet. This packet should be completed as you work through the learning activities and uploaded in Blackboard by the following Monday. It would be to your benefit to maintain copies of your completed packets, as they should be helpful when composing discussion board posts, completing exams and writing the final paper.

Discussion Board: Each weekly module includes at least one discussion board assignment in relation to the course materials. These assignment assignments follow a basic pattern: 1). Draw upon course materials and learning to compose a response to the posted prompt according to the specifications provided, 2) Return to the discussion board the following week to read posts provided by peers, 3). Respond to at least two posts provided by peers according to the specifications provided. The basic grading criteria for the discussion boards include meeting the standards provided in the directions, demonstrating engagement with assigned content, and providing constructive and analytical posts and replies.

Exams: The course content is divided into three units. Each unit includes an exam. These exams are to be completed online. The questions take the form of multiple choice, true/false and "select all that apply." Be sure to also watch for the word, "except." Students are welcome to use their comprehension question packets while taking the exams. There is no final exam for this course. The Unit 3 exam is due at the end of finals week.

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. Instead, students are to compose a thesis statement in response to the essay prompt and then draw upon course materials, learning and critical thought to create an essay that supports this thesis and demonstrates genuine engagement with course the learning activities. Topic options will include: 1). The role of capitalist transformations and processes in the "discovery," conquest and colonization of the Americas, 2). Liberalism, Radicalism and the American Revolution, 3). The antebellum struggle for freedom and "The Second American Revolution?"

General requirements:

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

## **Classroom Policies**

Participation and Courtesy: Class discussion is an important part of this course, and we may 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.

Late Work: All work is generally due by the following Monday. This includes discussion board assignments, question packets and exams. No more than half credit will be granted for an assignment that is a week or more late. When submitted within one week of the due date, a less severe point penalty will be applied. Exceptions can be made under certain circumstances (please speak with me, preferably before the due date)

Communication: Email communication is welcome! All emails should include your name and the specific course in which you are enrolled. This information will facilitate the process of accessing information about grades and attendance (etc.). I am also available to meet in person on campus on Mondays or via Zoom on most days of the week. Please email me with a preferred time and day, and I will do my best to accommodate your request.

AI and Plagiarism: All written work must be the product of student engagement with assigned learning activities and analytical processes. Due to the distinct, thematic approach taken by this course and assessment requirements which stipulate that course materials be clearly drawn upon, AI tools and keyword internet searches apt to prove counterproductive and insufficient. Moreover, assignment submissions found to be AI generated or lifted from another source will be denied credit and might put the student at risk of university protocols for plagiarism, including dismissal

Grading Scale: This course maintains a points-based grading scale. Weekly comprehension question packets and discussion boards typically entail 40 points; exams typically entail 100 points, and the final paper is worth 100 points. This means that weekly assignments constitute about 60% of the final grade, while exams and the final paper constitute about 40%

### **Important Dates**

January 19	Martin Luther King Day (no class)
January 20	First Day of Spring Semester Classes
February 4	Census Date
February 5	Drop for Non-Payment
February 23-March 6	Midterm Grading Period
March 9-14	Spring Break (modified online expectations)
April 3	Study Day
April 17	Last Day to Drop with a "W"
May 1	Last Day to Withdraw
May 4	Last Day of Scheduled Classes
May 5	Study Day
May 6-12	Final Exams

## **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](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.

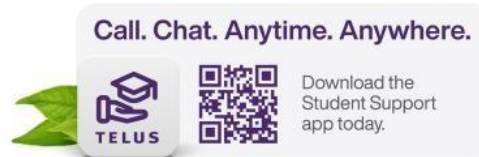
Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the 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](https://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.bbportal.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-areport.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 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](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/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>.