



History of the United States through Reconstruction 80294
COURSE HIST-1301-07E
T/R 9:30 PM - 10:45 AM, Sowers Education South 103
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: A. Rodney Mancuso

Office Location: Ferguson Graduate Student Office (down the hall from Dr. Cardona & Dr. Nelson)

Office Hours: Wednesday 12 - 4 PM and Thursday 2 – 4 PM or by appointment

University Email Address: August.Mancuso@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

Required Materials:

We will use [American Yawp](#) as our textbook. It is free and available online; you may also purchase a hard copy if you wish. I usually expect you to read one chapter each week. Primary source documents, presentation slides, and any other assigned readings will be made available on D2L throughout the course.

Course Description:

A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877. Assignments will focus on reading, writing, and analysis.

Prerequisites: ENG 1301/ENG 1302 or concurrent enrollment in either.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Personal Responsibility - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Social Responsibility - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Instructional Methods

This course is based on lectures and discussion of the reading you have done and the material we are examining. I encourage students to engage and interact during class. An open exchange of ideas between the class and myself makes class more useful and interesting. Please do not hesitate to ask questions. The only silly question is the one left unasked. You will also occasionally be asked to work together in class with other students on writing assignments.

Grading:

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Assessments:

Your grade will be calculated as a total number of points out of 1000:

100 Points: 10 Quizzes
10 points each
300 Points: 6 In-Class Writing Assignments
50 Points Each
600 Points: 4 Exams
150 Points Each

Attendance & Quizzes:

Class attendance is expected. I will record attendance, but it will not be graded. Instead, there will be ten (10) quizzes over the textbook reading on the day each reading is due. These will consist of a single question drawn from the assigned chapter answered quickly in two or three sentences. These quiz grades are the only ones that cannot be made up if missed. If personal difficulties arise that interfere with your ability to attend class, please email or speak with me in person as soon as possible.

In-Class Writing Assignments:

You will complete six (6) writing assignments during class time. Some of these will be document analyses in which you select one of three primary sources. These will usually be documents you have already read or examined in class. You may also be asked to collaborate in small groups to write critical examinations of topics under study. These assignments will be due at the end of class. Your work will be graded according to the following standards:

- A: Demonstrates mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize.
- B: Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation.
- C: Fair command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is unconvincing or is poorly reasoned.
- D: Poor command of required material; significant errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning.

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Exams:

You will take four exams throughout the class. The first three will have two parts: identification questions (IDs) and an essay question. You will select 4 of 7 IDs to complete and choose one of three essay prompts to answer. For the final exam, you will answer two essay prompts out of three provided. Before each exam we will have an in-class review session during which I will provide you with a study guide to help you prepare. This study guide will include the essay prompts on the upcoming test and a list of potential IDs.

Extra Credit:

I will provide you with at least two opportunities for extra credit throughout the class. Successfully completing each will add up to 10 points to a test grade.

Late Work & Exam Makeups:

If you miss an exam or class session with a writing assignment, you can make it up by attending my office hours (Wednesday 12-4 PM) or arranging an appointment at another time through email. Makeup work will be available for a period of two weeks after the day we completed it in class except for the final exam.

Course Overview:

We live in a world with basic factual information available anywhere, anytime at the touch of a screen. The purpose of this introductory United States history course is to help you contextualize and utilize that information to make well-reasoned arguments about the early history of the United States of America. Writing assignments and exam responses should include your **own analysis and opinions**. These should in turn be based largely on the available documents, lectures and readings such as *The American Yawp*. Use of outside sources is allowed but not expected.

Reading & Lecture Schedule:

8/27	Intro – What is U.S. History? (Lecture #1)
8/29	Coming to America (Lecture #2)
9/3	Ch. 1 – Indigenous America (Lecture #3)
9/5	The Seventeenth Century (Lecture #4)
9/10	Ch. 2 – Colliding Cultures & Writing Assignment #1
9/12	The Emerging English Colonies (Lecture #5)
9/17	Ch. 3 – British North America (Lecture #6)

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9/19	Exam #1
9/24	Ch. 4 – Colonial Society (Lecture #7)
9/26	Writing Assignment #2
10/1	Colonial Trouble Brewing (Lecture #8)
10/3	Ch. 5 – The American Revolution (Lecture #9)
10/8	Ch. 6 – A New Nation (Lecture #10)
10/10	Writing Assignment #3
10/15	Exam #2
10/17	Ch. 7 – The Early Republic (Lecture #11)
10/22	Ch. 9 – Democracy in America (Lecture #12)
10/24	Writing Assignment #4
10/29	Ch. 10 – Religion and Reform (Lecture #13)
10/31	King Cotton (Lecture #14)
11/5	Ch. 12 – Manifest Destiny (Lecture #15)
11/7	Exam #3
11/12	Ch. 13 – The Sectional Crisis (Lecture #16)
11/14	Writing Assignment #5
11/19	Ch. 14 – The Civil War (Lecture #17)
11/21	Writing Assignment #6
11/26	Flex Day
11/28	Thanksgiving – No Class
12/3	Ch. 15 – Reconstruction (Lecture #18)
12/5	Final Exam Review

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Course communications will come through your university email account. Be sure to check it regularly. You should contact me through my email address (August.Mancuso@tamuc.edu)

Statement on AI (ChatGPT)

At A&M University-Commerce we recognize that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that can generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words. AI is a powerful tool for generating text and for consolidating information. As a tool it requires that both students and faculty think through how to use it wisely and responsibly to accomplish our goals. AI is also a powerful tool for gathering the work of others and combining it, without citation, into a polished product. In this it is morally dubious.

For this course our goals are to practice historical thinking, to interpret historical evidence, and to grow in our understanding of the past. As a tool AI does little to help us in these tasks. On the contrary, using AI for course assignments would undermine your learning in these areas—the learning you are paying for. For this reason, students and faculty are not authorized to use any AI software in this course. Any use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). As a student you are fully responsible for the content of any assignment you submit.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the webpages below.

[Attendance.](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel