



## History 1301.08E: The United States to 1877

T/R 11:00 AM – 12:15 AM, Ferguson Social Sciences 313

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: J. D. Schwiethale

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 142

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1-3 or by appointment

University Email Address: [jon.schwiethale@tamuc.edu](mailto:jon.schwiethale@tamuc.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-36 Hours

### COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

*The American Yawp*, Vol. I Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020.

<https://www.americanyawp.com/>

*The American Yawp Reader*, Vol. I Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020.

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

**Please note: This is available online for free, just click the link.**

### Course Description

This survey course serves as an introduction to the origins of the United States and developments in the history of North America to 1877. Students will use both primary and secondary source texts to critically evaluate historical figures and events related to the development of the United States.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Use of a web browser to access the internet. Use of a word processor such as Microsoft Word to create documents.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist students in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week students will work on various combinations of readings, assignments, and research.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

## **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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 900-1000 Points

B = 800-899 Points

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C = 700-799 Points

D = 600-699 Points

F = 0-599 Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Participation	15%, 150 pts.
Student Responsibility Quiz	5%, 50 pts.
Document Analyses (4 total, 50 pts. each)	20%, 200 pts.
Exams (4 total, 150 pts. each)	60%, 600 pts.
TOTAL	100%, 1000 pts.

### Assignments

#### Participation (SLO 1, 2, 3, & 4):

The participation grade will be based on several in class assignments. These assignments will be based on a prompt provided in class which students will discuss in groups. Students will answer the question as a group on a paper with the name of each student in the group and turn it in at the end of class. (15% of grade, 150 pts.)

Additionally, attendance is expected and will be recorded for each class but will not count against any grade. Instead, for each class a student attends, they will receive two bonus points on the next exam (not exceeding the maximum score).

#### Student Responsibility Quiz (SLO 4):

The Student Responsibility Quiz consists of a series of questions about the instructor, the course syllabus, and academic integrity that must be taken **no later than February 25**. The quiz is found on the course's D2L/Brightspace under "Activities"- "Quizzes" (5% of grade, 50 pts.)

#### Document Analyses (SLO 1, 2, 3, & 4):

These are assignments the student must complete on their own time. Students will be given a primary source document from *The American Yawp Reader* to analyze. Each of these should be no more than two pages, but there is no minimum page or word count as long as the questions are answered. Grading will be based on three criteria. Context (Who, what, when, where, why), Content (What does it say?), Consequences (Why does it matter?). (20% of grade, 200 pts.)

#### Exams (SLO 1, 2, & 3):

Exams will be administered during class time and will include a series of 15 multiple choice questions worth 3 pts. each (45 total), 15 true/false questions worth 3 pts. each (45 total), and one essay chosen between two prompts (60 pts.). Essays should be no longer than 5 pages. There is no minimum page count, but essays are expected to fully respond to the chosen prompt with an argument supported by several examples from the reading and the lectures. Exams will be based primarily on the reading assignments

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from *The American Yawp* but may contain questions based on the lectures as well.  
(60% of grade, 600 pts.)

Late work will be accepted with a 10% penalty. There will be an additional 10% penalty for the grade for every week that it is late. No late work will be accepted after May 1.

## 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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## 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](mailto: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.

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## **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>

## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

# **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

## **Course Specific 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.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **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>.

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 [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.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 Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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## **Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

### **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 Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<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.

### **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](mailto: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.

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## **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.

## **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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## **AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### **January 14 – February 6**

Course Introduction, Syllabus, American Yawp chapters 1-4.

Document Analysis 1 **Due Tuesday, January 28.**

Document Analysis 1: <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-new-world/bartolome-de-las-casas-describes-the-exploitation-of-indigenous-peoples-1542/>

Exam 1 – Thursday, February 6.

### **February 11 – March 6**

American Yawp chapters 5-8.

Document Analysis 2 **Due Tuesday, February 25.**

Document Analysis 2: <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-american-revolution/oneida-declaration-of-neutrality-1775/>

Exam 2 – Thursday, March 6.

### **Spring Break (March 10 – 14)**

### **March 18 – April 10**

American Yawp chapters 9-12.

Document Analysis 3 **Due Tuesday, April 1.**

Document Analysis 3: <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/democracy-in-america/frederick-douglass-what-to-the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july-1852/>

Exam 3 – Thursday, April 10.

### **April 15 – May 9**

American Yawp chapters 13-15.

Document Analysis 4 **Due Tuesday, April 29.**

Document Analysis 4: <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-sectional-crisis/south-carolina-declaration-of-secession-1860/>

Exam 4 (Final) – Tuesday, May 6, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

If you need it, here is a link to the final exam schedule:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academiccalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>

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