



HIST 1301.95E & .P1E
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Matt Brewer
Office Location: Commerce High School, Room C136
Office Hours: M-F 11:59 am to 1:03 pm; TR 7:30 am to 8:35 am, 9:28 am to 10:13 am, 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm
University Email Address: matthew.brewer@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Locke, Joseph and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp*. <http://www.americanyawp.com/>
Additional, free sources will be assigned from the Internet.

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 or concurrent enrollment or ENG 1302 or concurrent enrollment.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze how the pursuit of economic, social, and religious liberty led to the colonization of the Americas and the impact it had on the liberty of American Indians and Africans;
2. Contrast the concepts of liberty in the colonial societies of New England and the Chesapeake;
3. Analyze how a lack of political and economic liberty led to the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitution, and an evolving democracy that expanded liberty to more Americans;
4. Contrast how westward expansion expanded economic liberty for white Americans, while empowering the expansion of slavery.
5. Contrast the arguments for and against slavery and the expansion of slavery through the Civil War and Reconstruction

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

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

Student Responsibility Sheet:

The purpose of the Student Responsibility Sheet is to assess the student's role in their education. It will be assigned through the D2L portal.

Exams:

Students will complete four multiple choice exams during the semester. The exam questions will come from the lecture questions provided for each class session. The exams are not cumulative. The exams will be completed in the D2L portal. The due dates for the exams are listed in the course outline at the end of the syllabus. **I will not accept exams after the due date. Students should contact the instructor if they have an issue completing it by the due date before the due date. Contacting the instructor does not guarantee an extension.**

Reading Quizzes:

Students will complete five reading quizzes in class that connect the additional sources/readings/videos with the class notes. The dates for the reading quizzes are listed in the course outline at the end of the syllabus. **If a student is absent the day of a reading quiz, they will take it at the beginning of the next class session they attend.**

Biographical Essay:

One biographical essay will be assigned for this course. Students will choose one historical figure from the time frame of the course and write an essay in class that argues why that person is important in studying American history. The essay must focus on the impact of the individual and contain valid arguments backed up by research. The date for the essay is listed in the course outline at the end of the syllabus. **If a student is absent the day of the biographical essay, they will take it at the beginning of the next class session they attend.**

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need the technical ability to navigate the D2L portal and the word processing skills needed to type up an essay.

Instructional Methods

Students must log into their [MyLeo](#) account and access the class through the D2L portal using their CWID. The CWID is the student's campus-wide identification number that they should have received when they were accepted to the university. If students have trouble logging in, they should contact the tech support listed on the login page. The instructor is not tech support.

In the D2L portal, students will find materials posted for each class session. Students will use the lecture notes to answer the assigned lecture questions. Students will read primary sources, read news articles, and/or watch news clips and compare them to the lecture notes.

Students will meet during the scheduled class times to discuss the material assigned for that class day.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS

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

- Reading Quiz 1 = 10% of total grade
- Reading Quiz 2 = 10% of total grade
- Reading Quiz 3 = 10% of total grade
- Reading Quiz 4 = 10% of total grade
- Exam 1 = 10% of total grade
- Exam 2 = 10% of total grade
- Exam 3 = 10% of total grade
- Exam 4 = 10% of total grade
- Biographical Essay = 10% of total grade

No extra credit will be given.

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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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>

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.

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](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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

Absences will not count against a student's grade. It is very important that students show up to class, or their learning will suffer. Absences on the days of reading quizzes and the biographical essay are covered in the Course Requirements section of the syllabus.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is using someone else's work and passing it off as your own. Copying-and-pasting is the most common form of plagiarism, but paraphrasing someone's work without giving them credit for the ideas is also plagiarism. While the use of artificial intelligence is relatively new and up for debate, using AI to do the work for you and passing it off as your own is also dishonest. Please refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty. It could result in academic consequences, including disciplinary action.

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>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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.

On the Commerce High School campus, firearms are prohibited, with the exception of law enforcement officers.

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

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>

Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct of the Instructor or 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 concern to the head of the History Department Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, the student may bring the issue to the attention of the Dean of Students per the procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Handbook.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (Monday, January 13 to Friday, January 17) **Unit 1 Settling the Americas**

Monday, January 13

First day of class.

Week 2 (Monday, January 20 to Friday, January 24) **Unit 2 English Colonization**

Monday, January 20

Holiday/No class

Week 3 (Monday, January 27 to Friday, January 31) **Unit 3 Frontiers of Empire**

Monday, January 27

Reading Quiz 1

Week 4 (Monday, February 3 to Friday, February 7) **Unit 4 The American Revolution**

Week 5 (Monday, February 10 to Friday, February 14) **Unit 5 The Republican Experiment**

Monday, February 10

Exam 1 is due.

Week 6 (Monday, February 17 to Friday, February 21) **Unit 6 Establishment of Political Parties**

Monday, February 17

Reading Quiz 2

Week 7 (Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28) **Unit 7: Jeffersonian Democracy**

Week 8 (Monday, March 3 to Friday, March 7) **Unit 8: Nation Building and Nationalism**

Monday, March 3

Exam 2 is due.

Spring Break (Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14)

There will be no classes this week because of spring break at Commerce High School.

Week 9 (Monday, March 17 to Friday, March 21) **Unit 9: Jacksonian Democracy**

Monday, March 17

No class due to Teacher Day at CHS.

Wednesday, March 19

Reading Quiz 3

Week 10 (Monday, March 24 to Friday, March 28) **Unit 10: The Pursuit of Perfection**

Monday, March 24

Biographical Essay

Week 11 (Monday, March 31 to Friday, April 4) **Unit 11: The Age of Expansion**

Week 12 (Monday, April 7 to Friday, April 11) **Unit 12: Slavery**

Monday, April 7

Reading Quiz 4

Week 13 (Monday, April 14 to Friday, April 18) **Unit 13: Sectional Crisis**

Monday, April 14

Exam 3 is due.

Friday, April 18

No class in person unless needed for bad weather day at CHS.

Week 14 (Monday, April 21 to Friday, April 25) **Unit 14: Secession and Civil War**

Monday, April 21

No class in person unless needed for bad weather day at CHS.

Week 15 (Monday, April 28 to Friday, May 2) **Unit 15: Reconstruction**

Monday, April 28

Reading Quiz 5

Friday, May 2
Last day of class

Week 16 (Monday, May 5 to Friday, May 9) **Finals Week**
Monday, May 5
Exam 4