



HIST 1301.81E History of the United States Through Reconstruction (to 1877)

Monday & Wednesday
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Dallas Campus | *Building:* DAL | *Room:* TBA

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Aaron Cummings, Ph.D.
Office Location: History office # 2076 Dallas Campus
(20th floor, turn left when you exit the elevator)
Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Monday & Wednesday
Zoom: Call via through the link in this class's webpage. Visit myleoonline.etamu.edu
University Email Address: aaron.cummings@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: within 24 hours, but usually much sooner

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required: *The American Yawp*, edited by Joseph Locke & Ben Wright. Stanford University Press, 2023. Free online version available at www.americanyawp.com. In this class, we will be using only Volume I: Before 1877.

Software Required: None, but internet access is necessary to access the textbook at the above URL. If you prefer, the textbook is also available in print from Stanford University Press, but it is NOT required to buy the print version.
(See www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27850)

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena, as demonstrated via two class discussions as well as the midterm and final exams.
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 create two projects in a medium relevant to their career (slide deck that highlights the power of historical analysis to answer pertinent questions about any pre-existing document or artifact).
5. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Internet browsing to access course textbook

Ability to use either Google Slides or Microsoft PowerPoint

Ability to record video (a smartphone will do) and upload it to My Classes (D2L)

Instructional Methods

Lecture, Reading, Individual Project, Classroom Discussion

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- Read the assigned sections from the textbook before each class period, as demonstrated by satisfactory performance on in-class pop quizzes over the assigned reading
- Attend class sessions and participate in class discussions, including those on primary source materials.
- Complete two individual assignments: slide decks showcasing the power of historical analysis to answer pertinent questions about any pre-existing document or artifact.
- Take two project-based exams (midterm & final) that demonstrate your ability to explain historical phenomena or apply historical analysis to present problems
 - “Project-based” means that the midterm will be a video presentation and the final will be a historical case study / scenario analysis.

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 = 451- 500 Points
B = 401- 450 Points
C = 351- 400 Points
D = 301- 350 Points
F = 300 & > Points

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

Assignment 1 (Slide Deck on Primary Source from Weeks 1 to 6)	15%
Assignment 2 (Slide Deck on Primary Source from Weeks 7 to 11)	15%
Discussions (Participation during in-class discussion)	10%
Reading (Pop Quizzes over the assigned reading)	20%
Midterm Exam (Video Essay covering material from Weeks 1 to 8)	20%
<u>Final Exam (Case Study covering material from Weeks 9 to 16)</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

LMS Requirements:

community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

inside.etamu.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@etamu.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, an ETAMU 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:

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.etamu.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>

ETAMU Attendance

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

www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

www.etamu.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

www.etamu.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
East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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:
www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023, modified to reflect ETAMU name change]

East Texas A&M University 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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Statement on Student 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@etamu.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 & ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR

Note that when the readings for a week span two chapters, the sections are color-coded by chapter. (If you experience blue-green color-blindness, let me know and I will provide a workaround).

Week 1 | Reading: [Indigenous America](#) & [Colliding Cultures](#)

Monday (8/25): No reading (textbook readings will be explained in class)

Wednesday (8/27): Introduction / [The First Americans](#)

Week 2 | Reading: [Colliding Cultures](#)

Monday (9/1) – NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

Wednesday (9/3): [European Expansion, Spanish Exploration & Conquest](#) / [Spanish America](#) / Spain's Rivals Emerge

Week 3 | Reading: [Colliding Cultures](#) & [British North America](#)

Monday (9/8): English Colonization / [Jamestown](#) / [New England](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Wednesday (9/10): [Introduction](#) / [Slavery and the Making of Race](#) / [Turmoil in Britain](#) / [New Colonies](#) / [Riot, Revolution, & Revolt](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Week 4 | Reading: [Colonial Society](#)

Monday (9/15): [Introduction](#) / [Consumption and Trade in the British Atlantic](#) / [Slavery, Anti-Slavery and Atlantic Exchange](#) / [Pursuing Political, Religious and Individual Freedom](#)

Wednesday (9/17): [Seven Years' War](#) / [Pontiac's War](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Week 5 | Reading: [The American Revolution](#)

Monday (9/22): [Introduction](#) / [The Origins of the American Revolution](#) / [The Causes of the American Revolution](#) / [Independence](#)

Wednesday (9/24): [The War for Independence](#) / [The Consequences of the American Revolution](#) / [Conclusion](#)

(turn page for more)

Week 6 | Reading: [A New Nation](#)

Monday (9/20): Introduction / Shays's Rebellion / The Constitutional Convention / Ratifying the Constitution / Rights and Compromises

Wednesday (10/1): / Hamilton's Financial System / The Whiskey Rebellion and Jay's Treaty / Religious Freedom / The Election of 1800 / Conclusion

Week 7 | Reading: [The Early Republic](#)

Monday (10/6): **ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE** *For assignment 1, you will choose any of the Primary Sources included at the ends of the chapters covered from August 25 to October 1, create a 10-slide minimum, 15-slide maximum PowerPoint presentation on it, and upload it in MyLeo via the link in Activities > Assignment 1. See MyLeo for more instructions.*

Wednesday (10/8): Introduction / Free and Enslaved Black Americans and the Challenge to Slavery / Jeffersonian Republicanism / Jefferson as President

Week 8 | Reading: [The Early Republic](#) & [The Market Revolution](#)

Monday (10/13): Native American Power and the United States / The War of 1812 / Conclusion

Wednesday (10/15): Introduction / Early Republic Economic Development / The Decline of Northern Slavery and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom / Changes in Labor Organization / Changes in Gender Roles and Family Life / The Rise of Industrial Labor in Antebellum America / Conclusion

Week 9 | Reading: [Democracy in America](#)

Monday (10/20): **MIDTERM EXAM** – (Record and Upload Video Essay).

Wednesday (10/22): Introduction / Democracy in the Early Republic / The Missouri Crisis / The Rise of Andrew Jackson / The Nullification Crisis / The Eaton Affair and the Politics of Sexuality / The Bank War / The Panic of 1837 / Anti-Masons, Anti-Immigrants, and the Whig Coalition / Race and Jacksonian Democracy

(turn page for more)

Week 10 | Reading: [Religion and Reform](#) & [The Cotton Revolution](#)

Monday (10/27): [Introduction](#) / [Revival and Religious Change](#) / [Atlantic Origins of Reform](#) / [The Benevolent Empire Antislavery and Abolitionism](#) / [Women's Rights in Antebellum America](#)

Wednesday (10/29): [Introduction](#) / [The Importance of Cotton](#) / [Cotton and Slavery](#) / [The South and the City](#) / [Southern Cultures](#) / [Religion and Honor in the Slave South](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Week 11 | Reading: [Manifest Destiny](#)

Monday (11/3): [Introduction](#) / [Antebellum Western Migration and Indian Removal](#) / [Life and Culture in the West](#)

Wednesday (11/5): **ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE**

For assignment 2, you will choose any of the Primary Sources included at the ends of the chapters covered from October 8 to the end of the semester, create a 10-slide minimum, 15-slide maximum PowerPoint presentation on it, and upload it in MyLeo via the link in Activities > Assignment 2. See MyLeo for more instructions.

Week 12 } Reading: [Manifest Destiny](#)

Monday (11/10): [Texas, Mexico and the United States](#)

Wednesday (11/12): [The Gold Rush](#) / [The Monroe Doctrine and Manifest Destiny](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Week 13 | Reading: [The Sectional Crisis](#) & [The Civil War](#)

Monday (11/17): [Introduction](#) / [Sectionalism in the Early Republic](#) / [The Crisis Joined](#) / [Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men](#) / [From Sectional Crisis to National Crisis](#) / [Conclusion](#)

Wednesday (11/19): [Introduction](#) / [The Election of 1860 and Secession](#) / [A War for Union 1861-1863](#) / [War for Emancipation 1863-1865](#)

Week 14 | Reading: [Reconstruction](#)

Monday (11/25): [Introduction](#) / [Politics of Reconstruction](#) / [The Meaning of Black Freedom](#)

Wednesday (11/27): Online Class: [Case Studies Work Day](#) (see online video)
(turn page for more)

Week 15 | *Reading*:

Monday (12/1): [Reconstruction and Women / Racial Violence in Reconstruction / Economic Development during the Civil War and Reconstruction / The End of Reconstruction](#)

Wednesday (12/3): CASE STUDIES Discussion Day: In lieu of a traditional Final Exam

“FINAL EXAM” / **Case Study** – (upload your Case Study by 11:59 PM on December 10).