



HIST 1302 U.S. HISTORY FROM RECONSTRUCTION COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Nick Nelson
Office Location: Ferguson 145
Office Hours: TBD; By Appointment
University Email Address: robert.nelson@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: Normally 24-36 hours, except weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Books:

The American Yawp at www.americanyawp.com (free at this website)
Heather Cox Richardson, *To Make Men Free: A History of the Republican Party* (available free as e-book through our library)
Primary sources, as provided

Course Description

A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877. Note: Assignments will focus on reading, writing, and analysis. Pre/co-requisite Eng. 1301 or 1302.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Instructional Methods

This will be primarily a lecture & readings course. The lecture & readings will provide all the evidence you need for creating evidence-based answers to the essay questions on the exams & for the reading quizzes. The exams are scheduled for in class, and you will have the entire class period to finish writing your answer.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You will need to complete all the readings in a timely manner. Lectures are designed on the assumption that you have done the needed readings. You must complete all work by the established due dates.

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

This course will include three essay exams and several quizzes.

Multiple Choice Quizzes: Quiz due dates are listed on the calendar below, they will each be available for multiple weeks in D2L. There are two reading quizzes that cover the text, lectures, & supplemental readings (SLO 4), one over Ricahrdson's *To Make Men Free* (SLO 4), and a Student Responsibility Quiz (SLO 3).

Primary Source Analysis Assignment: This assignment asks students to analyze information, communicate clearly and effectively, and show awareness of social and civil issues or problems. Using the selected primary source document, students should write 1-2 paragraphs that: (1) identify the author/creator and context of the document (including when and where it was created); (2) consider the purpose of the document, including the author's goals in its creation and its intended audience; and (3) evaluate the document, analyzing why this document is important to help understand the historical period or the events it describes (its significance), and how the document contributes to our historical understanding of the period (historical causes and effect). The written analysis should be presented using full and complete sentences and proper grammar and punctuation (SLO 1, 2, 4).

Exams: These will be one essay each. You must be able to write a coherent, well-structured essay that adequately addresses the question. Study questions are available in D2L. (SLO 1, 2, 4)

Adobe Assignment: This will be a bonus assignment, available in April (SLO 1, 2, 4).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Grading breakdown:	Quizzes (2) 30%	(30 points)
	To Make Men Free Quiz: 5%	(5 points)
	Responsibility Quiz: 5%	(5 points)
	Primary Source Assignments: 20%	(20 points)
	Midterm Exam: 20%	(20 points)
	Final exam: 20%	(20 points)
		(100 points total)

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you need to reach me outside of office hours, please use email. I typically respond to email within 12 to 36 hours during the week. Do not expect a response during the weekend.

When sending an email always do the following:

- 1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.**
- 2) Include your class and section. I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in before I can help you.**
- 3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.**

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty and Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty will not be treated lightly. On each graded assignment I expect each student to honor the following pledge: “I hereby give my word that I have neither given nor received aid while completing this assignment.” Any student found violating this policy will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and further action may be taken.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper or exam from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages and passing it off as your own work. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It may be acceptable to use other people’s words as short quotations and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see the instructor or visit the Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

Extra-credit

The Adobe Express assignment will be available in April. **Do not ask** for more.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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 (Including AI Use)

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work.

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.

For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

Gee Library- Room 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/>

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.

Student Support

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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 OUTLINE / CALENDAR

25 Aug, Monday: 1st Class Day.

1 Sep, Monday: Labor Day, no classes

19 Sep, Friday: Academic Honesty Quiz Due (5 pm)

24 Sep, Wednesday: Essay Exam 1

8 Oct, Wednesday: Essay Exam 2

15 Oct, Wednesday: First Reading Quiz Due (5 pm) – no extensions

20 Nov, Thursday: *Scars on the Land* Quiz Due (5 pm) – no extensions

5 Dec, Friday: Last class day; Final quiz due (5 pm) – no extensions

FINAL EXAM: TBD

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.