



HIST 1301.06E: History of the United States through Reconstruction (to 1877)

Class Meeting Days: Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Class Meeting Time: 2:00pm-2:50pm

Class Location: EDS 129

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Ms. Bridget Akwatia

Office Location: Ferguson 142 Office

Hours: M/W/F 12:00pm-1:50pm Office

Phone:

Office Fax:

University Email Address: bakwatia@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours except Saturday-Sunday

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

HIST 1301: 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.

The history of the United States from colonial period to the Reconstruction era is examined in this course. The causes and consequences of the American Revolution, the early settlements and relations with Native Americans, and the drafting and debate of the U.S. Constitution will all be covered by the students. Along with highlighting important events and personalities, the

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course will also address important topics like the institution of slavery, westward expansion, and the Civil War. Students will also study the economic and cultural shifts that influenced the country throughout this important period, such as the effects of the Industrial Revolution and Native American experiences. Students will learn more about the complexity of early American history and its lasting impact on modern society through discussions and the usage of materials.

Course Policies

Attendance: **Required**. More than **three unexcused absences** may lower your final grade. Late Work: 10% deduction per day late. No work accepted more than 1 week late without prior approval.

Academic Integrity: Cheating or plagiarism will result in disciplinary action and a grade of zero for the assignment.

Technology: Laptops and tablets are welcome for notetaking or accessing course materials—no phones unless permitted.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

The American Yawp. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 20.

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

Student Learning Outcomes

As a Core Curriculum requirement, this class focuses on four common 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. **Oral/Visual Communication** - Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to 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.

Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed by the Student Responsibility Quiz and a Primary Source Analysis assignment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods and Assessment

The minimal technical skills required for this course include using the learning management system, university email, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and ADOBE Express.

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Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

The course requires a combination of two In-person tests, Student Responsibility Quiz, Primary Source Analysis assignment and a final exam

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.

Exams

This course will include **two(midterm)essay exams and a Final exam, Primary source analysis** and an **Adobe Assignment**. There are **two reading quizzes** that cover the text and lectures: Quiz due dates are listed on the calendar below, they will each be **taken in person**. **Students must do their own work on the exam. Students should use assigned material only for the exam. Any use of unauthorized sources on the exams (including AI) will result in an automatic ZERO for the exam. The Final Exam will be completed on the Final Exam date listed in the Course Schedule. (The exams will be used to assess SLO 1-3.)**

Student Responsibility Quiz (SRQ)

Finally, a **Student Responsibility Quiz**. Students will complete a Student Responsibility Quiz due in the second week of class (this will be counted as part of the primary source paper grade and will be used to assess SLO #4).

Grading breakdown:

- Quiz 1 10% (10 points)
- Quiz 2 10% (10 points)
- Primary source analysis: 10% (10 points)
- Adobe Assignment: 5% (5 points)
- Responsibility Quiz: 5% (5 points)
- Exam 1: 20% (20 points)
- Exam 2: 20% (20 points)
- Final exam: 20% (20 points)
- (100 points total)

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NB: Students are to be engaged with the class during Exam Week, whether by taking an exam on the scheduled exam day (see Exam Schedule on University Registrar’s web page), or submitting a project, paper, assignment, etc.

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.

Example:

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
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:

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

LMS Browser Support:

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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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@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, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact at bakwatia@leomail.tamuc.edu

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

Course Specific Procedures/Policies Interaction with Instructor Statement 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.

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@etamu.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 Guidebook.

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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](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

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

<http://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](#)

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

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

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be 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 instructor's 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.

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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 Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://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 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on 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 East Texas A&M 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.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 East Texas A&M 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

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK 1 (25th-29th August) Chapter 1

Colonial America: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/01-the-new-world>

- Introduction to course/Course Outline explanation
- Indigenous civilizations across regions
- Cultural, environmental, and trade systems

WEEK 2 (3rd -5th September) Chapter 2

Colliding Cultures: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/02-colliding-cultures>

Monday, September 1, 2025, Labor Day No Class

- European exploration and motives
- Spanish, French, and English colonization
- Columbian Exchange and its consequences

WEEK 3 (8th-12th) September Chapter 3&4 British Colonization and Early Society

<http://www.americanyawp.com/text/03-british-north-america>

- Jamestown, Puritan New England, the Middle Colonies
- Rise of slavery and the Atlantic economy
- Family life, gender, class, and religion

Primary Source Analysis 1 Due on D2L

WEEK 4 (15th-19th) September Chapter 5

Road to Revolution: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/05-the-american-revolution/>

- British imperial crisis after 1763
- Colonial protests and ideological foundations
- Toward independence and war
- **Quiz 1 Due 17th September**

WEEK 5 (22nd-26th) September Chapter 5 & 6

War and the Making of a Nation: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/06-a-new-nation>

- Revolutionary War experience
- Treaty of Paris and social changes
- Republicanism and early state governments

WEEK 6 (29th-3rd) Sep-October Chapter 7

Constitution and the Early Republic: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/07-theearly-republic>

Revision Monday 29th September Midterm Exam 1 Wednesday 1st October

- Articles of Confederation

WEEK 7 (6th-10th) October

Constitution and the Early Republic: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/07-theearly-republic>

- Constitutional Convention and ratification debates
- Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Bill of Rights

WEEK 8 (13th -17th) October Chapter 8

Market Revolution and Social Change: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/08-themarket-revolution>

- Transportation and industrial transformation
- Urban growth and labor class tensions
- Economic impacts on women and families
- **Quiz 2 Due 15th October**

WEEK 9 (20th-24th) October Chapter 9&10

Democracy and Reform: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/09-democracy-in-america>

Religion and Reform: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/10-religion-and-reform>

- Jacksonian democracy and party politics
- Second Great Awakening and social movements
- **Primary Source Analysis 2 Due on D2L**

WEEK 10 (27th-31st) October Chapter 11

Slavery and the Southern Economy: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/11-thecotton-revolution>

- Expansion of slavery and cotton culture
- Life under slavery and forms of resistance
- Southern society and white supremacy

WEEK 11(3rd-7th) November: Chapter 12 & 13

Manifest Destiny: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/12-manifest-destiny>

The Sectional Crisis: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/13-the-sectional-crisis>

- Texas and the Mexican American War
- Sectional tensions and failed compromises

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- Rise of abolitionist politics
- **Adobe assignment Due in D2L**

WEEK 12 (10th-14th) November

The Civil War

Secession and the outbreak of war: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civilwar>

Midterm Exam 2 Wednesday 12th November

- Military strategies and turning points
- Emancipation Proclamation and the wartime experience

WEEK 13 (17th-21st)

Reconstruction: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/15-reconstruction/>

- Presidential and Radical Reconstruction
- 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
- Black political participation and white resistance
- Collapse of Reconstruction and Jim Crow foundations

WEEK 14 Thanksgiving Break- Campus Closed 27th-28th

Week 15 REVISION (1st -5th) December

Revision

FINALS

Date: Monday, December 8th, 2025.

Time: 1:15pm-3:15pm

Location: EDS 129