HIST 1301.WWE: History of the United States through Reconstruction (to 1877)

COURSE SYLLABUS: 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Susan Speights
Office Location: Whitehouse High School 109
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm
Office Phone: 903-839-5551
University Email Address: Susan.Speights@etamu.edu or speightss@whitehouseisd.org
Preferred Form of Communication: Email/Schedule Conference
Communication Response Time: 24 Hours

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.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Textbook Required: American Yawp (Free Online)
Materials: Chromebook, 3 Inch Binder, Composition Book

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Instructional Methods and Assessment
Instruction in this course is delivered through a combination of direct instruction and collaborative group activities, with an emphasis on fostering critical thinking. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, engage in structured discussions, and participate in project-based learning aligned with the historical themes covered throughout the semester. Instructional content is organized chronologically, beginning with Indigenous America and concluding with the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Assessment of student learning will occur through a variety of formal and informal methods. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Written Examinations** (Midterm and Final) assessing content knowledge and analytical skills
- **Discussion Board Assignments** requiring written responses to primary source documents and reflective prompts
- **Technology-Based Projects**, such as an Early American Citizen Profile and a historical timeline
- **Creative Group Projects**, including the production of historical video skits to demonstrate thematic understanding

Students are expected to complete all readings, actively participate in discussions, and submit assignments by posted deadlines. Assessments are designed to measure both content mastery and the development of historical thinking skills essential for success in postsecondary academic environments.

Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

Students enrolled in this dual credit U.S. History course are expected to meet high academic standards consistent with East Texas A&M University policies. Assignments are designed to promote critical thinking, historical literacy, and academic integrity. All assignments must be submitted by the assigned due dates. No late assignments will be accepted without prior approval. Students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty, and no use of AI represented as student work is permitted in any coursework.

Required Assignments
Assignments in this course will include, but are not limited to:

- **Student Responsibility Quiz**
  Students will complete a responsibility quiz at the beginning of the course to ensure they understand institutional expectations.
- **Primary Source Analysis Assignment**
  This assignment will be completed multiple times throughout the semester to reinforce historical analysis skills. 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.
- **Assessment of student learning**
  - **Written Examinations** (Midterm and Final) assessing content knowledge and analytical skills
  - **Discussion Board Assignments** requiring written responses to primary source documents and reflective prompts
  - **Technology-Based Projects**, such as an Early American Citizen Profile and a historical timeline
  - **Creative Group Projects**, including the production of historical video skits to demonstrate thematic understanding

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, actively participate in class discussions and collaborative activities, and meet all deadlines. Assessments are carefully designed to measure both content mastery and the development of historical thinking skills that are foundational for success in postsecondary academic settings.

Tips for Success
- Stay current with all readings and assignments—falling behind will make it difficult to succeed.
- Reach out promptly if you encounter challenges; communication is key.
- Participate actively and thoughtfully in all discussions and group projects.
- Proofread all written assignments for grammar, clarity, and historical accuracy.
- Adhere strictly to academic integrity standards—plagiarism and misuse of AI tools will not be tolerated.
- Manage your time effectively, especially for larger projects and exams.

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

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

Example:

Assignments/Discussions	40%
Exams	60%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (8/25) Chapter 1: Indigenous America
Due 8/31: Acceptance of Course Requirements; Student Responsibility Quiz; Source Analysis; Discussion Board - John Lawson Encounter with North American Indian
Week 2 (9/1) Chapter 2: Colliding Cultures
Due 9/7: Discussion Board - Olaudah Equiano Describes the Middle Passage
Week 3 (9/8) Chapter 3: British North America
Due 9/14: Tech Project (Early American Citizen Profile)
Week 4 (9/15) Chapter 4: Colonial Society
Due 9/21: Discussion Board - Extracts from Gibson Clough War Journal
Week 5 (9/22) Chapter 5: The American Revolution
Due 9/26: Amendment Project; 9/28: Discussion Board - Thomas Paine Calls for American Independence
Week 6 (9/29) Chapter 6: A New Nation
Week 7 (10/6) Chapter 7: The Early Republic
MIDTERM EXAM 10/10
Week 8 (10/13) Chapter 8: The Market Revolution
Due 10/19: Tech Project (Timelines)
Week 9 (10/20) Chapter 9: Democracy in America
Due 10/26: Discussion Board - George Washington's Farewell Address
Week 10 (10/27) Chapter 10: Religion and Reform
Week 11 (11/3) Chapter 11: The Cotton Revolution
Week 12 (11/10) Chapter 12 Manifest Destiny
Week 13 (11/17) Chapter 13: The Sectional Crisis
Due 11/21: History Video Skits
Week 14 (12/1) Chapter 14 & 15: The Civil War and Reconstruction
Week 15 (12/8) Finals Week
FINAL EXAM 12/9

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

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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
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 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

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

If the student has extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from completing projects, quizzes, seminars, or participating in class by the due date, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make alternative arrangements before the due date whenever possible. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of the instructor and the instructor may require the student to provide evidence/documentation for verification. Prior notification does not automatically result in a waiver of the late penalties.

Examples of extenuating circumstances where grace should be given to students may include but are not limited to: personal/family member hospitalization, death in the immediate family, weather/environmental evacuation due to fire/hurricane, or active military assignment where internet

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connectivity is unavailable for a limited time period. General computer-related issues and internet connectivity issues are not considered extenuating circumstances. Students must ensure the technology they are using is compatible with East Texas A&M's technology requirements and contact IT if they are experiencing any problems with their D2L accounts.

APA Style

Unless otherwise stated, students are expected to adhere to the APA editorial style in all written work and in discussion forums, citing and referencing work appropriately. There are three basic purposes of citing and referencing: 1) Appropriate credit is given for the sources of information, 2) add credence to original work when informing the reader of sources of information, and 3) avoid plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's intellectual property. It is a very serious infraction in higher education. If it is determined that a student has plagiarized any writing, the consequences will be decided by the professor. This could include a grade of zero and/or a referral to receive disciplinary measures.

AI Technology

AI is the use of technology to produce a product. East Texas A&M has programs in place that determine whether a student used AI technology to complete the assignment. If it is determined that a student has plagiarized any writing, the consequences will be decided by the professor. This could include a grade of zero and/or a referral for disciplinary action.

EXAMS

Exams MUST be taken on the day announced. School functions/activities are not an excuse to miss an exam. Students must contact the instructor prior to any event to take the exam. Absences will require a doctor's note to allow the exam to be taken after the announced test date. Plagiarized work and the use of AI presented as the student's original work will result in a 0 on the assignment with a discipline referral.

EXAM DAYS

On exam/testing days (including makeup testing days) students will abide by all instructions of the professor. Students will have no devices (including tablets, phones, and smart watches) on their desk or on their person during the exam. All belongings are required to be at the front of the classroom with devices placed inside and turned off or on airplane mode. If computers are necessary for a portion of the exam, students shall have all other tabs closed. _Any other tabs open or extensions added to the page will result in an automatic grade of zero._ Students will only have their Chromebook on their desk during the computer portion of the exam (closed water containers are also allowed on desks). You must inform the professor if you have any internet connectivity issues. Failure to do so could result in a 0 if academic integrity is questioned. During the written portion of the exam, students will only have a personal pen or pencil on desk (closed water containers are also allowed on desks). The professor will provide the students the testing papers along with notebook paper to write their essay answers during the exam. _Any other items on the desk or surrounding the desk of the student will result in a grade of zero on_

the exam. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a grade of 0, disciplinary action, and/or possible expulsion from the course.

Classroom Behavior

This is a college level class. Every student is expected to adhere to a protected and safe classroom environment. Any negative or derogatory comments directed towards another student will result in immediate disciplinary consequences from Whitehouse High School administration. Consistent disregard for proper classroom etiquette and classroom behavior can result in a grade of 0 for the weekly assignment including exams, failure of the course, and/or expulsion from the course.

*The instructor of this course reserves the right to change the syllabus and add any additional reading materials deemed pertinent to student learning and productive educational outcomes.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students are encouraged to maintain open and respectful communication with the instructor throughout the course. Questions, concerns, or requests for clarification regarding course material, assignments, or expectations should be addressed promptly. The preferred method of communication is via email, and students can generally expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays.
If needed, individual meetings or virtual office hours may be scheduled by request. Students are also encouraged to seek assistance early, rather than waiting until an assignment is due or after grades are posted.
Professional communication is expected at all times. Emails should include a proper greeting, full name, course name, and a clear explanation of the question or concern. Students should regularly check their email and the course platform for updates and feedback from the instructor.
The instructor is committed to supporting student success and is available to help clarify material, offer feedback, and guide students through the course.

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 Guide Book.

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.

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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.

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

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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 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 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

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

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