



EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

**HIST-1301, C1E & CME,
History of the United States through
Reconstruction (to 1877)**

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jason Thomason

Office Location: Room 113

Office Hours: M-F 7:45-8:15; 3:50-4:50

Office Phone: (903) 527-3164

Office Fax: (903) 527-4772

University Email Address: Jason.thomason@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 1 business day

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials - Spiral Notebook, Pen/Pencil, Pocket Folder for Supplementary Readings, Highlighter

Hewitt, Nancy A., and Steven F. Lawson. Exploring American Histories, Combined Volume: A Brief Survey with Sources. Boston: Bedford Books, 2012. ISBN 978-0-312-40998-2

Additional primary sources will be assigned from Opposing Viewpoints in American History Volume 1

Course Description

HIST-1301 is a survey of American history from Pre-Columbian contact to Post-Civil War Reconstruction. The course will focus on the major characteristics of the following historical eras: Pre-Columbian American Indian and African societal development; European societal and economical development and colonization; American independence; development of the Constitution; Jeffersonian Democracy; expansion of territory; Jacksonian Democracy; slavery; and Civil War and Reconstruction.

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.

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Course Requirements

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students need to be able to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs.

Instructional Methods

The student will be exposed to various forms of learning in the form of teacher-led, student-led, peer-to-peer, and supplementary readings.

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.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To ensure success in this class students need to regularly log into the course website, stay disciplined with the daily readings and research paper checkpoints, as well as participate in the class discussions.

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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

Grade Breakdown

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

Quizzes	20%
Exams	40%
Research Paper	10%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

Students will take two exams worth 15% each. Additionally, the final exam is worth 30%.

Absence Policy: Absences will not count against student grades. However, attendance is expected in order to do well in the course. Attendance policies will mirror those expected for Caddo Mills High School students. Assignments missed because of school-related or medical absences can be submitted the next school day. Assignments missed for other reasons will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

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/generallInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure>

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Reading Assignments: Students will be given weekly reading selections that are to be completed at the end of each week. Students need to be prepared to read each night as this class is a fast-paced course. Students will be given a quiz on the first day of each week over the previous week's readings.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given each week over important vocabulary from the unit that we are covering. These will be quite extensive so please make sure that you are spending time in study for these each week.

Biographical Essay: One biographical essay will be assigned for this course. Students will choose one historical figure from U.S. History to 1877 and write a three to five-page paper that argues why that person is important to our study of American history. The essay must focus on the impact of the individual and contain valid arguments backed up by research cited according to the Works Cited handout. Submission dates and guidelines for the topics, bibliography, rough draft, and final draft will appear on supplementary handouts. All elements of the biographical essay must be submitted on time through Turnitin on D2L. If a student knows that he/she will not be present to turn in the essay on time, they must submit it before the due date. Late submissions due to unforeseen emergencies will be at the discretion of the instructor.

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

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CVID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CVID 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>

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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](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidbook.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

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<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/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

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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

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/)

<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

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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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Course Outline

New World Orders

English Colonization and Colonial Societies

Frontiers of Empire

The American Revolution

The Republican Experiment

Establishment of Political Parties

Jeffersonian Democracy

Nation Building and Nationalism

Jacksonian Democracy/The Pursuit of Perfection

Age of Expansion/Slavery

Sectional Crisis

Secession and Civil War

Reconstruction