HIST 1301: History of the United States Through Reconstruction (to 1877)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Matt Brewer
Office Location: Commerce High School, Room C136
Office Hours: M-F 10:05 to 10:55 am, 11:50 am to 12:20 pm; TRF 7:30 am to 9:05 am, 2:15 pm to 3:05 pm
University Email Address: matthew.brewer@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:** Email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours, if not sooner

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

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:

Locke, Joseph and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp*. http://www.americanyawp.com/
Additional, free sources will be assigned from the Internet.

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

Student Responsibility Sheet:
On the first day of class, we will complete the Student Responsibility Sheet as a class. The purpose of the Student Responsibility Sheet is to assess the student's role in their education by answering questions using the syllabus.

Students are expected to turn all work in on time.

Exams:
Students will complete four multiple choice exams during the semester. The exam questions will come from the lecture questions provided for each class session. The exams are not cumulative. The exams will be completed in the D2L portal. The due dates for the exams are listed in the course outline at the end of the syllabus.

Response Papers:
Students will complete four 300 word response papers that connect the primary source readings, news readings, and news videos to the lecture notes. The response papers will be submitted through the D2L portal. The due dates for the response papers are listed in the course outline at the end of the syllabus.

Primary Source Analyses:
Students will complete four primary source analyses. 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, with at least five sentences in each, that: (1) identify the author/creator and context of the document (including when and where it was created); (2) consider the purpose of the

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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.

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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.
4 Exams = 30% of final grade
4 Response Papers = 35% of final grade
4 Primary Source Analyses = 35% of final grade
No extra credit will be given. Please don't ask.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (Monday, January 12 to Friday, January 16) **Unit 1 Settling the Americas**
　　　Monday, January 12 - First day of class.

Week 2 (Monday, January 19 to Friday, January 23) **Unit 2 English Colonization**
　　　Monday, January 19 - No class/holiday

Week 3 (Monday, January 26 to Friday, January 30) **Unit 3 Frontiers of Empire**
　　　Monday, January 26 - Primary Source Analysis 1 is due.

Week 4 (Monday, February 2 to Friday, February 6) **Unit 4 The American Revolution**
　　　Monday, February 2 - Response Paper 1 is due.

Week 5 (Monday, February 9 to Friday, February 13) **Unit 5 The Republican Experiment**
　　　Monday, February 9 - Exam 1 is due.

Week 6 (Monday, February 16 to Friday, February 20) **Unit 6 Establishment of Political Parties**
　　　Monday, February 16 - Primary Source Analysis 2 is due.

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Week 7 (Monday, February 23 to Friday, February 27) **Unit 7: Jeffersonian Democracy**
      Monday, February 23 - Response Paper 2 is due.

Week 8 (Monday, March 2 to Friday, March 6) **Unit 8: Nation Building and Nationalism**
      Monday, March 2 - Exam 2 is due.

Spring Break (Monday, March 9 to Friday, March 13)
There will be no classes this week because of spring break at Commerce High School.

Week 9 (Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20) **Unit 9: Jacksonian Democracy**
      Monday March 16 - No class/Teacher workday at CHS; Primary Source Analysis 3

Week 10 (Monday, March 23 to Friday, March 27) **Unit 10: The Pursuit of Perfection**
      Monday, March 23 - Primary Source Analysis 3 is due.

Week 11 (Monday, March 30 to Friday, April 3) **Unit 11: The Age of Expansion**
      Monday, March 30 - Response Paper 3
      Friday, April 3 - No class/bad weather day at CHS

Week 12 (Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10) **Unit 12: Slavery**
      Monday, April 6 - No class/bad weather day at CHS

Week 13 (Monday, April 13 to Friday, April 17) **Unit 13: Sectional Crisis**
      Monday, April 13 - Exam 3 is due.

Week 14 (Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24) **Unit 14: Secession and Civil War**
      Monday, April 20 - Primary Source Analysis 4

Week 15 (Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1) **Unit 15: Reconstruction**
      Monday, April 27 - Response Paper 4
      Friday, May 1 - Last day of class

Week 16 (Monday, May 4 to Friday, May 8) **Finals Week**
      Monday, May 4 - Exam 4 is due.

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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 (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

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should interact with the instructor in person or through email if they have any questions.

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/studentGuidebook.aspx).
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

Absences will not count against a student's grade. It is very important that students show up to class, or their learning will suffer.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf).
http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

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

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Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is using someone else's work and passing it off as your own. Copying-and-pasting is the most common form of plagiarism, but paraphrasing someone's work without giving them credit for the ideas is also plagiarism. While the use of artificial intelligence is relatively new and up for debate, using AI to do the work for you and passing it off as your own is also dishonest. Please refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty. It could result in academic consequences, including disciplinary action.

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
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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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 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](http://www.etamu.edu) 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.

On the Commerce High School campus, firearms are prohibited, with the exception of law enforcement officers.

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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