



HIST 1301.A2E: History of the United States Through Reconstruction (to 1877)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. William D. Thweatt

Office Hours: Via Email

University Email Address: [william.thweatt@etamu](mailto:wiliam.thweatt@etamu)

Preferred Form of Communication: Via Email

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.

Course Description

This class will introduce students to the important concepts in American history from Reconstruction to the Modern Day. The course will examine major historical concepts including race, class, gender, politics, economics, and cultures while also attempting to understand the ways that historical events affected the everyday lives of citizens.

A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War, and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of United States foreign policy.

Course Goal:

By the semesters end, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the major events of the time and be able to recall basic facts and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the sequence of events in post-Reconstruction United States history.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts: N/A Primary sources for reading quizzes will be provided by the instructor.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: American YAWP

Student Learning Outcomes

As a Core Curriculum requirement, this class focuses on four common Student Learning Outcomes:

- **Critical Thinking** - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
- **Oral/Visual Communication** - Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion with an evident message and organizational structure.
- **Personal Responsibility** - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
- **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

Instruction will be primarily presented in lecture form and supplemented with primary source documents and class discussions.

Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Attending class and being attentive to class lectures will help the student succeed in this class. Making use of the study guides provided to prepare for the exams will also prove beneficial. Students will be responsible for obtaining any information missed due to absences. Students will also be responsible for completing online assignments in a timely manner.

Assessments

Exams:

There will be three exams for this course, including a non-comprehensive final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points and will include a multiple-choice section, a written short answer question, and an essay question. The exams will be based on class lectures and assigned readings from the reading quizzes. The two written portions of each exam will be completed online using Turnitin, while the multiple choice-portion will be completed online using MyLeo. Each exam will have a 72 hour window for students to complete the online portion.

Make-up Exams will consist exclusively of essays. Make-up exams must be set up with the instructor within a week of the absence.

Syllabus Quiz:

This quiz will be five questions based on the syllabus. This will count 10 points of the final grade.

Academic Honesty Quiz:

A ten question quiz based on the University's expectations of academic honesty. This will count 10 points toward the final grade.

Discussion Boards:

There will be five discussion boards over the course of the class. The student will answer the discussion board questions using that week's lecture and any other resources provided by the instructor. The student will select one discussion board question to answer in 250-300 words and will then reply to two posts of their classmates in 75-100 words each

Primary Source Analysis Assignment:

There will be seven readings analyses over the course of the class. 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.

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 = 589 - 655 Points

B = 524 - 588 Points

C = 458 - 523 Points

D = 393 - 457 Points

F = 392 & Below Points

Grading Scale

Exam One: 100 possible points

Exam Two 100 possible points

Final Exam 100 possible points

Syllabus Quiz, 10 possible points

Academic Honesty Quiz 10 possible points

Discussion Boards: Five discussion boards, 25 points each for a total of 125 possible points

Primary Source Analysis: Seven writings, 30 points each for a total of 210 points

655 possible points

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This is an outline of the class schedule for the semester. If needed this schedule can be amended by the instructor and if this occurs due notice will be given to the students both in class and on MyLeo.

Monday and Wednesday classes will be in-person at CHS, Friday classes will be virtual and will consist of exams or recorded lectures for the student to watch.

All Reading Analyses will close at 11:59 on the Sunday they are due, and all Discussion Boards will close at 11:59 PM on the Sunday that Replies are due.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture/Activity</u>
M January 12	The Americas Before European Contact
W January 14	Native American Cultures
F January 16	European Motives for Colonization (Syllabus Quiz Due)
M January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
W January 21	English Colonies: Virginia
F January 23	English Colonies: Massachusetts (Colonial Reading Analysis Due Sunday January 25)
M January 26	The Other New England Colonies
W January 28	The Middle Colonies
F January 30	The Southern Colonies, and Colonial Slavery (Pre-Contact and Colonial Discussion Board Due Sunday February 1)
M February 2	The French and Indian War
W February 4	The French and Indian War
F February 6	Colonial Unrest and Taxes (French and Indian War Discussion Board Due Sunday February 8)
M February 9	Taxes, Tea Party, and Intolerable Acts
W February 11	The Revolution
F February 13	The Revolution (Declaration of Independence Reading Analysis Due Sunday February 15)
M February 16	The Revolution/ Newburgh Conspiracy

W February 18	The Articles of Confederation and its Flaws (Start of Exam 2 Materials/Exam One Open)
F February 20	Exam One
M February 23	The Constitution
W February 25	Washington's Presidency and the Development of Parties
F February 27	Adam's Presidency and the Election of 1800 (Federalist #51 Reading Analysis Due Sunday March 1)
M March 2	Jefferson's Presidency: Domestic Policies
W March 4	Jefferson's Presidency: Foreign Relations
F March 6	War of 1812 (Early Parties Discussion Board Due Sunday March 8)
M March 9	War of 1812
W March 11	Sectionalism
F March 13	The Elections of 1824 and 1828 (Jefferson Discussion Board Due Sunday March 15)
March 16-20	Spring Break
M March 23	Jackson: Native American Removal and Margaret Eaton
W March 25	Jackson: Nullification
F March 27	Jackson: The Bank War (War of 1812 Discussion Board Due Sunday March 29)
M March 30	The Whigs, The Anti-Jackson Party
W April 1	Reform Movements (Start of Exam Three Materials/Exam Two Opens)

F April 3	Exam Two
M April 6	Reform Movements
W April 8	Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion
F April 10	The Old Northwest and Southwest (Reform Movements Reading Analysis Due Sunday April 12)
M April 13	The Old South
W April 15	The Old South
F April 17	The Old South (Old South Reading Analysis Due Sunday April 19)
M April 20	The Texas Question
W April 22	The Mexican-American War
F April 24	Popular Sovereignty and Bleeding Kansas (Frederick Douglass Reading Analysis Due Sunday April 26)
M April 27	John Brown's Raid, Lincoln's Election, and Fort Sumter
W April 29	The Civil War
F May 1	The Civil War (Cornerstone Speech Reading Analysis Due Sunday May 3)
M May 4	Reconstruction
W May 6	Reconstruction (Exam Three Opens)
F May 8	Final Exam

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Classroom/ Discussion Board Etiquette

All students will be held to a high level of professionalism. To this end, all discussions must be conducted in a professional, civil, and friendly manner, even when students are disagreeing with each other. There should be no name-calling, profanity, or

disrespectful comments. Any student who does not follow these standards will not receive points for discussion and can be removed from the class. I strongly encourage you to develop true conversations in the Discussion Boards. By this, I mean do not post only enough to meet the minimum word-count. This is your opportunity to debate and discuss with your classmates; it is also an opportunity to ask each other questions. I will be monitoring discussions daily and expect more participation than simply trying to meet your word-count obligation.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to school administration.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The majority of the student's interaction with the instructor will take place in the classroom at Community High School. The student can reach the instructor outside of class time using their provided ETAMU email.

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>

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. HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf" HYPERLINK](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf)

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[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

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](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf"](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf"](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf"](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) [On](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf"](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) [HYPERLINK](#)

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["http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf"](http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) [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>