



## **HIST 1301.9SE: History of the United States through Reconstruction (to 1877)**

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2026

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Lewis Smith

Office Location: SSHS, Room 408

Office Hours: 10:35 AM – 11:25 AM daily (conference period, on campus from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM daily)

Office Phone: 903-885-2153

University Email Address: Lewis.Smith@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **School email – lewis.smith@sshs.net**

Communication Response Time: Less than 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:**

THE AMERICAN YAWP: A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook  
(available online at <https://www.americanyawp.com/> )

Other primary source readings as assigned

*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**

This will be a traditional lecture and reading course; students are expected to keep their devices on during class and jot down at least 3 takeaways from every class session, and include any questions they might have about the material. Takeaways and questions will be reviewed and answered periodically by the instructor. There will be outside reading assignments including but not limited to one book review each quarter; there will also be unit tests and weekly quizzes over the material.

### **Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success**

The template for the quarterly book review will be provided separately; students are expected to follow it to the letter. There will also be various reading assignments throughout the semester, and students are encouraged to take notes from the powerpoint slides and other lecture materials.

Primary Source Analysis Assignment:

Students will be asked to read Alexander Hamilton's "Hurricane" letter, as published in 1772, and analyze it as outlined below. The letter can be found at this link:

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-01-02-0042>

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.

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## GRADING

[Instructors should adapt this section to match their assessments and their grading scale]

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:

Tests and Papers – 40%

Quizzes and Daily Grades – 40%

Semester Exam – 20%

TOTAL            100%

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Unit 1 – Native and European Roots (3 wks)\*

Unit 2 – Exploration and Colonization (2 wks)

Unit 3 – Causes of the American Revolution (2 wks)

Unit 4 – The Revolutionary War (3 wks)

Unit 5 – Confederation and Constitution (2 wks)

Unit 6 – The Federalist Era (2 wks)

Unit 7 – The Rise of Jacksonian Democracy (3 wks)

Unit 8 – The Turbulent 1840's (2 wks)

Unit 9 – The 1850's and the Secession Crisis (2 wks)

Unit 10 – The Civil War (3 wks)

Unit 11 – The Failure of Reconstruction (1 wk)

\*All time frames approximate. "The first casualty of every battle is the battle plan."  
– Dwight Eisenhower

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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](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](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](mailto: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

1. **Bell Ringer - come in, open your Chromebook or notebook, write down the date, and copy down the "Quote of the Day" from the board.**

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- 2. During class: Write down at least 3 takeaways from each day's lesson, and at least two content-based questions each week. This document will be turned in every 2-3 weeks for a daily grade.**

#### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

**I expect my students to be respectful and attentive; in return I promise to answer all questions to the best of my ability and to give every student a chance to succeed in my classroom. I am open to questions and suggestions; feel free to submit them.**

#### **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](mailto: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>

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<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

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

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto: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

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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://www.etamu.edu/counsel)



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