



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

HISTORY 1301.02W: THE UNITED STATES TO 1877
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2026



William Sidney Mount, *The Dance of the Haymakers* (1845)
The Long Island Museum of American Art, History, and Carriages, Stony Brook, N.Y.

Online Course

Instructor: Professor John Howard Smith

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 117

Office Hours: By Zoom (see below)

University Email Address: John.Smith@etamu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbook:

Various, *The American Yawp*, Vol. I Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020

<http://www.americanyawp.com/>

Various, *The American Yawp Reader*, Vol. I Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2020.

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html>

Required Lectures:

Videos accessed through my YouTube channel: “John Howard Smith”

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZux9dcEDIOb3GBQV6DLIzQ?view_as=subscriber

Supplementary Materials:

Documents and PowerPoint presentations available for download from D2L/Brightspace

Course Description:

The purpose of this survey course is to familiarize the student with the origins of American society and politics, and their general development from the settlement of the North American continent in the seventeenth century to the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War. Special emphasis will be placed on the uniqueness of the origins of the United States in the rhetoric of personal and political liberty, as opposed to the paradox of slavery, which was not eradicated without devastating bloodshed, as well as the tragic dispossession of the indigenous Indian peoples. Through the use of both primary and secondary source texts, students will critically evaluate historical figures and issues crucial to the development of the United States, its political institutions, and its culture. A recurrent theme will be the contradictions inherent to the foundation of what the historian Jon Butler calls the “first truly modern society,” one based on libertarian and egalitarian principles, when nearly one-quarter of its population was enslaved, and another half of it did not enjoy full civil rights or even nominal equality.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist students in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course and instructional units/modules. Each week students will work on various combinations of readings, discussions, and research.

Student Responsibility QuizStudent Learning Outcome no. 4:

The Student Responsibility Quiz consists of a series of questions about the Instructor and the course syllabus that must be taken **no later than June 6**. The quiz is found on the course's D2L/Brightspace under "Activities"—"Quizzes."

Exams: (5@ 100 pts. each, 70% of course grade)

Student Learning Outcomes nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4:

The exams, to be administered via D2L/Brightspace, will be open-book examinations wherein students will be required to answer a series of multiple-choice, matching, short-answer, and essay questions over a period ranging from 1.5 to 2.5 hours. Students will be required to utilize their absorption of the course content to demonstrate their understanding of the development of American society and culture at various key stages.

Primary Source Document Analysis: (30% of course grade)

Student Learning Outcomes nos. 1, 2, 3, & 4:

Students will write a 500-word analysis of a primary source document of the Instructor's choosing, in which they will identify the document, describe the circumstances under which it was produced, explain its content and meaning, and finally explain its importance to understanding the relevant historical event(s) involved.

The assignment will be composed using Microsoft Word or Google Docs, and conform to the following parameters:

- Spacing of text: double-spacing
- Font type and size: Times New Roman 12 pt.
- Citation style: parenthetical (MLA, APA)
- All pages must be numbered
- The document must be quoted from **at least** three times

Further instructions and guidance will be forthcoming later in the term.

Grading

Grading will be calculated using a standard 10-point scale, with course elements weighted accordingly:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Exams (5@100 pts. each)	70%
Primary Source Analysis (100 pts.)	30%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.

You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:

- 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
- Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

You must have a:

- Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
- Speakers or headphones.
- *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>

Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Run a browser check through the Pearson Learning Studio Technical Requirements website.
[Browser Check](http://help.D2L/Brightspace.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browsset) http://help.D2L/Brightspace.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browsset.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

- Pop-ups are allowed.
- JavaScript is enabled.
- Cookies are enabled.

You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software, if you do not already have them:

- [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
- [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.D2L/Brightspace.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical) <https://secure.D2L/Brightspace.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using D2L/Brightspace, the Learning Management System used by East Texas A&M University. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.etamu.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Consistent and reliable access to the Internet is a fundamental requirement for this course. ***Lack of such ability will make participating in the course difficult—if not impossible—and the Instructor is not responsible for accommodating students who are unable to log onto the course when it is necessary to do so.***

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Email is the most reliable method of reaching me. Expect a reply within 24 hours. I will be conducting virtual office hours via Zoom at dates and times to be determined shortly and communicated via email prior to the first day of the Summer I term.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Academic Honesty

It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and the instructor that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). You are neither required nor expected to come up with original ideas about, or new interpretations of, American history. It is more important for students to understand why events unfolded in the ways they did, and what other scholars have said and written about them. **However, anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically fail the assignment in question, may summarily fail the course, and could be subject to disciplinary action by the University.**

Likewise, no element of the course grade is negotiable or optional, meaning that failure to take an exam in the absence of compelling, documented circumstances **will result in a 0 for that exam**. *The instructor's evaluative judgment of tests and examinations is final, and will not be subject to revision except in cases of mathematical error.* For more, see: [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Class Decorum

All students must show respect toward the Instructor and the Instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should also respect each others' differences. If the Instructor determines that a student is not being respectful toward other students or the Instructor, or is otherwise behaving in an inappropriate manner, it is the Instructor's prerogative to remove the student from the class either temporarily or permanently, as the case requires.

Note: Failure to comply with any of the Instructor's policies will result in immediate deregistration from 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.

Late Work Policy

Writing assignments are due by the end of the date indicated on the syllabus below. Barring unavoidable and reasonable impediments that must be documented, and about which the Instructor must be notified as soon as possible, there will be a penalty of ten (10) points applied to the earned grade for **each day** that the assignment is submitted late.

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.

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.

"Campus 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 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.** For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer. **Pursuant to Penal Code 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.

Statement on Texas Senate Bill 17

Texas Senate Bill 17, the law that prohibits certain diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, **does not** affect academic course instruction, including the content, teaching, or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. SB 17 does not alter existing expectations and academic freedom for teaching and related classroom discussion, including regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion topics.

Statement on the Uses of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there can 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. However, use of such tools cannot take the place of original composition on academic writing assignments, and therefore is expressly forbidden by the Instructor in this course. Any discovered and confirmed use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty, and will result in the same penalties that attend cases of plagiarism. Students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, including cases in which A.I. was used, and especially in cases where the A.I. software plagiarized another text and/or misattributed or otherwise misrepresented primary and/or secondary source materials.

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**East Texas A&M University****Waters Library 132****Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835****Fax (903) 468-8148**StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Mental Health Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.tamuc.edu/counsel.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

June 1-5: North America from the Precolumbian Era to 1650

Readings: *The American Yawp*, chaps. 1-2; *The American Yawp Reader*, chaps. 1-2 (all documents)

YouTube Lectures 1-3

<https://www.pbs.org/show/native-america/collections/sacred-stories-shorts/>

Exam #1 Opens June 5

June 8-12: The British Atlantic Empire in Triumph and Crisis, 1650-1775

Readings: *The American Yawp*, chaps. 3-4; *The American Yawp Reader*, chaps. 3-4 (all documents)

YouTube Lectures 4-6

Exam #2 Opens June 12

June 15-19: The American Revolution and Early National Period, 1775-1800

Readings: *The American Yawp*, chaps. 5-6; *The American Yawp Reader*, chaps. 5-6 (all documents)

YouTube Lectures 7-9

"Jefferson's Original Draft of the Declaration of Independence" (download from D2L)

Exam #3 Opens June 19

June 22-26: Jeffersonian and Jacksonian America, 1800-1850

Readings: *The American Yawp*, chaps. 7-10; *The American Yawp Reader*, chaps. 7-10 (all documents)

YouTube Lectures 10-13

Exam #4 Opens June 26

Document Analysis Due June 26 by 11:59 p.m.

June 29-July 2: Division, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1850-1877

Readings: *The American Yawp*, chaps. 11-15; *The American Yawp Reader*, chaps. 11-15 (all documents)

YouTube Lectures 14-16

Exam #5 Opens July 1