



HIST 1301.03E: History of the United States through Reconstruction (To 1877)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall Semester

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Serafin H. Matthews
Office Location: TBD
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:00pm -1:45pm and By Appointment Only 1:45 pm-3:00pm
Office Phone: N/A
University Email Address: Serafin.matthews@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24-72 hours

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.

Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Open Stax College: Free online textbook resource
(available online at [U.S. History – Open Textbook](https://openstax.org/r/us-history))
Assigned Lecture Videos
THE AMERICAN YAWP: A Collaborative Open US History Textbook
(available online at <https://www.americanyawp.com/>)

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

Course material will be delivered through various modes including, but not limited to, lectures, primary and secondary source analysis, small and large group discussions, and exams. The course will be managed through the university's D2L system where students can access relevant information such as primary source documents, and announcements. Students are responsible for checking D2L regularly to access course assignments, announcements and potential changes to the syllabus.

Assessment

Grades for this course will be based on three exams, three essays, two primary source assignments and one academic honesty quiz.

Instructional Methods

Course instruction will mainly include class lectures and group discussions along with both primary and secondary source readings.

ASSIGNMENTS, STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTATIONS, AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Assignments/ Exams

Testing (3): There will be 3 exams during the semester. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Exams will be multiple choice, true false, fill in the blank, etc., and will be available through D2L or in paper format. Students **MUST** take the exams during the specified day/time designated by your professor. Exams will

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be timed and no outside resources (including textbooks, internet, phone, etc.) are to be used during the taking of the exam.

Essay Assignment (3): Students will complete 3 Essay Assignments, one for each unit. Each response will be worth 50 points. This assignment will be a written response that summarizes/analyzes a key theme from the unit using the sources provided for the assignment.

Primary Source Analysis Assignment (2): This assignment asks students to analyze information, communicate clearly and effectively, and show awareness of social and civil issues or problems. There will be two Primary Source Assignments that will need to be completed for a total of 50 points per assignment. 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.

Academic Honesty Quiz: The academic honesty quiz will be made available to all students on D2L. It provides information on academic honesty and the potential consequences for violating these policies.

Student Responsibilities and/or Tips for Success in the Course

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to always be respectful and courteous to everyone in the classroom. Students are encouraged to take notes during class as it helps engage with the material and prepare for assignments and exams. Questions and class participation are encouraged.

Late Policy

Students may take makeup exams or may be allowed to complete a late assignment for full credit if they miss the assignment due date for legitimate reasons (such as a university-sponsored program or athletic event, an illness, or a family emergency). Approval must be given by the instructor and must be taken within a timely fashion.

Attendance

Attendance in class is expected in this course and will be taken every day. Your assignments for this course will be completed online.

If you are or will be absent, please email me as soon as you are aware of the absence. Acceptable Absences include athletics, approved Student Organization travel, and health/medical related absences. Be ready to show documentation regarding the absence as well, if needed. **If you are absent more than two times and it is not excused, you will have 5 points taken off from your total points. If an absence is not excused, any work during that time frame will be considered late and will have points taken off.** *These rules apply equally to all students.*

Missing/Late Assignments

Missing or late assignments may be submitted until the assignments close; however, the assignment will lose half a letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

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Again, if you have been ill or are having health issues and have missed deadlines it is important to contact me about this ASAP.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

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 = 410 - 369 Points

B = 368 - 328 Points

C = 327 - 287 Points

D = 286 - 246 Points

F = 245 & Below

Point Breakdown by Assignment:

Academic Honesty Quiz: 10 points

3 Unit Response Assignments: 150 points

2 Primary Source Analysis Assignments: 100 points

First Exam: 50 points

Midterm Exam: 50 points

Final Exam: 50 points

TOTAL: 410 Points

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

	Date	In Class	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Week 1				
	Fri – 8/21	<u>First Day of Class:</u> <u>Intro to American History One</u>		
	Mon – 8/24	<u>Intro to American History One</u> New World Empires	Open Stax: Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492–1650	

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	Wed – 8/26	New World Empires British America Begins		
	Fri – 8/28	The Atlantic World and the Columbian Exchange Empire, Mercantilism, and an Emerging Society	Open Stax: Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500–1700	
Week 2				
	Mon – 8/31	Enlightenment and Awakenings		
	Wed – 9/02	Enlightenment and Awakenings The Rise of a Slave Society		
	Fri – 9/04 (Census Day)	British America		
Week 3				
	Mon – 9/07 (Labor Day)	British America	OpenStax: Rule Britannia! The English Empire, 1660–1763	
	Wed – 9/09	The Conflict Begins		
	Fri – 9/11	The American Revolution		
Week 4				
	Mon – 9/14	The American Revolution	Open Stax: Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests	
	Wed – 9/16	Articles of Confederation	Open Stax: Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests, 1763-1774 Open Stax: America's War for Independence, 1775-1783	
	Fri – 9/18	The Constitution		

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Week 5				
	Mon – 9/21	Exam One		Essay One
	Wed – 9/23	The New Republic		
	Fri – 9/25	The Eternal Debate	Open Stax: Creating Republican Governments, 1776–1790	
Week 6				
	Mon – 9/28	The Last of the Federalists	The American Yawp: The American Revolution, A New Nation, The Early Republic	Primary Source Assignment One
	Wed – 09/30	John Adams		
	Fri – 10/02	Jefferson and Madison	Open Stax: Growing Pains: The New Republic, 1790–1820	
Week 7				
	Mon – 10/05	The Country Defines Itself 1800's		
	Wed – 10/07	The Country Defines Itself 1810's		
Fall Break	Fri – 10/09	The Country Defines Itself 1820's		
Week 8				
	Mon – 10/12	The Age of Jackson	Open Stax: Jacksonian Democracy, 1820–1840	
	Wed – 10/14	The Second Party System		
	Fri – 10/16	Indian Removal		
Week 9				
	Mon – 10/19	Economic / Transportation Revolution	Open Stax: Industrial Transformation in the North, 1800–1850	Essay Two
	Wed – 10/21	The Reformers		

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	Fri – 10/23	The American Arts		
Week 10				
	Mon – 10/26	The American Arts	Open Stax: A Nation on the Move: Westward Expansion, 1800–1860	
	Wed – 10/28	The North and Reform		
	Fri – 10/30	The North and Reform		
Week 11				
	Mon – 11/02	Exam Two		
	Wed – 11/04	Manifest Destiny and the West / The Mexican American War		
	Fri – 11/06	The Mexican American War		
Week 12				
	Mon – 11/09	The Politics of Sectionalism	Open Stax: Section 1: Cotton is King: The Antebellum South, 1800–1860 Section 2: Antebellum Idealism and Reform Impulses, 1820–1860 Section 3: Troubled Times: The Tumultuous 1850s	
	Wed – 11/11	The 1850's: The End of The Whigs		
	Fri – 11/13	The 1850's: The Republican Party		
Week 13				
	Mon – 11/16	The 1850's: The Dred Scott Case / John Brown	The American Yawp: National Crisis, The Civil War, Reconstruction	
	Wed – 11/18	The 1860 Election		

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	Fri – 11/20	The Civil War:1861-1862		
Week 14				
	Mon – 11/23	The Civil War:1861-1863/ The Causes of the Civil War Recap	Open Stax: The Civil War, 1860–1865	Primary Source Assignment Two
<i>Early Release</i>	Wed – 11/25	<u>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</u>		
<i>Holiday Break</i>	Fri – 11/27	<u>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</u>		
Week 15				
	Mon – 11/30	The Civil War: 1863-1865	Open Stax: The Era of Reconstruction, 1865–1877	Essay Three
	Wed – 12/02	The Civil War: 1865 / Reconstruction		
	Fri – 12/04	Review / Intro to American History 2		
Week 16				
	Wed – 12/09	<u>Finals Week</u>		

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

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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, an 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

Students are expected to always be respectful and courteous to everyone in the classroom. Students are encouraged to take notes during class as it helps engage with the material and prepare for assignments and exams. Ask questions when you have them. Attendance, missing and late assignment policies can be found in the Student Responsibilities, Expectations and Tips for Student Success section of the syllabus.

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). If this does not result in a satisfactory

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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 13.99.99.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

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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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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>