



HIST 1301.05E: History of the United States through Reconstruction (to 1877)

MWF 1:00-1:50pm Ferguson SS310

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Andrew Cowen

Office Location: Ferguson 132B

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10am-1pm or by appointment

University Email Address: acowen@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: 12-24 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.

This course is designed to help students examine the developments, events, and circumstances involved in the creation of the United States of America from the Colonial Era through the Reconstruction Era. During the course, all students will be required to identify themes and ideas fundamental to U.S. History and evaluate critically explanations of historical events through brief writing assignments, class discussions, and projects. Critical thinking is essential for any understanding of American history; therefore, students will be asked to critically evaluate not just memorize the course materials. In this class, we will work together to develop the skills necessary for all students to be successful, but your participation and preparation are required.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Locke, Joseph and Ben Wright, ed. *The American Yawp*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019. www.americanyawp.com (free at this website)

Additional Primary Sources (provided by me)

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

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The minimal technical skills required for this course include using the learning management system, university email, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and ADOBE Express.

Instructional Methods

This course will include lectures, discussions, and readings. The lectures, discussions, and readings will provide all the evidence you need for creating evidence-based answers to the essay questions on the exams and primary source assignments. The exams and primary source assignments are scheduled for in class, and you will have the entire class period to finish writing your answer.

Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

Student Responsibility Quiz (SRQ): Students will complete a Student Responsibility Quiz in D2L due in the second week of class (this will be used to assess SLO #4).

Participation/Discussions: All students must be prepared to participate in class discussions based on the assigned readings or other course contents. Students cannot earn participation credit if they do not attend class. If students have more than three unexcused absences, they will not earn all the participation. Excused absences include university athletes for scheduled events, sickness with doctor's note, or family emergency. Students are responsible for communicating with the instructor regarding their class absences. (This will be used to assess SLO #4).

Primary Source Analysis Assignments: 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. (The document analyses will be used to assess SLO 1-3).

Exams: These will be one essay each. You must be able to write a coherent, well-structured essay that adequately addresses the question. Essay questions will assess students' understanding of course lectures, readings, and discussions. Study questions are available in D2L. (The exams will be used to assess SLO 1-3.)

ADOBE Creative Campus Assignments: Please see specific assignment details posted in D2L. (The ADOBE Projects will be used to assess SLO 1-3).

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.

Student Responsibility Quiz	5%
Primary Source Assignments (3)	15%
Participation/Discussions	20%
Adobe Express Assignments (2)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Class Dates	Topic	Readings/Assignments Due
1	F: Aug 21	Course Intro	What is history and what does a historian do?
2	M: Aug 24	Indigenous America	Reading: Ch. 1 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/01-the-new-world/
	W: Aug 26	Colliding Cultures	Reading: Ch. 2 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/02-colliding-cultures/
	F: Aug 28	Colliding Cultures	ASSIGNMENT DUE in D2L by 11:59 pm: Student Responsibility Quiz
3	M: Aug 31	Colliding Cultures	Reading: Ch. 2 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/02-colliding-cultures/
	W: Sept 2	Colliding Cultures	Reading Discussion 1
	F: Sept 4	British North America	Reading: Ch. 3 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/03-british-north-america/ Primary Sources – What they are and how we use them
4	M: Sept 7	**NO CLASS	ETAMU CLOSED – LABOR DAY**

	W: Sept 9	British North America	Reading: Ch. 3 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/03-british-north-america/
	F: Sept 11		Primary Source Assignment 1 (In class)

5	M: Sept 14	Colonial Society	Reading: Ch. 4 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/04-colonial-society/
	W: Sept 16	Colonial Society	Reading: Ch. 4 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/04-colonial-society/
	F: Sept 18	Colonial Society	How To: Adobe Express Reading Discussion 2
6	M: Sept 21	The American Revolution	Reading: Ch. 5 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/05-the-american-revolution/
	W: Sept 23	The American Revolution	Reading: Ch. 5 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/05-the-american-revolution/
	F: Sept 25	The American Revolution	ASSIGNMENT DUE in D2L by 11:59 pm: Adobe Express Assignment 1
7	M: Sept 28	A New Nation	Reading: Ch. 6 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/06-a-new-nation/
	W: Sept 30	A New Nation	Reading: Ch. 6 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/06-a-new-nation/ Midterm Exam Review Open in D2L
	F: Oct 2		Reading Discussion 3
8	M: Oct 5	The Early Republic	Reading: Ch. 7 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/07-the-early-republic/

	W: Oct 7		MIDTERM EXAM (In class)
	F: Oct 9	**NO CLASS	ETAMU CLOSED – FALL BREAK**
9	M: Oct 12	The Market Revolution	Reading: Ch. 8 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/08-the-market-revolution/
	W: Oct 14	The Market Revolution	Reading: Ch. 8 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/08-the-market-revolution/

	F: Oct 16	The Market Revolution	Reading Discussion 4
10	M: Oct 19	Democracy in America	Reading: Ch. 9 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/09-democracy-in-america/
	W: Oct 21	Democracy in America	Reading: Ch. 9 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/09-democracy-in-america/
	F: Oct 23		Primary Source Assignment 2 (In class)
11	M: Oct 26	Religion and Reform	Reading: Ch. 10 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/10-religion-and-reform/
	W: Oct 28	Religion and Reform	Reading: Ch. 10 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/10-religion-and-reform/
	<i>Th: Oct 29</i>		<i>Last Day to Drop (No refund)</i>
	F: Oct 30	Religion and Reform	Reading Discussion 5
12	M: Nov 2	The Cotton Revolution	Reading: Ch. 11 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/11-the-cotton-revolution/
	W: Nov 4	The Cotton Revolution	Reading: Ch. 11 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/11-the-cotton-revolution/

	F: Nov 6		Primary Source Assignment 3 (In class)
13	M: Nov 9	Manifest Destiny	Reading: Ch. 12 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/12-manifest-destiny/
	W: Nov 11	Manifest Destiny	Reading: Ch. 12 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/12-manifest-destiny/
	F: Nov 13	The Sectional Crisis	Reading: Ch. 13 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/13-the-sectional-crisis/ Reading Discussion 6

14	M: Nov 16	The Sectional Crisis	Reading: Ch. 13 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/13-the-sectional-crisis/
	<i>T: Nov 17</i>		<i>Last Day to Withdraw (No refund)</i>
	W: Nov 18	The Civil War	Reading: Ch. 14 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war/
	F: Nov 20	The Civil War	ASSIGNMENT DUE in D2L by 11:59 pm: Adobe Express Assignment 2
15	M: Nov 23	The Civil War	Reading: Ch. 14 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war/
	W: Nov 25	**NO CLASS	ETAMU CLOSED – THANKSGIVING BREAK**
	F: Nov 27		
	M: Nov 30	The Civil War and Reconstruction	Reading: Ch. 14 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war/ Reading: Ch. 15 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/15-reconstruction/
	W: Dec 2	The Civil War and Reconstruction	Reading: Ch. 14 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war/ Reading: Ch. 15 http://www.americanyawp.com/text/15-reconstruction/
	F: Dec 4		Final Exam Review
FINAL EXAM	W: Dec 9	10:30am - 12:30pm	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

Participation/Discussions: All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. Thoughtful participation means more than talking frequently, although this is generally encouraged. Thoughtful participation means demonstrating both a knowledge of and a willingness to think critically about the assigned readings. It also means genuinely listening to other students and the professor, especially when their perspectives and interpretation may differ from your own. Students must remain a respect for their colleagues at all times. For this reason, students should refrain from texting or using typed chat features during course discussions.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Do not engage in any of the following:

- **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
- **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with

others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.

- **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Late Work: All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted at the discretion of the professor and may be assessed a penalty. If you know you will be away when something is due, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will be given a grade of zero (0).

Emailing Instructions: If you need to reach me outside of office hours, please use email. I typically respond to email within 12 to 24 hours during the week. Do not expect a response during the weekend.

When sending an email always do the following:

- 1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.
- 2) Include your class and section. I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in before I can help you.
- 3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

1. You are strongly encouraged to interact with me. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through ETAMU email. I am also available during my office hours.
2. If you have a situation arise during the semester that will impede your ability to succeed in the class, COME TALK TO ME SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. I will be better equipped to help you in whatever ways I can the sooner you talk to me. If you wait until the very last minute, my hands will likely be tied and my options will be more limited as far as help is concerned. I can help you get/find the resources you may need on campus or in the community. We can meet in-person or via Zoom.
3. I encourage you to drop into my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class (see above statement on Interaction with Professor).

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 13.99.99.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>

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>