



HIST 1301.10E, U.S. History to 1877

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

Room: BA #244, CRN: 80318

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Derrick D. McKisick, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson #119

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am and 3:30-4:30 pm; Thursday 9:00-11:00 am

Office Phone: 903.886.5222

Office Fax: 903.468.3230

University Email Address: derrick.mckisick@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours, except Friday-Sunday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Locke, Joseph and Ben Wright, ed. [*The American Yawp*](#). Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Edited by L. Maria Child. Boston, 1861. <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11030/pg11030-images.html>

Software Required

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Course Description

This course examines the historical developments, events, and circumstances that shaped the United States from the Colonial Era through Reconstruction. Critical thinking is essential to understanding history. Throughout the course, students will develop the skills needed to analyze historical information rather than simply memorize it. Students will identify major themes and ideas in U.S. history and critically evaluate historical events and documents through brief writing assignments, class discussions, and projects.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students can analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, East Texas A&M students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with a clear message and organizational structure.
3. Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The minimum technical skills required for this course include the ability to use the learning management system, university email, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Adobe Express.

Instructional Methods

The course combines writing assignments and discussion boards. Unless otherwise noted in the course schedule, all written assignments are due by 11:59 pm each Saturday. The instructional week runs from Sunday through Saturday. Late assignments will be accepted with a five-point penalty for each day they are late. Students are expected to complete the required readings so they can participate fully in discussion board activities. Discussion board responses are due each Wednesday by 11:59 pm.

Participation

Students are expected to arrive prepared to discuss the assigned readings during every class session. Participation credit requires class attendance. Students with more than three unexcused absences will not earn all available participation points. Excused absences include participation in scheduled university events, an illness documented by a doctor's note, or a family emergency. Contact the instructor if you have questions about whether an absence qualifies as excused.

Discussion Board

During the course, students will complete one discussion board question during each assigned discussion week based on readings from The American Yawp. Each discussion board opens Sunday at 12:00 am and closes Wednesday at 11:59 pm. To receive credit, students must post a complete response to the discussion prompt and incorporate specific evidence from The American Yawp primary source section. Each original post must be 150-200 words and use specific information from the assigned primary sources. All students share responsibility for maintaining a respectful and productive learning environment. Posts should be civil, respectful, and relevant to the topic. The forums are designed to encourage multiple viewpoints and interpretations; productive discussion depends on respectful engagement with differing perspectives.

Discussion Board Post (Quantity)

- You are required to post one original response for each discussion topic.
- Each post must be 150-200 words and directly answer the discussion question rather than merely describe the historical events or individuals named in the prompt. Each response should demonstrate an understanding of the relevant historical context and significance.
- Responses with fewer than 150 words or more than 200 words will receive a five-point deduction.
- Each response should include specific, cited information from multiple primary sources in The American Yawp primary source section.
- Citation example: (AY 1, VIII, 5) = The American Yawp, Chapter 1, Section VIII, Primary Source 5.

Discussion Board Post (Quality)

- Posts must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topic being discussed.
- Posts should make connections among lecture materials, textbook content, primary sources, and the discussion topic.
- When appropriate, connect your response to material covered earlier in the course to provide additional historical context and clarity.
- Your post should go beyond reciting facts. It should critically examine the material and use specific evidence from The American Yawp to support your response. [The American Yawp](#)

Skeletal Notes

Students will complete skeletal notes for a grade three times during the semester. The skeletal notes for each assigned module will be posted in D2L and are due by 11:59 pm on the Saturday of the week in which they are assigned. Please review the course guide for the exact due dates.

Primary Source Analysis

Students will complete graded primary source analyses using assigned documents from The American Yawp primary source section. These assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the Saturday of the week in which they are assigned.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To succeed in this course, students should review the syllabus, check the D2L course shell daily, complete the assigned readings, respond to discussion board questions by the deadline, and submit all assignments on time.

Assigned Reading: All students are required to read and discuss the assigned books. Both course texts are available free online: *The American Yawp* and Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Project Gutenberg): [The American Yawp](#) [Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl](#). Students are responsible for all readings assigned for each chapter or class meeting.

TURNITIN.COM: All typed assignments, exams, papers, and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate D2L dropbox. Written submissions must be in .doc or .docx format so Turnitin can process them. PDF submissions cannot be evaluated by Turnitin and therefore will not be graded. Each assignment dropbox automatically submits the file to Turnitin for plagiarism checking. Students who do not complete the required submission process, or who submit a file that Turnitin cannot evaluate, will receive a zero for the assignment.

Writing Assignments

All writing assignments must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, paginated, and formatted with 1-inch margins. If a printed copy is required, it must be stapled. The first page must include your name, the assignment title, the instructor's name, the course number, and the date. Students must also submit an electronic copy to the appropriate D2L dropbox in a format Turnitin can analyze. Assignments that cannot be processed by Turnitin will not be graded and will receive a zero.

ADOBE Creative Campus Assignments

See D2L for the specific instructions and requirements for each Adobe Creative Campus assignment.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89.99%
C = 70%-79.99%
D = 60%-69.99%
F = Below 60%

Grades

A = 359-400 points; B = 319-358 points; C = 279-318 points; D = 239-278 points; F = 0-238 points

Exams 2x50	100 pts
Document Analysis / Skeletal Notes 5x20	100 pts
Discussion Board 10x9	90 pts
ADOBE Express Projects 2x40	80 pts
Participation	30 pts

The grading criteria of all written work will be based on the following descriptions:

A = Superior mastery of course content and reading material; clear organization and factual accuracy; an insightful interpretation or argument that directly responds to the assignment, test, or essay prompt; clear and effective writing.

B = Excellent command of course content and reading material; factual accuracy; a generally strong thesis-driven historical argument supported with specific, relevant evidence.

C = Adequate command of course content; reasonable factual accuracy; a specific thesis-driven argument that may be conventional and is supported by limited or uneven evidence.

D = Limited command of course content or failure to follow directions; significant historical errors; little or no clear thesis or argument driving the essay.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce 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@tamuc.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 TAMUC 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.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor will respond to email within twenty-four hours, except on weekends starting at 5:00 pm Friday to 8:00 am Monday.

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

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.

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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce 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.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 A&M-Commerce 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.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are 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 instructors' 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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Module	Title / Assigned Reading	Written Work Due	Due Date
1			
8/20	Course Overview		
8/25-27	Indigenous America (Chapter 1)	Skeletal Notes #1	8/29 by 11:59 pm
9/1-3	Colliding Cultures (Chapter 2) Colonial Society (Chapter 3)	Discussion #1: How did Columbian Exchange between the "Old" and "New" Worlds affect both societies?	9/2 by 11:59 pm
9/8-10	British North America (Chapter 4)	Discussion #2: Why did race-based slavery develop in colonial America, and in what ways did it influence the social and economic development of the English Colonies?	9/9 by 11:59 pm
9/15-17	Revolution (Chapter 5)	Discussion #3: What underlying causes and events of the 1770s contributed to the English Colonies declaring independence from Great Britain? Document Analysis #2	9/16 by 11:59 pm 9/19 by 11:59 pm

2			
9/22-24	A New Nation (Chapter 6) Jacobs (1-25)	Discussion #4: How did equality become a stronger component of American freedom after the Revolution?	9/23 by 11:59 pm
9/29-10/1	Early Republic (Chapter 7) Jacobs (26-57)	Discussion #5: In what ways can Thomas Jefferson's presidency be considered a revolution?	9/30 by 11:59 pm
10/6	The Market Revolution (Chapter 8)	ADOBE Express Project #1 Skeletal Notes #3	10/10 by 11:59 pm
10/8	Fall Break	No Class	
10/13-15	Review / Exam		
3			
10/20-22	Democracy in America (Chapter 9)	Document Analysis #4	10/24 by 11:59 pm
10/27-29	Religion and Reform (Chapter 10) Jacobs (58-81)	Discussion #6: What were the women at Seneca Falls advocating for? Be sure to explain how they understood freedom and liberty.	10/28 by 11:59 pm
11/3-5	The Cotton Revolution (Chapter 11) Jacobs (82-116)	Discussion #7: One historian has observed of southern slavery that "nothing escaped, nothing and no one." What do you think the historian meant by that statement?	11/4 by 11:59 pm
11/10-12	Manifest Destiny (Chapter 12) Sectional Crisis (Chapter 13)	Discussion #8: Thinking back on previous chapters, fully explain how the forces of the market revolution heightened the tension between freedom and slavery. Skeletal Notes #5	11/11 by 11:59 pm 11/14 by 11:59 pm

4			
11/17-19	The Civil War (Chapter 14) Jacobs (117-172)	Discussion #9: How did the Civil War affect the economies of the North and South?	11/18 by 11:59 pm
11/24	No Class	Adobe Express Project Due	
11/26-29	No Class	Thanksgiving	
12/1-3	Reconstruction (Chapter 15) Review	Discussion #10: Was Reconstruction a success or a failure? Answer yes or no and support your position with specific historical evidence.	11/25 by 11:59 pm
12/3			
11/30-12/6	Reconstruction / Review	ADOBE Express Project #2	Due 12/6
12/8	Final Exam	1:15 pm - 3:15 pm	