



HIST 1301.XX: History of the United States through Reconstruction (to 1877)

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Angie Simmons

Office Location: TBD

Office Hours: Please contact Dr. Simmons to set up an appointment.

Office Phone: N/A

University Email Address: angie.simmons@etamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 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:

We will be using the online U.S. history textbook by OpenStax which can be found here:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Methods: This course includes an in person and online component. Students must attend in person lectures and participate in class discussions in order to receive credit for participation. Additionally, there are required online readings, found in the assigned online open-source textbook and primary source documents provided by the professor. These readings are necessary context for the class and must be completed prior to class meetings unless otherwise specified. There will be 5 online reading quizzes throughout the semester that include questions taken directly from the assigned readings.

Assessment: In addition to the quizzes, there will be a midterm and a final exam. Both exams will consist of short answer key term identifications and one essay question. The key terms will be taken from the textbook assigned readings and can be found at the end of each chapter. Possible essay questions will be given each class and one of these will be chosen each for the midterm and final exam respectively. The final exam key terms will not be cumulative, but the essay question will be. There will also be two primary source analysis assignments that are described further in the next section.

Assignments, Student Responsibilities, Expectations, and Tips for Success

Students are expected to attend both lectures each week. Students are advised to complete weekly readings prior to the class the topic is covered. Quizzes and Primary Source Analysis assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the Friday that they are due. See calendar for due dates.

Primary Source Analysis Assignment: [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.

Reading Quizzes: There will be 5 online reading quizzes. The questions for these quizzes come directly from the assigned reading. These quizzes must be completed by 11:59 pm on the Friday they are due. See syllabus for due dates.

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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.

Reading Quizzes (5) 20%

Primary Source Analysis (2) 20%

Midterm Exam 30%

Final Exam 30%

TOTAL 100%

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Academic Calendar*

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING/ASSIGNMENT
1 Week of August 24	<u>Monday</u> "Class Introduction" -Policies Procedures and Explanations -Why do we study history? <u>Wednesday</u> "The Americas, Europe and Africa Before 1492"	Read pp. 7-27 (Ch. 1)
2 Week of August 31	<u>Monday</u> "Early Globalization: The Atlantic World" <u>Wednesday</u> "Colonial Societies"	Read pp. 31-52 (Ch.2) pp. 57-81 (Ch.3) Primary Source Document Analysis (In Class)

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WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING/ASSIGNMENT
3 Week of September 7	<u>Monday</u> NO CLASS- LABOR DAY <u>Wednesday</u> "The English Empire"	Read pp. 85-106 (Ch. 4) <u>**Reading Quiz 1(Ch. 1-4): Due by Friday, September 9th**</u>
4 Week of September 14	<u>Monday</u> "Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests" <u>Wednesday</u> "Common Sense"	Read pp. 111-133 (Ch.5) And "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine (PDF)
5 Week of September 21	<u>Monday</u> "America's War for Independence" <u>Wednesday</u> "The Declaration of Independence"	Read pp. 139- 160 (Ch. 6) And "The Declaration of Independence" (PDF) Declarations Discussion <u>Primary Source Document Analysis #1 Due by Friday September 25th</u>
6 Week of September 28	<u>Monday</u> "Creating Republican Governments" <u>Wednesday</u> "The Constitution and Bill of Rights"	Read pp. 165-188 (Ch.7) And pp. 193-200 (Ch.8.1) <u>**Reading Quiz 2 (Ch.5-7): Due by Friday, October 2nd**</u>
7 Week of October 5	<u>Monday</u> Review Session <u>Wednesday</u> Midterm Exam	No Reading Assignment this week. Study for your exam.

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WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING/ASSIGNMENT
8 Week of October 12	<u>Monday</u> “Growing Pains: The New Republic” <u>Wednesday</u> “War...Again”	Read pp. 200-216 (Ch. 8.2-8.4)
9 Week of October 19	<u>Monday</u> “Industrial Transformation” <u>Wednesday</u> “Jacksonian Democracy”	Read pp. 221-243 (Ch.9) pp. 247-260 (Ch. 10.1-10.3) and pp. 266-269 (Ch. 10.5) <u>**Reading Quiz 3 (Ch.8-10): Due by Friday, October 23rd **</u>
10 Week of October 26	<u>Monday</u> “Indian Removal” <u>Wednesday</u> “Westward Expansion”	Read pp. 260-266 (Ch. 10.4) and pp. 275-288 (Ch. 11.1-11.3) Read “The Indian Removal Act (1830)” and “Letters and Protest from John Ross and the Cherokee Delegation”
11 Week of November 2	<u>Monday</u> “The Mexican American War” <u>Wednesday</u> “The Antebellum South”	Read pp. 288-298 (Ch. 11.4-11.5) and pp. 303-328 (Ch. 12) Read “The Fugitive Slave Law” and selected “Slave Narratives”
12 Week of November 9	<u>Monday</u> “Idealism and Reform, 1820-1860” <u>Wednesday</u> “Troubled Times”	Read pp. 333-356 (Ch. 13) and pp. 361-382 (Ch. 14) <u>**Reading Quiz 4 (Ch11-14): Due by Friday, November 13th **</u>
13 Week of November 16	<u>Monday</u> “The Civil War” Part I <u>Wednesday</u> “The Civil War” Part II	Read pp. 387-411 (Ch. 15)

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WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING/ASSIGNMENT
14 Week of November 23	Thanksgiving Break	No Reading Assignment this week.
15 Week of November 30	<u>Monday</u> "Reconstruction" <u>Wednesday</u> "Primary Source Discussion"	Read pp. 415-438 (Ch.16) <u>Primary Source Analysis #2 Due Wednesday, December 2nd</u> <u>**Reading Quiz 5 (Ch. 15-16): Due by Friday, December 4th **</u>
16 Week of December 7	<u>Monday</u> Final Exam	Bring blank blue book(s).

**Syllabus calendar schedule and assignments subject to change at professor's discretion.*

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.

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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

Students may miss up to three lectures without a grade penalty but are still responsible for the material covered in those lectures. Late assignments will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances discussed with the professor **ahead** of the due date.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Please only contact the professor using your university email account. Emails sent from personal accounts will not be received. If you wish to speak with the professor, please make an appointment via email to meet.

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.

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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

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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/>

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

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