

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865

HIST 1301 ♦ Fall 2023 ♦ 11141 ♦ Online

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Virtual Office Hours ♦ TR: [9:00-10:20 & by appt.](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

There are three primary objectives in this course. First, students will become familiar with the language and habits of mind that define the discipline of history. They will learn to think like historians by analyzing and interpreting primary sources (evidence from the past) and secondary sources (interpretive accounts written by historians and/or documentarians). In this way, students will learn that history is not simply a series of facts neatly tied together to form fixed conclusions; instead, it is an interpretative endeavor which continually evolves as a result of new evidence and changing perspectives. Second, students will sharpen their writing skills through a series of assignments designed to make them aware of the basic structures and routines of good writing. Third, in an attempt to dispel the power of myths, nostalgia and other simplistic traps that obscure our ability to understand the past on its own terms, students will become familiar with the many perspectives (Native American, European, African, and Anglo American) that make up America's history. Equipped with the ability to think historically and write academically, students will offer their own historical interpretations on the course assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

General: This is an online asynchronous course, which means that students work on their own without designated class meetings. It is important that students understand that this course will require a significant level of autonomy and self-motivation. First and foremost, students must read this syllabus carefully as it provides pertinent information about class policies and expectations. It also serves as a guide to successfully completing this course. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask them through Slack (see below). Also, remember that you will need a computer and internet access to complete this course, as well as other required technologies noted herein. While attendance will not be taken, you should expect to spend about 4-6 hours per week on this course and you must check Slack and Blackboard at least every other day. Failing to do so may cause you to miss important course announcements and/or assignments. Ultimately, it is my utmost hope that everyone earns an "A" in this course. If you complete all reading assignments, submit your work on time, follow any suggestions for improvement, and remain engaged through Slack and Blackboard, I guarantee that you will be successful.

Required Readings (Access codes can be purchased at the UTEP bookstore or directly within Perusall. Do not purchase hard copies.):

- *Conflict and Accommodation in Colonial New Mexico* (ISBN-13: MTC:51568063)
- *Causes of the Civil War* (ISBN-13: MTC:46829389)

Slack: Students will use Slack to communicate with the instructor, the teaching assistants, and their peers. Do not use email. For questions about assignments or anything else related to the course, students should use the Slack #questions channel. If discretion is necessary, such as inquiries about grades, students can send a direct message either to the instructor or to the TA's on Slack. Also, students must check Slack regularly as it will be used to send important reminders and useful information throughout the semester. Just click [here](#) to sign up, then download the app to your phone ([Android](#) or [iPhone](#)). Students can also download the desktop application for Slack [here](#). Lastly, make sure to use your name as it is listed in Blackboard and turn on notifications.

Virtual Office Hours: My office hours will be held via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:00-10:20. Just click [here](#) if you want to talk about the class or anything related to history.

Quizzes: There will be ten quizzes worth a total of 20% of each student's grade. While these quizzes represent a significant component of your course average, individually they are just 2% of your overall grade. These quizzes will be completed using Quizizz, an online quiz platform you can access from any device, and they are designed to encourage students to actively view and take notes on the video lectures. *Remember that when using Quizizz, you must use your full name as it is listed in Blackboard; otherwise, you will not receive a grade.*

(QUIZZES: A=18-20 B=16-17 C=14-15 D=12-13 F= 0-11)

Workshops: Over the course of this semester, students will complete 12 workshops worth 25 points apiece. Altogether they are worth 300 points, or 30% of a student's overall grade. These workshops will be completed in groups based on an instructional method known as team-based learning. In particular, they will require students to collectively read and analyze primary and secondary sources throughout the semester. Each workshop will be completed through Perusall, a web-based tool that allows to annotate texts together by asynchronously highlighting text, asking questions, adding comments, making connections to other relevant resources, and responding to their peers. Students will access Perusall by clicking on the link embedded in the corresponding Blackboard module. Once the tool opens, students will see the assigned reading and any questions/prompts provided by the instructor. Students should complete the analysis process as a group—posting and responding to the observations of their peers using the highlighting/comment tool. Everyone must contribute to the analysis. All workshops must be completed by 11:59 pm on the assigned due date.

(WORKSHOPS: A=23-25 B=20-22 C=18-19 D=15-17 F= 0-14)

Position Papers: Each student will submit two 500-word essays. These papers must be computer-generated, *single-spaced*, with one-inch margins and 12 pt. font. In these papers students will present a precise historical position on a controversial historical debate. More specific instructions will be provided in Blackboard, Slack, and in course workshops. Paper 1 is worth 100 points, whereas Paper 2 is worth 150 points. Students must submit these papers through Blackboard by 11:59 pm on the assigned due date. Late papers may or may not be accepted, depending upon the circumstances. Together these papers represent 25% of your total grade.

(PAPER ONE: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F= 0-59)
(PAPER TWO: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

SafeAssign: This is a Blackboard tool used to prevent plagiarism. If you submit your paper and your SafeAssign score is below 30%, you need not submit again. If your score is between 30% and 40%, your paper may include extensive quoted or paraphrased material, or it may include plagiarism. These papers should be examined carefully and resubmitted. If your score is over 40%, there is a very high probability of your paper containing plagiarized content. These papers should definitely be rewritten and resubmitted.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam, both of which will require the use of FlipGrid – a video sharing platform. Both the midterm and the final are comprised of just one question. The midterm exam question is *What is the story of American history through 1789?* while the final exam asks *Is the early history of the United States a story of progress?* Students will record 3-5 minute answers to these questions using FlipGrid and will then submit a link to their video via Blackboard. Answers must be based on the course lectures and readings. A rubric and further instructions will be made available in Blackboard. The midterm exam represents 10% (or 100 points) of the student's total grade, while the final exam represents 15% (or 150 points). All examinations must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the assigned due date.

(MIDTERM: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F= 0-59)
(FINAL EXAM: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

Grade Breakdown:

- Position Paper 1 (10%): 100 points
- Position Paper 2 (15%): 150 points
- Midterm Exam (10%): 100 points
- Final Exam (15%): 150 points
- Quizzes (20%): 200 points
- Workshops (30%): 300 points
1000 points

CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1	Preconquest America	Aug. 29	Signup for Slack
		Aug. 31	Workshop 1: Syllabus
Week 2	Old Worlds Collide	Sept. 5	Flip Introductions
		Sept. 7	Workshop 2: Conflict & Accommodation (3-10)
Week 3	Conquest and Colonization, pt. I	Sept. 12	Quiz 1
		Sept. 14	Workshop 3: Conflict & Accommodation (17-27)
Week 4	Conquest and Colonization, pt. II	Sept. 19	Quiz 2
		Sept. 21	Workshop 4: Conflict & Accommodation (29-63)
Week 5	Servitude and Slavery	Sept. 26	Quiz 3
		Sept. 28	Workshop 5: Conflict & Accommodation (63-113)
Week 6	Competing Empires	Oct. 3	Quiz 4
		Oct. 5	Workshop 6: Conflict & Accommodation: (113-153)
Week 7	The American Revolution	Oct. 10	Quiz 5
		Oct. 12	Position Paper #1 due by 11:59 pm
Week 8	Creating a Nation	Oct. 19	Midterm Exam due by 11:59 pm
Week 9	A Nation Among Nations	Oct. 26	Workshop 7: Causes of the Civil War: pgs. 3-10
Week 10	Antebellum America	Oct. 31	Quiz 6
		Nov. 2	Workshop 8: Causes of the Civil War: pgs. 17-29

Week 11	American Slavery	Nov. 7	Quiz 7
		Nov. 9	Workshop 9: Causes of the Civil War: pgs. 33-49
Week 12	Gender, Religion, and Reform	Nov. 14	Quiz 8
		Nov. 16	Workshop 10: Causes of the Civil War: pgs. 50-78
Week 13	Manifest Destiny & Its Consequences	Nov. 21	Quiz 9
		Nov. 23	Workshop 11: Causes of the Civil War: pgs. 79-119
Week 14	A House Divided	Nov. 28	Quiz 10
		Nov. 30	Position Paper #2 due by 11:59 pm
Week 15	Civil War	Dec. 7	Workshop 12: Course Evaluation
Week 16		Dec. 14	Final Exam due by 11:59 pm

The Fine Print

Accommodations: The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Respect for Diversity: It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you.

Conduct: You are expected to abide by UTEP's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Section II: Student Affairs, Chapter 1: Student Conduct and Discipline clearly defines cheating and plagiarism. Those who cheat or plagiarize face the prospect of dismissal from the class or the university. Any inappropriate behavior, disruptive conduct, or non-compliance with faculty directions can result in a charge of Academic and/or Personal Misconduct, possibly resulting in sanctions imposed either by the instructor or the Dean of Students. For further information refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm>.

Scholastic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Changes to the Syllabus: Read this syllabus carefully because it contains important information about this course's requirements and assignments. Also, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.