I. Course Number and Instructor Information
Instructor: Eric Chavez  
Course: HIST 1301: US History to 1877  
Class Time: Online  
Office Hours: Online via Blackboard Collaborate (link can be found on the left-hand menu bar) or 4:30 pm – 6 pm (LART 320-A, next door to the History Dept.) or by appointment via e-mail  
E-mail: echavez24@miners.utep.edu

II. Course Description and Course Objective

The course U. S. History to 1865 covers the economic, political, social, and cultural history of the United States until Reconstruction, with a specific preoccupation with social and environmental justice. The course will address the ethnic, gender, and class issues that have shaped United States history from an interdisciplinary perspective. Weekly assignments will be structured to help students gain a general understanding of important events in U.S. history, while also encouraging students to challenge “traditional” historical narratives. Moreover, this class is designed to enable students to critically investigate their own history with the explicit goal of furthering an understanding of their own positionality in the historical trajectory of the United States.

The objective of this course is to train students in critical thinking as it is applied to the discipline of history and to empower each student as historical actors. This approach is intended to make students realize that their own lives are part of the history of the United States and the world at large; and as historical actors, we have a responsibility to each other and to this planet’s future. By the end of the semester students should be able to think and write like historians and thus be able to think and write critically; essential skills for any profession.

III. Text and Materials

1. Required Text


Available at the bookstore and other textbook outlets (earlier editions are acceptable)

IV. Course Requirements/Grade Distribution

1. Discussion Boards (20 points each)
   
   A. one original post, and
   
   B. three to four thoughtful replies (complete sentences/paragraphs) to fellow classmates are required. A thoughtful reply necessitates evidence from either the textbook (refer to the specific page number), PowerPoint slide (refer to a specific chapter and slide number), and/or online lectures. In order to create a friendly environment, please reply to fellow classmates who have not had a reply yet. In other words, do not spend all your replies on a single thread posted by a single classmate- please spread the love, and let’s share each other’s knowledge.

   *Check the Discussion Board page constantly for more details on specific weekly prompts*

For any issues involving access to Blackboard, please contact Blackboard 24/7 Help Desk at: (888) 296-0863

For any other further clarification about class content or expectations, please contact me via email.

2. Source Analysis (20 points each)

There will be a total of 15-20 source analyses (mainly primary sources from the Voices of Freedom textbook) throughout the semester. These assignments are intended to help students practice historical thinking by guiding them on understanding the main idea, author, audience, bias, credibility, and context of primary sources. Submit via Blackboard.

3. Midterm Exam (450 points)

Covers topics directly from the text and lecture up to the Midterm. Access and submit via Blackboard.

4. Final Exam (500 points)

This is not a comprehensive exam covering only topics after the Midterm. Access and submit via Blackboard.
Grading Scale

A 1,000 points or more
B 900-999 points
C 899-800
D 799-700
F 699 or below

V. Class Policies

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be offered at my discretion. Extra credit assignments can include “mini-assignments” directly linked to the final paper, film/book reviews, and reflection essays. Specific details to be announced in class

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F for the assignment, as well as a 10% deduction on their final grade. Students caught plagiarizing a second time will once again receive an automatic F for the assignment and an additional 15% deduction on their final grade. Second offenses, however, will be directly referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. See the Student Code of Conduct for further information: https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/7.05.01.18.pdf

E-Mail and Office Hours: I will be available during my assigned office hours and through e-mail, with the standard turnaround time for e-mails being 24 hours. Furthermore, if you miss a class, you are welcome to visit me during my office hours to get a brief summary of key points, but please do not ask that I recount the entire lecture, for I will not do so. If you plan on missing class, my advice is to make friends with someone who will share their notes with you. Also, due to privacy reasons and UTEP policy, I cannot e-mail you your grades. Grades will be regularly posted and updated on Blackboard.

Withdrawal Policy: I will not drop students for any reason, and thus it is incumbent upon the student to take the necessary steps to drop the course before the official census date/deadline. I do, however, strongly recommend that any student planning on dropping the course speak with me prior to doing so. Incompletes will only be given in cases of extreme circumstances, and documentation will be needed.

VI. Students with Disabilities

UTEP offers services to students with sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss your situation with a counselor.
Tentative Calendar

Part 1: American Colonies to 1763
   Ch. 1 A New World
   Ch. 2 Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660
   Ch. 3 Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750
   Ch. 4 Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire

Part 2: A New Nation, 1763-1840
   Ch. 5 The American Revolution, 1765-1783
   Ch.6 The Revolution Within (Midterm)
   Ch. 7 Founding a Nation
   Ch. 8 Securing the Republic, 1791-1815
   Ch. 9 The Market Revolution, 1800-1840
   Ch. 10 Democracy in America

Part 3: Slavery, Freedom, and the Crisis of the Union, 1840-1877
   Ch. 11 The Peculiar Institution
   Ch. 12 An Age of Reform, 1820-1840
   Ch. 13 A House Divided, 1840-1861
   Ch. 14 A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865
   Ch. 15 “What is Freedom?”: Reconstruction, 1865-1877 (Final Exam)

**Basically, there are no strict due dates. Each student completes assignments according to their own pace/accessibility. In other words, everything is due before midnight on Dec. 7th, 2023**