

Syllabus

HIST 1301: United States History to 1865

Meets 10:30 am – 11:20 am MWF at Liberal Arts (LART) 108

Spring Semester 2024

CRN 21014

Faculty Contact

Dr. Eric Rodrigo Meringer

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Office: Liberal Arts Building (LART) Room 329

Office hours: MWF 2:30 – 3:30; TTH 10:30 – 12:30; or by appointment

UTEP Dates and Deadlines

Jan 16	First day of classes
Jan 31	Census Day – payments for classes due by 5:00 pm
Mar 11 - 15	Spring Break
Mar 28	Spring drop/withdrawal deadline
Mar 29	Cesar Chavez Holiday – no classes
May 3	Dead day – no classes
May 10	Final Exam Friday May 10, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm

Course Description

HIST 1301 is a historical survey of the history of the United States from pre-Columbian America to American Civil War. Touching on different aspects of social, political, economic and cultural history, the course is presented in chronological order with the first half focusing on indigenous America, European colonialism and the American Revolution and second half devoted to the creation of the American Republic, the Market Revolution, Westward expansion and the American Civil War. Some of the recurring themes in the class include indigenous relations, justifications for conquest and domination, economic and technological change, and the role of slavery in bringing about the Civil War. This course presents the history of the United States in a global context and encourages students to think critically by considering perspectives beyond those of the founding fathers while challenging historical narratives based on what historian James Loewen has referred to as the “ignorance of ethnocentrism” and the “arrogance of American exceptionalism.”

Textbook

The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Volume 1: to 1877.
Edited by Joseph Locke and Ben Wright. Stanford University Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-5036-0671-5. We will be using both the textbook and the reader.

Online versions of the textbook are open-access and free at:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>.

Course Organization

Weekly Modules

Course material is presented in weekly modules on the Blackboard website. This semester is 16 weeks long so there are correspondingly 16 modules. In each module students will find links to readings, videos, quizzes and assignments. All readings and assignments presented within the module are due at the end of the associated week. After that time incomplete assignments are considered late and are no longer accepted. For more information on assignments and due dates see the Assignment Schedule below.

Grading Information

Final Grades will be determined by points earned in the following areas:

8 Quizzes (50 points each, lowest score dropped)	350 points
6 In-class activities (50 pts each, lowest score dropped)	250 points
Participation (activities, quizzes attendance)	50 points
1 mid-term exam	150 points
<u>1 final exam</u>	<u>200 points</u>
Total Points	1000 points

Grading Scale

900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
Below 600	F

Exams (35% of final grade): There will be two exams: one mid-term and one final. The mid-term is worth 150 points and the final is worth 200 points for a total of 350 points. Exams consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. Exams draw heavily on quizzes and on the in-class activities. **Make-up exams** in cases of unavoidable scheduling conflicts must be arranged prior to exam date. Exceptions for unanticipated medical or family emergencies will require written documentation from the student.

Quizzes (35% of grade): There are a total of 8 online quizzes. Each is worth 50 points. The lowest quiz score is dropped leaving a total of 350 points possible toward the final grade. Quizzes consist of between 10 to 25 multiple choice questions. Quizzes draw largely from the textbook but also from weekly powerpoints. Quizzes are generally open by Wednesday and due on Sundays by midnight. You can take the quiz twice and only the highest score will be counted. Don't forget to take the quizzes by the Sunday night deadline though as quizzes will not be reopened once they are closed.

In-Class Activities (25% of grade): There are six in-class group activities in which students will collaboratively answer questions based on specific readings or other course-related materials. These assignments are meant to promote student engagement and prepare students for the essay portion of the mid-term and final exams. These exercises are meant to be completed in class and are concluded only after the summary wrap up discussion at the end of class.

Participation (5% of grade): Students can ensure full credit in this category by participating in the in-class activities and by turning in various small, unscheduled writing assignments during the course of the semester.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not offered on an individual basis. Occasionally, however, the instructor may offer extra credit to the class as a whole if there is a need to raise the class average.

Communication

Office Hours: The instructor will hold regular office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. You can also make an appointment or feel free to stop by any time you find me in my office at LART 329. I will do my best to answer email messages within 24 hours. Make sure though that you send your message to the correct address. **My email address** is ermeringer@utep.edu. Please note that it does not include the word “miners.” Only student email addresses include the word “miners.”

Tips for effective student communication: To facilitate prompt and effective email communication, make sure that you have thought out your question before sending a message. Be sure to first check to make sure the answer cannot be conveniently found using other course resources (syllabus, discussion boards or announcements). It is a good idea also to include a word or two in the subject line regarding the matter of concern. In all email exchanges with the instructor, make sure to respond to the instructor’s message in order to confirm that the message was received and either a satisfactory answer was provided or that further information is needed. This is called “closing the loop” and is an important aspect of maintaining effective online communication.

Special Accommodations

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

Student Services: Blackboard Support

To successfully navigate the online classroom new students are encouraged to view the links on the Technology Support Helpdesk, which is located under the “Institution Page” tab at the left-hand side of the page. Those requiring technical assistance can access “UTEP’s Help Desk” at (915) 747-4357 or directly connect to UTEP’s Blackboard Central office at the library by calling (915) 747-5940 or blackboard@utep.edu.

Tutoring Services

We have a number of in-class essay assignments and there will be essays on your mid-term and final. It might behoove you then to take advantage of tutoring services offered through History Department's Tutoring Center or the University Writing Center.

History Tutoring Center (HTC): Students can visit the History Department's designated tutor to get help with their history course content, research, and writing assignments either in person in LART 334 or online. For more information, including the HTC's hours for the fall of 2022 or to make an appointment for an online session, just go to tinyurl.com/utep-htc.

Additional tutoring services are provided at the **University Writing Center:** <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>

Student Course Evaluations

UTEP values its students' feedback. You will be asked to complete an online evaluation toward the end of the term. The primary purpose of this evaluation process is to assess the effectiveness of classroom instruction in order to provide the best learning experience possible and make continuous improvements to every class. Responses are kept confidential. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to provide your feedback.

Course Policies and Information

You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the policies and procedures described below. Any problems that the Instructor encounters in this course may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Course Civility

You must uphold a mature level of interaction with fellow students and with the instructor. Please respect other students, showing courtesy in all interactions.

Disputed grades

If you disagree with a grade, you should consult the instructor.

Dropping the Class

You are entitled to drop this class with a grade of "W" until the official university drop deadline, as described in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. You are responsible for dropping the class. There will be no faculty-initiated drops, except under special circumstances if you request the instructor to drop you.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

As a member of the University of Texas at El Paso academic community that honors integrity and respect for others, you are expected to maintain a high level of personal integrity in your academic work at all times. Your work should be original and must not be reused from other courses.

According to the Merriam Webster Online Dictionary, plagiarism can be defined as "the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person" (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarism>). In other words, it is literally a form of theft. You are expected to do your own work on all graded material submitted for all course requirements.

All work submitted must be written for this course during the term in which the course is being completed. Work from other courses or from other academic or non-academic settings, past or present, is not acceptable and will result in failure for that assignment. No opportunities for resubmission or revision will be granted.

The names and student numbers of students suspected of knowingly using, or attempting to use, another person's work as though such work is their own, and of students suspected of permitting, or attempting to permit, another student to use their work, will be given to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Such conduct may constitute grounds for sanctions ranging from the assignation of a grade of "F" for the work to expulsion from the University.

If you are uncertain regarding what actions constitute plagiarism, or about the University policy, then you should consult the instructor.

Course Management

I will promptly grade all assignments, and other work submitted for a grade soon after your deadlines.

External Link Disclaimer

This course may contain links to external sites neither owned nor maintained by UTEP. UTEP bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality, or content of external sites or for that of subsequent links. In addition, the terms of use, security policies, and privacy policies may differ from those of UTEP. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content, terms of use, and policies.

Syllabus Changes

All items on this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.

Assignment Schedule

Module number and Weekly Topics	Readings and assignments	Due dates
Module 1 (Week of Jan 15) Welcome to 1301 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbook: Read Chapter 1 – textbook is online and available at American Yawp• Syllabus reconnaissance	
Module 2 (Week of Jan 22) The Early Modern World; Indigenous America <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Early Modern World• Indigenous America• European Encounter and Colombian Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbook: Chapters 1 and 2	

<p>Module 3 (Week of Jan 29) Colliding Cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant Reformation • English Colonization • Pilgrims and Puritans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapters 2 • Read Online Handout: "Divine Right to Occupy Land" • Watch PBS Video (After the Mayflower) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quiz 1 by Feb 4 ✓ In-class Activity 1 done in class on Friday Feb 2
<p>Module 4 (Week of Feb 5) British North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Slavery and the rise of American Slave Societies • Colonial Society and Indian Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quiz 2 by Sunday Feb 11
<p>Module 5 (Week of Feb 12) Colonial Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption and Trade • Great Awakening • French and Indian War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 4 and portion of Chapt 5 on the causes of the American Revolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In-class Activity 2 on Friday Feb 16 ✓ Quiz 3 by Sunday Feb 18
<p>Module 6 (Week of Feb 19) American Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origins of Independence • Revolutionary War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 5 	
<p>Module 7 (Week of Feb 26) New Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles of Confederation • The Constitutional Convention • Federalists and Anti-Federalists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activity 3 Friday Mar 1 ✓ Quiz 4 by Sundy Mar 3
<p>Module 8 (Week of Mar 4) Review and Mid-term Exam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Review textbook Chapters 1-6 and quizzes 1 - 4 • Mid-Term is in class on Friday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mid-term Exam in class on Friday Mar 8 ✓ Make sure you have provided a blank blue book

Module 9 (Week of Mar 11) Spring Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break 	✓ Relax
Module 10 (Week of Mar 18) Early Republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jefferson as President • Native America and US • War of 1812 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 7 	
Module 11 (Week of Mar 25) Market Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Revolution • Erie Canal • Rise of Industrial North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 8 • Document Reader: • #1 “James Madison asks Congress to support internal improvements” 	✓ Quiz 5 by Sunday Mar 31 ✓ No class on Friday
Module 12 (Week of Apr 1) Democracy in America/ Religion and Reform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Jackson • Mormon Religion • Moral Reform • Indian Removal Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 9 • View PBS Video on Cherokee Removal 	✓ Quiz 6 by Apr 7
Module 13 (Week of Apr 8) Cotton Revolution and Westward Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton Revolution • Southern Slavery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 10 and 11 	✓ Activity 4 on Cotton Revolution
Module 14 (Week of Apr 15) Manifest Destiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Independence • US War with Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 12 	✓ Activity 5 Manifest Destiny ✓ Quiz 7

<p>Module 15 (Week of Apr 22) Sectional Crisis and Civil War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis over slavery • Civil War 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Chapter 13 and Chapter 14 • Document Reader: #1 Alexander Stevens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quiz 8 by Apr 28 ✓ Activity 6
<p>Module 16 (Week of Apr 29) Reconstruction and Review For Final Exam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 15 	
<p>Module 17 (Week of May 6) Final Exam Week</p>	<p>Final Exam Friday May 10, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm</p>	<p>Final Exam Friday May 10, 10:00 am – 12:45 pm</p>