

# Syllabus

## HIST 1302: United States History to 1865

Fall Semester 2020

CRN 11986

**Online Course: Students are not required to meet at specific days or times**

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### Faculty Contact

Dr. Eric Rodrigo Meringer

Email: [ermeringer@utep.edu](mailto:ermeringer@utep.edu)

Online Office hours: Tuesdays 10 am to 12 noon; Thursdays 6 pm to 8 pm.

### UTEP Dates and Deadlines

Aug 24	First day of classes
Aug 24 - 28	Late registration (fees incurred)
Sept 7	Labor Day – University Closed
Oct 30	Fall drop/withdrawal deadline
Nov 26 – 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – University Closed
Dec 7 – 11	Final Exams
Dec 16	Grades are due

### Course Description

HIST 1302 is a survey of social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the post-Civil War Reconstruction era to the early 2000s. Topics explored in this class include: Reconstruction; industrialization; the Progressive Era; Spanish American War; World Wars I and II; the Great Depression; the Cold War; the Rise of the Conservative Right; Globalization. Important themes within these topics include: race and ethnicity; social and economic development; American imperialism; expansion and contraction of the federal government; U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War era; multiculturalism. In addition to critically analyzing US history and American exceptionalism in a global context, students in the course will also examine and interpret primary and secondary sources to create clear and concise historical arguments based upon historical evidence.

### 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>.

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## 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. With the exception of the digital history project, all 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 group responses (50 points each, lowest score dropped)	250 points
Discussion Board Posts	50 points
Peer evaluation and Participation	100 points
1 mid-term exam	100 points
<u>1 final exam</u>	<u>150 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** (25% of final grade): There will be two exams: one mid-term and one final. The mid-term is worth 100 points and the final is worth 150 point for a total of 250 points. Exams consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and a short answer question. Exams draw heavily on quizzes and on the group response exercises. **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.

**Group Responses** (25% of grade): There are six small-group response assignments. Students will be randomly placed in groups at the beginning of the semester and maintain their groups throughout the semester. In groups, students will collaboratively answer questions based on specific readings or other course related materials by submitting a single, jointly agreed-upon response. Student participation is essential for these assignments and a portion of the final grade is based on this participation.

**Discussion Posts** (5% of grade): There are five graded discussion posts. Discussion posts require an initial response to a prompt due by Friday (initial response should be at least 150 words in length), followed by replies to two of your classmates (at least 50 words each), due by Saturday. Posts are worth 10 points each however participation on the discussion board will also be factored into your participation grade.

**Peer Evaluation and Participation** (10% of grade): Students will submit peer evaluations of group members on two separate occasions. In these evaluations, students will be asked to distribute a fixed number of points among each group member in accordance with each individual's level of participation. Points earned through these peer evaluations in addition to points awarded by instructor for participation on the discussion board, will be incorporated into the final 1000 points possible.

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

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## Communication

**Online Office Hours:** Messages sent during online office hours will be answered most promptly, usually within the hour. Online office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon and Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm. Messages sent outside of office hours will be responded to within 24 hours. **My email address** is [ermeringer@utep.edu](mailto: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.

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## Special Accommodations

Students with physical or other challenges who require accommodation(s) in order to participate in this course should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (Union Building, East, room 106). Telephone: +1.915.747.5148.

To better serve students during the pandemic, UTEP's Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) has launched AIM, the Accessible Information Management system. AIM serves as a virtual front desk where UTEP students with a disability or a temporary disability can request an accommodation. Contact CASS at [cassportal.utep.edu](http://cassportal.utep.edu) or <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>. It is your responsibility to speak with a counselor in order to receive necessary help. Within the first week of the beginning of the semester, you must provide documentation from CASS in order to

receive any accommodation(s). Failure to contact CASS and provide documentation in a timely manner may delay such accommodation(s) being made.

### **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](mailto:blackboard@utep.edu).

### **Tutoring Services**

UTEP offers tutoring services for help with writing. The link to the University Writing Center is <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.

### **Coronavirus Updates**

For more information on the University Coronavirus-related policies see the Health and Safety heading on the Blackboard homepage.

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## **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 assignment 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.

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### **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.

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Assignment schedule continues below

## Assignment Schedule

Module Number and Weekly Topics	Readings and Assignments	Due Dates
<b>Module 1 (Week of Aug 24)</b> <b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Syllabus</li> <li>• Legacy of Reconstruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the syllabus</li> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Textbook: Read Chapt 15 (this is part of American Yawp Version 1 but still available at <a href="#">American Yawp</a>)</li> <li>• Discussion Post #1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Introductions by Friday night</li> <li>✓ Discussion post by Friday, reply post by Saturday night</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2 (Week of Aug 31)</b> <b>Capital and Labor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March of Capital</li> <li>• Gilded Age and Rise of Inequality</li> <li>• Labor Movement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Read chapter 16</li> <li>• Document Reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">#1 William Graham Sumner on Social Darwinism</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion Post #2</li> <li>• Quiz 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Discussion post by Friday, reply post by Saturday Sept 5</li> <li>✓ Quiz 1 due Sept 6</li> </ul>
<b>Module 3 (Week of Sept 7)</b> <b>Conquering the West</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westward Expansion</li> <li>• Indian Wars</li> <li>• Myth of the West</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Read Chapter 17</li> <li>• Document Reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">#4 Frederick Jackson Turner, "Significance of the Frontier..."</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watch short Ted Talk Video</li> <li>• Watch short video of genocide in California</li> <li>• Discussion Post #3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Initial discussion post by Friday, reply by Saturday</li> </ul>
<b>Module 4 (Week of Sept 14)</b> <b>Life in Industrial America</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration and Urbanization</li> <li>• New South and Problem of Race</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 18</li> <li>• Watch Video: "Slavery by Another Name"</li> <li>• Group Response #1</li> <li>• Quiz 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Group Response by Sunday Sept 20</li> <li>✓ Quiz 2 by Sunday</li> </ul>

<p><b>Module 5 (Week of Sept 21)</b>  <b>American Empire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish American War</li> <li>• American Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 19</li> <li>• Divide the various online readings for group response</li> <li>• Group Response #2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Submit Group Response by Sunday Sept 27</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 6 (Week of Sept 28)</b>  <b>The Progressive Era</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muckrakers</li> <li>• Progressive Reformers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 20</li> <li>• Document Reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">#2 Jane Addams “The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements”</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion Post #4</li> <li>• Quiz 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Discussion Post by Friday, reply by Saturday</li> <li>✓ Quiz by Sunday</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 7 (Week of Oct 5)</b>  <b>World War I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World War I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 21</li> <li>• Document Reader: <a href="#">#1 “Woodrow Wilson Declares War”</a></li> <li>• Group Response #3</li> <li>• Quiz 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Group Response by Sunday</li> <li>✓ Quiz 4 by Sunday</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 8 (Week of Oct 12)</b>  <b>Review and Midterm exam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review chapters 15 – 21</li> <li>• Group Work Peer Evaluation</li> <li>• <b>Mid-Term Exam</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Peer Evaluation by Sunday Oct 18</li> <li>✓ Mid Term due by Sunday night</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 9 (Week of Oct 19)</b>  <b>New Era</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roaring 20s</li> <li>• Cultural Changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 22</li> <li>➤ Document Reader: <a href="#">#7 Alain Locke on the “New Negro”</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Module 10 (Week of Oct 26)</b>  <b>Great Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Depression</li> <li>• New Deal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapters 23</li> <li>• Readings on Hoover and FDR</li> <li>• Group Response #4</li> <li>• Quiz 5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Group Response by Sunday Nov 1</li> <li>✓ Quiz 5 by Nov 1</li> </ul>

<p><b>Module 11 (Week of Nov 2)</b> <b>WWII and The Cold War</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World War II at home and abroad</li> <li>• Cold War at home and abroad</li> <li>• Decolonization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapters 24 and 25</li> <li>• Document Reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <a href="#">#7 Declaration of Independence of Vietnam</a> (chpt 24)</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">#2 NSC-68 (1950)</a> (chpt 25)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion Post #5 (decolonization)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Discussion Post by Friday, Saturday</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 12 (Week of Nov 9)</b> <b>Affluent Society and 1960s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 26 and 27</li> <li>• Document Reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ #2 "<a href="#">Lyndon Johnson on Voting Rights</a>"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group Response #5</li> <li>• Quiz 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Group Response by Sunday night</li> <li>✓ Quiz by Sunday night</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 13 (Week of Nov 16)</b> <b>The 1960s (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuba</li> <li>• Great Society</li> <li>• Liberation movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 27</li> <li>• Watch Video: Wounded Knee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Module 14 (Week of Nov 23)</b> <b>Unravelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strain of Vietnam</li> <li>• Rise and Fall of Nixon</li> <li>• Deindustrialization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 28</li> <li>• Quiz 7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Quiz 7 due Sunday night</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 15 (Week of Nov 30)</b> <b>Triumph of the Right</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronald Reagan</li> <li>• Politics of the Left and Right</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbook: Chapter 29</li> <li>• Group Response #6</li> <li>• Quiz 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Group Response due Sunday</li> <li>✓ Quiz 8 due Sunday</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 16 (Week of Dec 7)</b> <b>Final Exam</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review chapters 22 – 29</li> <li>• Submit second group work peer evaluation</li> <li>• Exam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Submit Peer Review by <b>Wednesday Dec 9</b></li> <li>✓ Exam date to be announced</li> </ul>