

# **History 1301: History of the United States to 1865**

## **Class Syllabus**

Instructor: Dr. Gary L. Kieffner  
Assistant Instructor: Chantra Potts  
Quinn Hall 212  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:  
8:30-9:20 a.m.  
Class series: 21951  
Instructor phone: 915.747.7060  
Instructor email: Kieffner@utep.edu

Spring Semester 2017  
Instructor Office: Liberal Arts, rm. 331  
Instructor Office Hours:  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30-10:00 a.m.;  
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:30-6:00 p.m.;  
or by appointment  
Assistant Instructor Office and Office Hours: TBA

### **Purpose of the Class:**

Learning about the past helps us to understand conditions in the present. Active learning of history affects an awareness of the past, in comparison with current events, so that past errors may be prevented tomorrow. Moreover, the present should be analyzed and evaluated in relation to similar patterns in the past. Although we cannot possibly cover all pre-1865 history of the United States in a short survey course such as this one, we will focus on some of the most important topics. These include Indigenous responses to marginalization and interactions with colonizers, intellectual and ideological currents, relationships between racism, slavery and westward US expansion, and other topics. Students will practice critical thinking, reasoning, and writing skills in order to prepare themselves as tomorrow's teachers, scholars, and leaders.

### **Required Textbooks:**

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Volume I: To 1877. Fourth Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2014.  
Ernesto Chávez. *The U.S. War with Mexico: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2008.

Books are available at the University Book Store and at off-campus bookstores. They may also be rented at [chegg.com](http://chegg.com). A copy of each book is also on reserve at the UTEP Library Reserve Desk.

### **Course Assessment:**

Assessment will be accomplished via evaluation of individual participation and contributions to team presentations, written assignments, a test and a final examination as follows:

#### **Continuous Assessment of Participation: (50 pts.)**

Quality of student participation will be assessed including your discussions during class. Information not found in the readings will be provided during class and the participation portion of the grade is contingent also upon proper classroom attendance, the avoidance of tardiness and the avoidance of early departure. All of this is required in order to earn an excellent grade in this class and avert the possibility of a faculty-initiated drop from the roster. Students who want to miss more than six class sessions, or portions thereof, are advised not to take this course. Each class session missed because of late registration will be counted as an absence, and class work missed will be counted as non-participation.

**Team Presentation: (50 pts.)**

During the first week of class, you will be assigned to a team consisting of seven to twelve classmates each. Your team will participate in various exercises including the assembly of a movie screenplay portraying events in the life of a slave girl. Each of you will have responsibility for a different aspect of the project to guarantee a fair share of the work. The instructor will distribute the specific requirements during class.

**Midterm Test: (100 pts.)**

Test material is drawn from assigned chapters in the Foner textbook, lectures, discussions, and films.

**Term Paper: (100 pts.)**

You will individually write a term paper in the form of an essay based on a topic selected from the instructor's list of topics. The essay must be a minimum of ten pages in length. The instructor will distribute the specific requirements during class.

**Final Exam: (200 pts.)**

Final exam material is drawn from the textbooks, lectures, discussions, and films. The exam is cumulative; for example, anything covered in the lesson materials before the first exam may also be included on the final exam.

**Final Grade for the Course:**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Student Grade</b>	<b>Grading Scale</b>
Participation	50 (10%)	_____	450-500 points, A
Team Presentation	50 (10%)	_____	400-449 points, B
Midterm Test	100 (20%)	_____	350-399 points, C
Term Paper	100 (20%)	_____	300-349 points, D
Final Exam	200 (40%)	_____	0-299 points, F
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>500 (100%)</b>	_____	

**Remediation and Make-up:**

Remediation for absence or for lack of participation is unavailable. You must attend class and participate in order to get a good grade.

The assessment of your team's presentation represents a critical portion of its members' grades and occurs only once during the semester. If you miss class on the day when your team presents and if you wish to remedy this portion of the grade, then you may elect to present a lecture individually for a grade.

The grades of papers submitted after the deadline will decrease at the rate of ten percent per each day they are late. Remediation for papers that are more than ten days late will be available upon request by the student and will consist of a double-length paper written on a new topic, as assigned by the instructor.

The midterm test may not be retaken or re-tested; once you have taken the test, the grade earned is the grade that will be received. It is in your best interest to take the test as scheduled. If you do not take the midterm test when it is scheduled, then you must take the makeup midterm during the final exam period after completing the final exam. However, the makeup midterm test is an essay test and it will be more rigorous.

There is no make-up for the final exam. All students must take the final exam during the scheduled time.

## **Course Policies and Procedures**

You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the classroom policies and procedures described below. Problems in the classroom may be reported to the Dean of Students.

### **Classroom environment:**

You must uphold a mature level of interaction with classmates and with the instructor. Please respect other students by listening to them when they respond to the classroom discussion. Please do not work on other courses during class. On most days, electronic devices such as laptops, cell phones, beepers, or electronic devices are not permitted in class, unless the instructor grants individual permission. On other special days previously designated by the instructor, laptops and cell phones will be used for specific classroom activities. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (tweeting, web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, video viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class. If your conduct distracts the instructor or other students, you will be asked to leave.

### **Special Accommodations:**

Students with physical, mental or emotional challenges that require accommodation(s) in order to participate in this course should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at the Union Building, East, room 106. Telephone: 747.5148. Email: [Cass@utep.edu](mailto:Cass@utep.edu). Internet: [sa.utep.edu/cass/](http://sa.utep.edu/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 DSS 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.

### **Disputed grades:**

If you disagree with a grade, you should consult the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours, or you should schedule an appointment.

### **Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

The team presentation is the only collaborative assignment that is graded. All other assignments are individual assignments. You are expected to do your own work on all graded material submitted for all course requirements. 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.

### **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.

**Calendar and Reading Requirements:** This calendar is subject to change by the instructor.

Week 1 (Jan. 18, 20)	<b>Ancient American Civilizations</b> Foner, ch. 1. There is no class on Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Week 2 (Jan. 23, 25, 27)	<b>Pre-Columbian America, Invasion, and Resistance</b> Foner, ch. 1.
Week 3 (Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3)	<b>Early Colonies</b> Foner, ch. 2. Jan. 30: <b><u>Team Presentation Due.</u></b>
Week 4 (Feb. 6, 8, 10)	<b>English Conquest and Resettlement</b> Foner, ch. 3.
Week 5 (Feb. 13, 15, 17)	<b>Colonial Degeneration, Responses, and Conflicts</b> Foner, ch. 4.
Week 6 (Feb. 20, 22, 24)	<b>Revolutionary War, 1775-1783</b> Foner, ch. 5.
Week 7 (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3)	<b>The First Republic, 1776-1788</b> Foner, ch. 6.
Week 8 (Mar. 6, 8, 10)	<b>The Federalist Years, 1788-1800</b> Foner, ch. 7. Mar. 10: <b><u>Midterm Test.</u></b> (Foner, ch. 1-7)
Week 9	There is no class on Mar. 13, 15, or 17, Spring Break.
Week 10 (Mar. 20, 22, 24)	<b>The Jeffersonian Era, 1800-1824</b> Foner, ch. 8 and 9. Chávez, Part One.
Week 11 (Mar. 27, 29)	<b>Jacksonian America and Manifest Destiny, 1828-1854</b> Foner, ch. 10. Chávez, Parts One and Two. There is no class on Mar. 31, César Chávez Day.
Week 12 (Apr. 3, 5, 7)	<b>Slavery and Racism</b> Foner, ch. 11. Chávez, Parts One and Two.
Week 13 (Apr. 10, 12)	<b>The Age of Reform, 1820-1840</b> Foner, ch. 12. Chávez, Parts One and Two. Apr. 10: <b><u>Term Paper due.</u></b> There is no class on Apr. 14, an institutional holiday.
Week 14 (Apr. 17, 19, 21)	<b>Sectionalism, 1846-1861</b> Foner, ch. 13. Chávez, Parts One and Two.
Week 15 (Apr. 24, 26, 28)	<b>Civil War, 1861-1865</b> Foner, ch. 14.
Week 16 (May 1, 3)	<b>Reconstruction</b> Foner, ch. 15. There is no class on May 5, Dead Day.

**FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME:** Mon., May 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. (Foner, ch. 1-14; Chávez, Parts One and Two)