

History 1301: History of the United States to 1865

Fall 2021

Instructor: Sam Brunk

Email: sbrunk@utep.edu

Virtual Office Hours: T 11:00-12:00, W12:00-1:00. (You can find the link to the office hours on the left-hand navigation menu in Blackboard).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This fully online course is a survey of United States history from its beginnings with the arrival of indigenous peoples through the Civil War. It will cover that history broadly in its social, cultural, economic, and political aspects, but will have a particular focus on the environmental history of the territory that eventually became the United States. Students will emerge from the course with a greater appreciation of the different peoples who came together to shape not only the cultural traditions and social practices of the United States, but also, ultimately, its landscape. They will also develop the ability to critically and clearly discuss historical materials, and in particular to interpret and write about primary sources (evidence from the past), which will allow them to see U.S. history from different points of view. Please note that this course is entirely online, through Blackboard, and that there are no on-campus meetings. Student learning will be assessed through quizzes, primary source analyses, and online exams.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Readings: The books for this course **cannot be purchased as hard copies through the campus bookstore or an online bookseller** like Amazon, so **please read these instructions carefully**. The main text for this course is:

Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *The American Yawp*. This is a free, online, open access textbook, and the PDF is available at: <http://www.americanyawp.com/>
Just click on PDFs, Volume I, at bottom of the linked page to open your copy

The textbook will be supplemented by two other short books of primary sources:

David J. Voelker, ed., *The Powhatans and the English in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*

Joel M. Sipress, ed., *The Causes of the Civil War*

Both of these last two books are available to members of this class through the online platform called **Perusall**, which we will use to do group workshops. You can purchase them by going to Blackboard and clicking on Workshop 1 in Module 1, which will take you into our Perusall course. Once you are there, to purchase *The Powhatans*, click on Workshop 2 (the first workshop on that book) then select 180-day online access (USD \$9.98), and fill out the necessary information. **Always use your UTEP email address if prompted**. To purchase *The Causes of the Civil War*, click on the first workshop on that book, Workshop 6, and follow the same

instructions. This is the easiest way to get these books, but if you do not have a credit card or for some other reason you need to make the purchase at the UTEP bookstore, you can purchase an access code for Perusall from them, but **these are the only two ways you can purchase these books** to make them accessible in Perusall.

To successfully complete this course, you will also obviously need regular access to a computer, stable, consistent internet, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

Module Quizzes: At the end of each module, students will take a module quiz based on the reading assignments in *The American Yawp*. Students will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, which they must do in one sitting. Do not open up other applications or tabs as this may cause the exam to close and submit. Each quiz contains ten questions, and **you may review the possible quiz questions for each chapter ahead of time** by going to the section “quizzes” at the *American Yawp* website: <http://www.americanyawp.com/text/teaching-materials/>

If you have not taken a quiz or test before on Blackboard, please view this how-to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qztOnai9GZM>

For more information, see the handout “General Quiz Instructions,” which is also in this Welcome Module.

Workshops: One of the most important components of this class is the analysis of the material—largely **primary sources**—in Voelker, ed., *The Powhatans and the English* and Sipress, *The Causes of the Civil War*. Students will complete a series of group workshops in Perusall to practice this skill, and together those workshops will compose the class participation grade. The workshops will also prepare you to write the two short formal papers. For more information, see the handout entitled “General Workshop Instructions,” which is also found in this Welcome Module.

Formal Papers: Our work on interpreting the primary sources will culminate in two formal papers of about three pages each, one on *The Powhatans* and the other on *The Causes*. These assignments will ask you to draw your own conclusions, based on the evidence, about the issues at the center of these volumes.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam that will test your knowledge of *The American Yawp*, a series of short, written lectures from me on environmental history, and the assigned videos. The final will not be cumulative. Do not open up other applications or tabs when taking the exams as this may cause them to close and submit. Each exam will include a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions and one short essay. These exams must be completed at the time scheduled unless you have a verifiable and acceptable excuse, as defined below.

GRADING: Final grades for this course will be based on the results of two examinations, two formal papers, six quizzes, and participation in eight workshops. Your grade will be calculated on the following basis:

Two Exams	30% (15% each)
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Two Formal Papers	30% (15% each)
Six Quizzes	20%
Participation	20%

No extra credit will be offered in this course. Students hoping to raise their grades should communicate with the professor (well before the end of the course) about how to improve on the quizzes, tests and papers assigned. **I will reward improvement in calculating final grades (but only for those students who complete all class activities).**

COMMUNICATION: You may email me at any time at my UTEP email address, sbrunk@utep.edu, which I check frequently (though not late at night). Be sure to use your UTEP email account when you do so. I will generally reply quickly, but if you do not receive a reply in 24 hours please email me again in case I somehow didn't receive the first one. I will often communicate with the class through the Announcement tool on Blackboard, so you should check there frequently for updates and reminders, though those announcements will also come to your UTEP email address, which you should also check frequently for important information.

I will hold Virtual Office Hours on Tuesdays from 11:00-12:00 and Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00. To join a Virtual Office Hour, click on "Virtual Office Hours and Student Lounge" in the left hand menu. The Student Lounge will always be open, and is a place where you can chat with other students in the class about course material. You can compare ideas there in a general way, but it is naturally not meant to be an opportunity for you to find someone else to do your work for you.

CORONAVIRUS: The coronavirus situation continues to be very fluid, with cases rising rapidly on international, national, state, and local levels. Given that fact, UTEP's coronavirus policies may well change during the semester, and I will try to make sure you are kept up to date.

Under no circumstances should you come to campus if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communicating with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The best way to protect yourself from serious illness is to get vaccinated. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission—such as Texas--wear face masks when indoors in public spaces. Please understand that while vaccination is the best way to keep yourself safe, even if you are vaccinated you can catch and spread the disease to family members and fellow students who might be at greater risk than you. Masks are the best way to keep from passing the disease to people around you, including children, who cannot be vaccinated, and who with the arrival of the delta variant are being hospitalized with the virus in larger and larger numbers.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to check Blackboard frequently and

to keep up with class activities and deadlines. You must take quizzes and exams and contribute to workshops during the window of time in which they are open, unless there is some sort of serious emergency (not a conflict, like a vacation, that you choose to schedule) that makes it impossible, and that can be documented with a note from an appropriate professional (physician, funeral director, university official). It is also your responsibility to turn in papers on time. If missing a deadline was due to circumstances outside your control, communicate with me immediately. If you don't, I will assume that you just weren't paying enough attention to our schedule.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism is the use of the ideas, information, or words of another author or fellow student without giving proper credit to your source. You are responsible for citing your sources as indicated by the instructor and, in cases where you directly quote from a source, for enclosing those words that are not your own in quotation marks. Failing to give proper credit to your sources in these ways is academic dishonesty. You are also responsible for adhering to the instructor's rules on exams. I will refer all suspected incidences of academic dishonesty to the office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for investigation. Students found guilty of such actions will be punished. See UTEP policy on this issue at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>. For some tips on avoiding plagiarism, see: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/Files/docs/Avoiding-Plagiarism.pdf>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Module One (Aug. 23-Sept. 4)

- Review Syllabus and other materials in Welcome Module, including Lecture 1, "Welcome."
- Do Workshop 1, in Perusall, the Syllabus Workshop (see "General Workshop Instructions" in Welcome Module. Initial comments due August 24, responses to group members by end of day on August 25).
- Read Chapter 1, "The New World" and Chapter 2, "Colliding Cultures" in *American Yawp*: <http://www.americanyawp.com/>
- Take Quiz One (open August 30 through end of day on August 31)
- Read Lecture 2, "The North American Environment and Indigenous Lifeways"
- Do Workshop 2 on *The Powhatans*, pp. 1-32 in Perusall (initial entries due September 2, responses to group members by end of day on Sept. 4)

Module Two (Sept. 7-18)

- Read Chapter 3, "British North America and Chapter 4, "Colonial Society," in

American Yawp, and take Quiz Two (open Sept. 13-14)
Read Lecture 3, “Disease, Population, and the Columbian Exchange” and
Lecture 4, “The Rise of the Southern Plantation Economy”
Do Workshop 3 on *The Powhatans*, pp. 35-49 in Perusall (initial entries due
Sept. 16, responses to group members by end of day on Sept. 18)

Module Three (Sept. 20-Oct. 2)

Read Chapter 5, “The American Revolution,” and Chapter 6, “A New Nation”
in *American Yawp*, and take Quiz Three (open Sept. 27-28)
Read Lecture 5, “The Spanish Settlements,” and Lecture 6, “The Fur Trade
and Imperial Rivalry”
Do Workshop 4 on *The Powhatans*, pp. 50-65 in Perusall (initial entries due
Sept. 30, responses to group members by end of day on October 2)

Module Four (Oct. 4-16)

Read Chapter 7, “The Early Republic,” in *American Yawp*
Watch Video, *Liberty: The Times that Try Men’s Souls*
https://0-fod-infobase-com.lib.utep.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=41026&tScript=0
Do Workshop 5 on *The Powhatans*, pp. 66-72 in Perusall (initial entries due Oct.
11, responses to group members by end of day on Oct. 13)
Finish reading *The Powhatans*, pp. 73-94
Take Midterm Exam (open Oct. 14-16).

Module Five (Oct. 18-30)

Submit First Formal Paper, by end of the day on Oct. 23
Read Chapter 8, “The Market Revolution,” and Chapter 9, “Democracy in
America” in *American Yawp*, and take Quiz Four (open Oct. 25-26)
Read Lecture 7, “Nature and the Market Revolution”
Watch Video, *Trail of Tears: We Shall Remain*
https://0-fod-infobase-com.lib.utep.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=44691&tScript=0
Do Workshop 6 on *The Causes of the Civil War*, pp. 1-29 in Perusall (initial
entries due Oct. 28, responses to group members by end of day on Oct. 30)

Module Six (Nov. 1-13)

Read Chapter 10, “Religion and Reform,” and Chapter 11, “The Cotton
Revolution,” in *American Yawp*, and take Quiz Five (open Nov. 8-9)
Read Lecture 8, “The Cotton South and Indian Removal”
Watch Video, *Slavery and the Making of America: Seeds of Destruction*
https://0-fod-infobase-com.lib.utep.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=166808&tScript=0
Do Workshop 7 on *The Causes*, pp. 33-49, 68-78 in Perusall (initial entries by
Nov. 11, responses to group members by end of the day on Nov. 13)

Module Seven (Nov. 15-27)

Read Chapter 12, “Manifest Destiny,” and Chapter 13, “The Sectional Crisis” in *American Yawp* and take Quiz Six (open Nov. 22-23)

Read Lecture 9, “Manifest Destiny, Environment, and the US West,” and Lecture 10, “The Urban Environment”

Do Workshop 8 on *The Causes*, pp. 79-119 in Perusall (initial entries by Nov. 23, responses to group members by end of the day on Nov. 27)

Module Eight (Nov. 29-Dec. 10)

Read chapter 14, “The Civil War,” in *American Yawp*

Submit Second Formal Paper on *The Causes of the Civil War* (due Dec. 1)

Watch Video, *The Civil War: Episode 1-The Cause (1861)*

https://0-fod-infobase-com.lib.utep.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=40977&tScript=0

Take Final Exam (Open Dec. 9-10)