

History 1301: History of the United States to 1865

Spring 2023

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a survey of United States history from its beginnings with the arrival of Native American 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 (direct evidence from the past), which will allow them to see U.S. history from different points of view.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Readings:

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

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

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

Quizzes: There will be six multiple choice quizzes, spread throughout the semester and taken on Blackboard, that will test your reading of the *The American Yawp*. Students will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz, which they must do in one sitting. Do not open other applications or tabs when you take them 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,” in the “Syllabus and

General Instructions” folder.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam that will test your knowledge of *The American Yawp*, and class lectures, discussions, and videos. The final will not be cumulative. Like the quizzes, these exams will be taken on Blackboard. 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.

Primary Source Analysis: One of the most important components of this class is the analysis of primary sources, many of which are found in the required readers, *The Powhatans and the English* and *The Causes of the Civil War*. Work on these sources in class will be a major part of your class participation grade; it will also prepare you to write the two short formal papers discussed below. During the first half of the course, students will be required to bring *The Powhatans* to class, either in hard copy or in a digital form that they can access. In the second half of the course, they should bring *The Causes*.

To enhance class discussion of these materials (as well as lecture material), we will use the **iClicker** student response system. (Please see the handout “Instructions on iClicker” in the “Syllabus and General Instructions” folder.) iClicker will also be used to record attendance and participation. In order to use iClicker, each student must bring to class a device—phone, laptop, ipad—with online capacity, or an iClicker, which is available from the bookstore.

Comments: Students will complete two exercises related to our reading in ungraded “Comments” as part of their class participation grade. These exercises will also help prepare you to write the formal papers.

Formal Papers: Our work interpreting primary sources will culminate in two formal papers of about three pages each, one on *The Powhatans* and the other on *The Causes of the Civil War*. These assignments will ask you to draw your own conclusions, based on the evidence, about the issues at the center of these volumes. For help on written assignments, you may want to use the services of the History Tutoring Center, discussed below. Help is also available in the University Writing Center on the third floor of the library: <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/>. Finally, the “Syllabus and General Instructions” folder includes a handout entitled “How to Write Essays” that should help you with writing in all your classes.

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

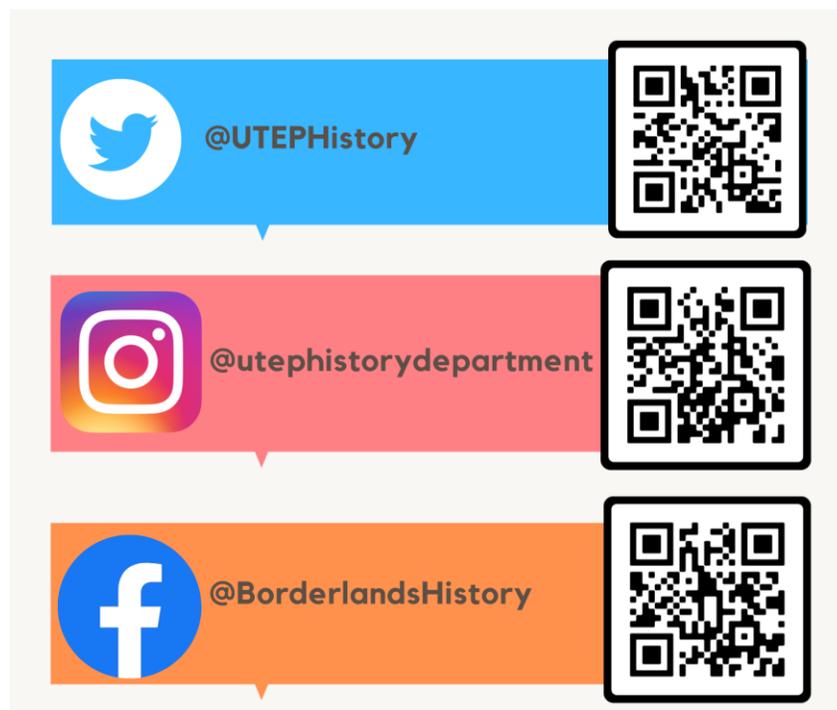
Two Exams	30% (15% each)
Two Formal Papers	30% (15% each)
Six Quizzes	20%
Participation	20%

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. **We will reward improvement in calculating final grades (but only for those students who attend class regularly and complete all assignments).**

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 sometimes 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.

You may also want to follow the History Department via the following social media:



BLACKBOARD: Handouts will be distributed through Blackboard. Powerpoint lecture outlines will be available there as well. Please don't try to contact me through the Blackboard email system, however, since I rarely check it. Email me at my regular UTEP email address, sbrunk@utep.edu.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: You are expected to attend class and your participation grade depends, in large part, on your attendance. Absences due to scheduled university activities, health problems, or serious family emergencies (such as the illness of a child or a death in the family) will be excused, but in most cases you need to document them with a note from an appropriate professional (such as a physician or funeral director). If for any reason you must miss a class period, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor and obtain handouts (from Blackboard) and notes (from a fellow student).

You are also expected to arrive on time and stay until the end of each class period. It is

better to come in late or leave early than not to come at all, but do not make a habit of it. Arrange your life so you can attend this class. If you must come in late, avoid disrupting the class.

It is your responsibility to turn in assignments on the day they are due. If missing a deadline was due to circumstances beyond your control, communicate with me immediately. If you do not, I will assume that you just weren't paying enough attention to our schedule.

CORONAVIRUS: Please do not come to class (or to campus) if you have tested positive for COVID-19, are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. We are on the honor system in this respect, which means that your absence will be excused without a note if you simply let me know, as soon as possible, that this is the reason for it. If you are feeling unwell for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible, so we can work on appropriate accommodations.

The best way to protect yourself from serious illness is to get vaccinated. The vaccine is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information, please visit epstrong.org. Although most people are tired of wearing masks, you will notice that I am still wearing one, which makes good sense to me given my age and health concerns. I also worry about students who may have health issues or live with elderly relatives, and that creates classroom challenges, particularly since this class demands a great deal of group discussion. Please let me know if you have special concerns about covid in the classroom. I will try to bring masks to class for any student who wants one.

Free testing is available at the Student Health Center. Please report a positive COVID-19 test to covidaction@utep.edu so the UTEP COVID Action Team can follow up with you and with me.

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/>. Only CASS can evaluate the accommodations needed by students.

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. For more information, including the HTC's hours or to make an appointment for an online session, just go to tinyurl.com/utep-htc.

CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 17	Introduction	<i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 1
19	Video: <i>The Fight for America's Public Lands</i>	
24	Environment and Indigenous Lifeways Comments Due	<i>Powhatans</i> , pp. 1-32; <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 2
26	Environment and Indigenous Lifeways Take Quiz 1, open Jan 26-27	
31	Disease, Population, and Columbian Exchange	<i>Powhatans</i> , pp. 35-49
Feb 2	Disease, Population, and Columbian Exchange	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 3
7	Rise of the Southern Plantation Environment	<i>Powhatans</i> , pp. 50-65
9	Rise of the Southern Plantation Environment Take Quiz 2, open Feb. 9-10	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 4
14	The Spanish Settlements	<i>Powhatans</i> , pp. 66-72
16	The Spanish Settlements	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 5
21	Fur Trade and Imperial Rivalry	<i>Powhatans</i> , pp. 73-94
23	Fur Trade and Imperial Rivalry Take Quiz 3, open Feb. 23-24	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 6
28	Watch Video, <i>Liberty: The Times that Try Men's Souls</i>	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 7
Mar 2	Review for Midterm	
7	Take Midterm Exam (open all day)	
9	Environment and Independence	
March 13-17—Spring Break		
21	Environment and Independence	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 8
23	Jefferson, Science, and Western Exploration Submit First Formal Paper	
28	Nature and the Market Revolution Comments Due	<i>The Causes</i> , pp. 1-29
30	Nature and the Market Revolution Take Quiz 4, open March 30-31	<i>Yawp</i> , ch. 9
Apr 4	Cotton South and Indian Removal	<i>The Causes</i> , pp. 33-49

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| 6 | Watch Video, <i>Trail of Tears: We Shall Remain</i> | <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 10 |
| 11 | Manifest Destiny, Environment, and the US West | <i>The Causes</i> , 68-78 |
| 13 | Video, <i>Slavery and the Making of America: Seeds of Destruction</i> | <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 11 |
| | Take Quiz 5, open April 13-14 | |
| 18 | The Urban Environment | <i>The Causes</i> , 79-99 |
| 20 | The Urban Environment | <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 12 |
| 25 | Environment and Civil War | <i>The Causes</i> , 100-119 |
| 27 | Environment and Civil War | <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 13 |
| | Take Quiz 6, open April 27-28 | |
| May 2 | <i>The Civil War: Episode 1-The Cause (1861)</i> (1:40) | <i>Yawp</i> , ch. 14 |
| | Submit Second Formal Paper | |
| 4 | Review and Final Comments | |
| 11 | Final Exam (open all day) | |