HIST 1301, U.S. History before 1865:
Thinking Critically and Writing Academically
CRN #: 12758; Learning Communities: 19364, 19365, 19366. 19367
Fall, 2020 / Aug 24 to Dec 3, 2020 Online

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Office Hours: Online MW 11:30-1:00 and by Appointment.
For Technical Issues Contact the UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk

Course Description

In this course, students will examine United States history through the periods of pre-colonization, colonization, Independence, nation-state formation, national expansion, and Civil War. Thinking critically, students will analyze various primary and secondary sources, interpret them, and form their own conclusions. In this way, students will learn that writing history involves a process of analysis, synthesis, and translation in which historians constantly reinterpret the past. Thinking like historians, students will consider the significant trends, patterns, and turning points in U.S. history. This course will also introduce students to academic writing, essay structure and formatting. Students will also consider the experiences of many diverse historical actors, such as Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans. Examining history and writing academically, students will offer their own interpretations of the past in course papers and exams as they learn to think like historians. This class is part of varias Learning Communities that are working in conjunction with HIST 1301. Some of the readings and assignments in this class will be integrated with the work you do as learning community members.

Course Objectives or Expected Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- o Understand the basic trends patterns, and turning points in U.S. history before 1865;
- o Engage as a community of scholars in dialogue about the past;
- o Develop critical thinking and academic writing skills;
- o Understand the process of academic writing and essay structure;
- o Acquire and improve technical and communication skills;
- o Understand the field of history as a subjective and ongoing study of past events.

Required Materials

Foner, Eric. Give *Me Liberty: An American History*. Vol. 1 To 1877. Seagal 6th Edition.
    New York: W.W. Norton, 2020. ISBN 9780393418248.

In addition, students will be responsible for reading various chapters and articles that will be available in PDF format on Blackboard. Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty,* Volume 1 is available at the UTEP bookstore or online: https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393418248

Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Technology Requirements**: Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

2. **Course Communication**: How we will stay in contact with each other
Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:
- **Office Hours**: We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate using this link: [insert link] and during the following times:
      Mondays: 11:30-1:00pm. Mountain Time
      Wednesdays: 11:30-1:00pm. Mountain Time
- **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Discussion Board**: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements**: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

3. **Participation Policy**: Participation is necessary for success in this class. You must log in at least once every day. The workload requires that you spend between 10 and 12 hours each week engaged in coursework. This involves online assignments and readings. I reserve the right to drop any student from this class for lack of effort.

4. **Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date.** Any late work that is accepted will receive a 50%-point deduction. Thus, if your long essay is late, I will deduct 75 points before I grade it. The best policy here is do your work early. I will open up all assignments at least a week before they are due. The only acceptable excuse for late work is a school related activity or military duty. These must be supported with documentation.

5. **Drop Policy:** I reserve the right to drop anyone from this class for lack of effort. According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. October 30th is the Drop Date. This means that if you want to drop the course with a W, you must do so by this date.

6. **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY:** The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

7. **Scholastic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.](#)

8. **Netiquette**
In an online course, you will engage in various student-student and student-teacher interactions. It is always important to be respectful in this online setting. This is why you should be familiar with proper online etiquette, also known as "netiquette." Please review this article that explores this idea: [10 Rules of Netiquette for Students](#)

Students will initially receive a warning for any inappropriate or disrespectful posts. For the second offense of any inappropriate or disrespectful posts, points will be deducted from their work. If a pattern of disrespectful and inappropriate posts develops, the student will be removed from the course.

9. **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](#). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](#). For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](#)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section

1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Student Resources
UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the bookmarks on the right-hand side of the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.

Course Assignments and Grading
No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Short Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date. I will open all Workshops, Quizzes, and Short Essays well in advance to give you adequate time to read and answer the questions. Instructions for these assignments are posted on Blackboard, and you need to read them carefully. **Essays** are also due by 11:59pm of the listed due dates. **Exams:** you will be given a time limit for each exam. The window period for each exam will be generous enough for you to reconsider your answers. Once your exams are submitted, or once the time-period for that exam has ended, the exam is over. Exam dates and times are posted on the syllabus and on Blackboard. To keep up with the workload, you will need to log in everyday and work between four to five hours a day. There is always something to work on in this class. Please read all instructions very carefully.

Grade Distribution:

- **10 Quizzes:** 20 Points Each =   200 points   20%
- **14 Workshops:** 20 Points Each=   280 points   28% (extra 8% credit)
- **4 Exams:** 100 Points Each =   400 points   40%
- **1 Long Essay:** 150 Points =   150 points   15%
- **1 Short Essay:** 50 Points =   50 points   5%

Students can potentially earn 1000 over the course of this semester:

1000-900 = A   899-800 = B   799-700 = C   699-600 = D   599 and Below = F

Quizzes: Quizzes will range from short answer writing workshops, in which you will type your answers on Blackboard, to multiple choice quizzes on the textbook readings for that week. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. I will give more specific instructions for each quiz on the Blackboard Modules for each week.

Workshops: Students will review various primary and secondary sources over the course of the semester. For each Workshop, they will **answer a central question** on the assigned reading by posting **500 Word answer** on the **Blackboard Discussion Board** for that workshop. In addition, they must write a **250 Word response to two of their classmates'** postings. The initial answer is worth 10 points. Each response is worth 5. Each Blackboard Discussion Board workshop, if completed correctly, is worth 20 points. Postings must be relevant, and they must meet and exceed the word count. More instructions will be given on Blackboard.

Exams: Students will take four exams. Exams will be on Friday (see Course Calendar). They will be due by 11:59pm at the end of the day. There will be a window period and a time limit for each exam. Exams will be on the material covered after the previous exam. I will post study guides on Blackboard for each exam one week in advance. Each exam is worth a possible 100 points.

Long Essay: Students will synthesize information from our class textbook (Foner, *Give Me Liberty*) and write a well-structured 4 to 5 page (2000-2500 Words) academic essay that answers a central question given in an essay prompt. The word count will be strictly enforced. This project will begin on the first week of class. **This essay is due Nov 22** by 11:59pm. Do not procrastinate. See the Essay Instructions on Blackboard. Read these instructions carefully. This project is worth a possible 150 points.

Short Essay: Students will use primary sources to answer a central question by writing a 1000-word essay. You may go over the word count—a little. Do not go under the word count. This essay is due on Oct 11. More instructions will be given on Blackboard. This short essay is worth 50 points.

Zoom Meetings for Extra Credit: We will have Zoom discussion meetings every Thursday at 11:00am. Each Meeting will be worth 4 points extra credit. To get credit, you must stay for the whole meeting and raise your hand and participate in the discussion. Meeting topics will include videos and content material from that specific week. Videos will be posted on Blackboard. These meetings are not mandatory because this is an asynchronous online course. Login information will be provided on a weekly basis. (4 X 15 = 60). In addition to Zoom meetings, other, additional extra credit will be built into the course curriculum.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Read this syllabus carefully, it is your roadmap to success.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule
Foner, *Give Me Liberty* = GML

	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 **8/24-8/29**	-Course Intro. -Syllabus Review -Precontact -Contact	-Read Syllabus -GML Chapter 1	August 30: Quiz 1 (Syllabus) August 30: Workshop 1
Week 2 **8/30-9/5**	-Contact -Colonization	-GML Chapter 2. -Blackboard Sources.	Sept 6: Workshop 2 Sept 6: Quiz 2
Week 3 **9/6-9/12**	-Colonial Period	-GML Chapter 3. -9/9 Census Date.	Sept 13: Workshop 3 Sept 13: Quiz 3
Week 4 **9/13-9/19**	-Atlantic Trade System -Slavery -Imperial Rivalries	-GML Chapter 4. -Blackboard Sources.	Sept 20: Workshop 4 Sept 20: **Exam 1**
Week 5 **9/20-9/26**	-American Revolution	-GML Chapter 5. -Blackboard Sources	Sept 27: Workshop 5 Sept 27: Quiz 4
Week 6 **9/27-10/3**	-American Revolution	-GML Chapter 6.	Oct 4: Workshop 6 Oct 4: Quiz 5
Week 7 **10/4-10/10**	-The New Nation	-GML Chapter 7.	Oct 11: Workshop 7 Oct 11: Quiz 6 Oct 11: **Short Essay Due**
Week 8 **10/11-10/17**	-National Expansion	-GML Chapter 8.	Oct 18: Workshop 8 Oct 18: **Exam 2**
Week 9 **10/18-10/24**	-The Market Revolution	-GML Chapter 9.	Oct 25: Workshop 9 Oct 25: Quiz 7.
Week 10 **10/25-10/31**	-Age of Common Man Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is Oct. 30	-GML Chapter 10. .	Nov 1: Workshop 10 Nov 1: Quiz 8

Week 11 11/1-11/7	-Slavery: "The Peculiar Institution"	-GML Chapter 11.	Nov 8: Workshop 11 Nov 8: Quiz 9
Week 12 11/8-11/14	-An Age of Reform	-GML Chapter 12.	Nov 15: Workshop 12 Nov 15: **Exam 3**
Week 13 11/15-11/21	-National Division	-GML Chapter 13. **Long Essay Due on 11/22**	Nov 22: **Long Essays Due** **Nov 22**: Quiz 10
Week 14 11/22-11/28	-Civil War	-GML Chapter 14.	Nov 29: Workshop 13
Week 15 11/29-12/5	-Reconstruction	-GML Chapter 15.	Dec 6: Workshop 14
Week 16 Finals	Final Exam	**Due Tuesday, Dec 8.**	**Dec 8: Final Exam Due**

Dec 16: Grades Due.

Dec 17: Grades posted to student records.