

**HIST 1301, U.S. History to 1865:
Thinking Critically and Writing Academically
CRN #: 35480 / Online
Summer I, 2023 / June 12 to July 7, 2023**

Instructor: Scott Comar, Ph.D.

Class Location: Online Asynchronous / UTEP Blackboard

Class Meeting Times: MTWRF

Instructor Contact Info:

Email: sccomar@utep.edu.

Office: LART 333

Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:30pm online and by appointment

For Technical Issues Contact the [UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk](#)

Course Description

This online course will cover the development of the United States from the Pre-Colonial Era to 1865. Considering American history through a continental perspective, it will examine colonial/Indigenous contact relations, European conquest and colonization, the emergence and implications of slavery, the struggle between colonial empires, and how it led to the formation of the United States of America. This course will also illuminate various social and political tensions within the new nation, and the ways in which they led to the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. Moving beyond the study of historical content, students will receive an introduction to academic writing and learn how to critically evaluate both primary and secondary sources. They will also develop an understanding of history as an evolving academic field that is subject to interpretation and change.

Course Objectives or Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

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

Required Materials

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Volume 1. Seagull 6th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company Press, 2020.
ISBN 978-0-393-67914-4.

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, Seagull 6th Edition is available at the UTEP bookstore or online at <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393418248>

Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Technology Requirements:** Students must have access to a computer. Students must have a UTEP email account with access to Blackboard. Technical issues are no excuse for late work and will not be accepted as an excuse. Plan ahead and get help early if you are having problems with your computer. For help with your computer please visit UTEP Technology Support. Click this link for more information: [UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk](#).

2. **Participation/Attendance Policy:** Participation is necessary for success in this class. You must attend class every day. The workload requires that you spend between 20 and 28 hours each week engaged in coursework. This involves assignments and readings. I reserve the right to drop any student from this class for lack of effort.

3. **Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops and Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date in Blackboard.** Any late work that is accepted will receive a 50%-point deduction. 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.

4. **Drop Policy:** I reserve the right to drop anyone from this class for lack of effort. This is a summer course, and one missed class is the equivalent to one week of a regular semester. Students must complete all coursework to the best of their ability. June 27 is the Drop Date. This means that if you want to drop the course with a W, you must do so by this date.

5. **Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities 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. If you require accommodations please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or visit Room 106 of the Union East Building. For more information, learn more here: [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#)

6. Scholastic Integrity:

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: According to sections 1.3.1 of the UT Regents' Rules and Regulations, "It is the official policy of the University that **all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the OSCCR for investigation and appropriate disposition.** It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or a zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty..." In short, anyone caught cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>). For more on cheating see UT Regents' Rules and Regulations section 1.3.1.1. Don't plagiarize, be original and always cite your sources (paraphrases and direct quotes).

7. Netiquette

In this 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.

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 in Blackboard. 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. To keep up with the workload, you will need to 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 (total possible points = 1000):

- **15 Workshops:** 20 Points Each= 300 points 30%
- **5 Exams:** 100 Points Each = 500 points 50%
- **2 Reflection Essays:** 100 Points Each = 200 points 20%

A (900-1000); B (800-899); C (700-799); D (600-699); F (0-599)

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

Exams: Students will take five exams, including the final. Exams will be on Friday. The Final Exam is on July 10 (see Course Calendar). Exams will be on the material covered that week. I will post study guides on Blackboard for each exam one week in advance. Each exam is worth a possible 100 points.

Reflection Essays: Students will write two reflection essays this semester. All essays must be uploaded to the essay module on Blackboard. More specific instructions and the prompts will be posted on Blackboard. Each essay must have a minimum of 1500 words. Do not email your essays to me. I will not accept essays over email.

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

Course Calendar. 4 Weeks

Foner, Give Me Liberty = GML

	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 6/12	Before 1763	-Read Syllabus. -GML Chapters 1-4.	Icebreaker Discussion Board
6/13	Native America	GML Chapter 1	Workshop 1
6/14	Colonization / census day	GML Chapters 2-3	Workshop 2
6/15	Slavery	GML Chapter 4	Workshop 3
6/16	Exam 1	GML Chapters 1-4	Exam 1
Week 2 6/19-6/23	1763-1815	-GML Chapters 5-8.	Bonus Discussion Board on American Revolution: see Blackboard
6/19	American Independence	GML Chapter 5	Workshop 4
6/20	American Revolution	GML Chapter 6	Workshop 5
6/21	American Revolution	GML Chapter 7	Workshop 6
6/22	American Revolution	GML Chapter 8	Workshop 7 / Reflection Essay 1
6/23	Exam 2	GML Chapters 5-8	Exam 2

Week 3 6/26-6/30	1800-1840	-GML Chapters 9-12.	
6/26	First Industrial Revolution	GML Chapter 9	Workshop 8
6/27	Jacksonian America	GML Chapter 10	Workshop 9 / Drop/W Deadline
6/28	Slavery	GML Chapter 11	Workshop 10
6/29	Reform Movements	GML Chapter 12	Workshop 11
6/30	Exam 3	GML Chapters 9-12	Exam 3
Week 4 7/3-7/7	1840-1877	-GML Chapters 13-15.	
7/3	Civil War, 1861-1865	GML Chapter 13 & 14	Workshop 12 & 13 / Reflection Essay 2
7/4	Independence Day	National Holiday	
7/5	Reconstruction, 1865-1877	GML Chapter 15	Workshop 14
7/6	Review	Review	Workshop 15
7/7	Exam 4	GML Chapters 13-15	Exam 4
7/10 Monday	Final Exam	Comprehensive	Final Exam

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