



John T. Clayton
Assistant Professor of History
jclayton@southplainscollege.edu

Levelland Campus Rm. AD 123
FALL 2025
History 1301, Sections; 005, 007, 153

Common Course Syllabus
History 1301
Department of History

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HISTORY 1301

Course Title: United States History I

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum: American

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course Description: A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I includes the study of pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

Course Objectives:

1. **critical thinking:** demonstrates creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **communication:** demonstrates effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

3. **social responsibility:** demonstrates intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **personal responsibility:** demonstrates the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with the diversity of American history and to promote critical thinking in interrelating the past to the present. Fundamentally, the course promotes general understanding of a body of knowledge any student knows.

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should demonstrate familiarity with the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. This would include the following themes:

- American settlement and diversity
- American culture
- religion
- civil and human rights
- technological change
- economic change
- immigration and migration
- creation of the federal government

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Course Focus

This Semester we will be studying the history of the United States from its colonial beginnings through the American Civil War and reconstruction. We will learn about important events, people, inventions, and ideas that have shaped our nation and our shared heritage as Americans. We will learn about the sources, nature, and structure of our nation's political system- its

constitutional foundations, and its institutional practices. We will learn about the geography of the United States, and how that geography has influenced the development of the nation and its people. We will study the economic, social, and cultural practices of the United States, and will learn about the origins of those practices. We will also learn to use the variety of tools and methods utilized by historians to study history.

Textbook, Materials, and Readings

The required text for this course is Globalyceum American History. Go to: https://www.globalyceum.com/site/student_new_register Once there, register, and subscribe for this course with the Unique Section Number which will be provided on the first day of class. (This number is case sensitive).

Technology Requirements

Access to the internet will be required. You are expected to know how to use a computer, the internet, and online systems. I will not be teaching you how to use technology. Consult the college's technical support desk and website for advice on how to get ready to take an online class.

Lecture Topics

The following general lecture topics will be covered in this class; Please have all text readings completed before the Friday of the FIRST week they are assigned.

Week 1-2- Course introduction and expectations, Europe and the Americas, 1450-1607

Week 3-4- Colonial America, 1607-1750

Week 5-6- The American Revolution and Constitution, 1750-1790

Week 7-8- The Early American Republic, 1790-1815

Week 9-10- The North, 1815-1860

Week 11-12- The West, 1815-1860

Week 13-14- The South, 1815-1860

Week 15-16- Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-1877

Student Attendance, Contributions and Behavior

Students must attend class to be successful. Students who stop attending a class should go through the procedure for dropping a course- If a student fails to drop a course they no longer

attend, or one in which they are not completing coursework, the student will be assigned the earned grade at the end of the course.

All Students are required to read their text according to the lecture schedule above. Students should be prepared to contribute to class discussion of the lecture topics. Exams will be based on both lecture and discussion of the text, and students should maintain careful notes in order to prepare for these exams. Students are responsible for all missed reading assignments, notes etc.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior includes unrelated reading or doing coursework unrelated to this history course, the unauthorized use of electronic devices, sleeping, talking during lecture, etc. Appropriate remedies will apply, including expulsion from the class, if necessary.

Course Grading (Important information in bold lettering below- take note!)

Your grade for this course will be based on:

- 1) Thirty-two equally weighted reading and lecture quizzes with a potential of 100 points each. Total 3200 potential points
- 2) Seven critical thinking exercises with a potential of 100 points each. Total 700 potential points

The final grade will be determined according to the following table:

A=3510 + points

B=3120-3509 points

C=2730-3119 points

D=2340-2729 points

F=2339 or fewer points

Another way of understanding the grading is that you have 39 equally weighted grades, scored on a 0-100 scale- the average of your grades on a scale of 0-100 will determine your final grade. 90+ is an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 or lower an F. **Please Note!** Your % score in the Globalyceum gradebook displays as a **running total**, meaning that it does not show missed grades. Your final grade will differ from that % score if you fail to submit any grades.

Always use your cumulative points to determine what grade you have currently achieved, and how many more points you will need to achieve a particular grade for the semester.

No makeup exams will be given, unless arrangements satisfactory to the instructor are made at least three days prior to the exam date. An exception can be made if a verifiable emergency prevents a student from taking the exam at the assigned time and date.

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, on-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is valued on our campus. Academic dishonesty is any act of deception, malicious or benign, in any academic exercise, and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor of record are examples of academic dishonesty. **Any violation of this academic integrity policy will result in a 0 (F) on the relevant assignment, exam, etc., and may result in the student being dropped with an F for the course.**

Office Location and Hours

Levelland Campus, RM# AD 123

8:00-9:30 AM TR

10:45-11:00 AM TR

12:15-1:00 PM TR

Downtown Campus, RM# 1009

12:15-1:00 PM MW

2:15-2:45 PM MW

8:00-9:00 AM F