

HIST 1301: American History to 1876

Class Time: MWF 11:00 to 11:50 AM
Class Location: AB4 220
Credit Hours: 3 hours
CRN Number: 80237
Section Number: HIST 1301.12
Semester: Fall 2017

Teaching Faculty**Jeffrey L. Littlejohn, PhD**

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Course Description

HIST 1301 is the first half of the U.S. history survey at Sam Houston State University. This course covers the colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876. In particular, students will focus on: 1) the meeting of European, Amerindian, and African cultures during the Age of Exploration; 2) the establishment of the English colonial system in North America; 3) the development of the American Revolution and early Republic; and, 4) the expansion, fracturing, and reconstruction of the United States in the nineteenth century. Credit 3.

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will gain factual knowledge about United States history.
- 2) Students will learn the fundamental principles of historical scholarship.
- 3) Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Skill Objectives

- 1) Critical Thinking: Students will be taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and cultures, integrating and synthesizing knowledge they gain in the course, forming conclusions, and building an informed belief system from the complex of information presented in the course content.
- 2) Communication: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Communication skills will be addressed in this class through class participation, the reading and discussion of historical texts, attending lectures, and watching films. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these materials originated.
- 3) Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course as students articulate how to make sound ethical judgments based on the development of their personal value system. By studying how individuals in the past drew upon their cultural belief systems to make ethical choices students will learn how their personal choices based upon ideas, values, and beliefs influence their larger society and culture today.
- 4) Social Responsibility: to include inter-cultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social Responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn about the ways in which individuals and groups in the past made decisions aimed at promoting civil discourse, civic participation, and other social values so as to improve society for all. Students will thus learn about their own social responsibilities in improving current American society.

Required Book

Visions of America: A History of the United States

By Jennifer D. Keene, Saul Cornell, and Edward T. O'Donnell

Free access to the e-book is provided in the left menu bar of our course.
Additional readings and film assignments are provided on the course schedule.

Coursework and Grading

Your final score in this course will be based on the following assignments.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	VALUE	TOTAL POINTS
4 Unit Exams	See Schedule	100 points each	400 points
8 Writing Assignments	See Schedule	50 points each	400 points
Total points			800 points

Scale:	A=800-720	B=719-640	C=639-560	D=559-480	F=479-0
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Coursework Description

Exams - Four exams will be offered during the semester. Each exam will cover the material immediately preceding it. Exams will be based on reading assignments, as well as PowerPoint presentations and other class materials. Exams may include multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and sequencing questions. You may access the exams in Blackboard by clicking on the appropriate link in the left menu bar of our course. You will have one hour to complete each exam. All exams must be completed by the due date. Absolutely no exceptions. All exams will be used to calculate your final score.

Writing Assignments - During each unit of this course, students will complete two writing assignments. These assignments require that students address a set of questions based on a film or collection of documents. Each writing assignment should demonstrate thorough knowledge of the film or documents being discussed. All writing assignments will be submitted via Blackboard and checked for plagiarism using turnitin.com. Due dates for each writing assignment are provided in the course schedule. No late assignments will be accepted for any reason.

Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Students in HIST 1301 will select their own seats during the first week of class. After that, students will sit in the same location every class period. Attendance will be taken daily, and students missing more than six class periods may receive a grade reduction at the end of the term. Students missing more than eight class periods will receive a failing grade for the course.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom -- side conversations, internet surfing, texting -- may result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see the following: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>.

Communication and Assistance

As part of this class, you will be expected to check your university email and our Blackboard page at least once every two or three days. To email us for assistance, you may either go to Blackboard or send your note directly to us.

You are very fortunate to be enrolled at SHSU, which has an outstanding academic resource to help you succeed as a student: the SAM Center. The SAM Center is located in CHSS Suite 170. The SAM Center offers academic advising and counseling for numerous issues. They also offer an excellent study skills course. Visit: http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For more, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>.

Instructor Evaluations

At the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete an evaluation of the course, but we welcome feedback about readings, assignments, and our instruction throughout the semester. Let's work together to make this a successful and rewarding learning experience for everyone.

Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is your contract for the course. We will not change the nature of the course, the number of assignments, or the grading system. However, we reserve the right to update the course schedule and reading assignments throughout the term.

Finally, visit <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus> for additional university guidelines.