

**Syllabus: HIST 1301-17**  
**American History to 1877**  
**CRN Number: 80303**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Class Time: 10:00-10:50AM M/W/F**  
**Class Location: AB4, 305**  
**Semester: Fall 2017**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Brooke Franks  
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Telephone: 936-294-3752  
Office: AB4, 309  
Office Hours: M/W/F 1:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

**COURSE TEXTS:**

*The American Yawp*  
<http://www.americanyawp.com>

This is a FREE online text accessible through any device that has Internet. You will not have to worry about purchasing a textbook. Reading the text is mandatory; questions from it will appear on writing assignments and exams. It will be extremely difficult to pass the course without reading it.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is 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 to 1876 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.

**SKILL OBJECTIVES:**

**CONTENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

**GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES:**

- A. **CRITICAL THINKING:** Students will develop habits of mind, allowing them to appreciate the processes by which scholars in various disciplines organize and evaluate data and use the

methodologies of each discipline to understand the human experience.

B. **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** Students will communicate ideas, express feelings and support conclusions effectively in written, oral, and visual formats.

C. **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Students will develop habits of intellectual exploration, personal responsibility, and physical well-being.

D. **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Students will demonstrate a global perspective toward issues of culture, society, and politics, environment, and sustainability.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

**Exams:** There will be two exams over the course of the semester. They will cover the material directly preceding them. The exams will be 2,000 word, take home exams, that consist of three short answer questions (300 words each) and one essay (1,000 words). Students will have 72 hours to complete these exams and they will be submitted online via TurnItIn. Exams questions are taken equally from classroom lectures and assigned reading. The student must cite the assigned reading as well as the lectures on each question/essay to receive full credit. All exams will be in correct Chicago Style format Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced with 1 inch margins. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in reductions to the grade.

**Document Reviews:** There will be eight document reviews, with a minimum word count of 500 words assigned. They are due bi-weekly on Thursday 11:59pm via TurnItIn. The reviews are designed for students to discuss the importance of the primary sources/ secondary sources and how they relate to the question of the current section. All reviews will be in correct Chicago Style format, Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced with 1 inch margins. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in reductions to the grade.

**Term Paper:** Each student will complete a 1,000 word term paper counting as their mid term exam. They will write a historiographical essay on a topic of their choosing that falls in the time period of the course. This assignment is designed to alert students to the different ways historians view the same issue or event. Students are expected to review at least four historical narratives of the same event and discuss the author's sources, arguments, and bias or prejudice (if any). All students must complete an abstract to be approved by the professor, complete with sources for the topic of their choosing three weeks prior to the due date. All term papers will be in correct Chicago Style format, Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced with 1 inch margins. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in reductions to the grade.

**\*\*Extra Credit\*\*:** There will be various extra credit opportunities assigned throughout the semester. Attendance to the events assigned must be accompanied by a one-page reflection of the event to receive credit.

There will also be an optional comprehensive final exam that covers material from the entire semester. Students may take this exam on a voluntary basis to replace their lowest exam score from the semester. **\*\*Warning\*\*** Taking this exam **WILL REPLACE** a student's lowest exam score. Poor performance on the voluntary exam will reflect poorly on an individual's grade.

### Calculating your final score:

Assignment	Individual Point Value	Total
Exams (x 2)	200	400
Document Reviews (x 8)	50	400
Term Paper (x 1)	200	200
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,000</b>

### Grading:

A = 900 – 1,000 points

B = 800 – 899 points

C = 700 – 799 points

D = 600 – 699 points

F = 599 points or below

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual attendance to class is essential to success in this course. Classroom lectures are designed to supplement assigned reading, not replace it. Missing lectures will cause a gap in material, resulting in poor performance on document reviews as well as exams. Students will select their own seats 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 four class periods will lose a letter grade from their final average. Students missing more than eight class periods will receive a failing grade for the course.

Poor attendance will result in the following penalties:

- 1 to 4 absences: No penalty
- 5 absences: A drop in your final grade by 100 points.
- 6 absences: A drop in your final grade by 200 points.
- 7 absences: A drop in your final grade by 300 points.
- 8 or more absences: Failure of the course.

### CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:

Students will refrain from behavior that disrupts the classroom and the learning process. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom (side conversations, internet surfing, texting, or use of head phones) may result in a directive to leave the classroom. Students who are continuously or especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**Laptops and Tablets:** Laptops and tablets are permitted in the classroom as long as they do not become distractions. Internet surfing is not only detrimental to your learning but is also a distraction to those around you. If this becomes a problem your instructor reserves the right to prohibit you from bringing your laptop to class.

**Mobile Phones:** All mobile devices will be silenced and put away during class. If you forget to

silence your phone and it goes off in class, the instructor reserves the right to count that day as an absence for the student.

**Recording Devices: No recording devices are allowed in the classroom; video, audio, or otherwise.**

### **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: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:**

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: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY POLICY:**

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 a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

## **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.

**\*Note that all university policies above can be found at the following website:**

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

## **LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:**

### **WEEK ONE**

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

-Syllabus overview

Reading: Chapter One, *The American Yawp*

Friday, August 25, 2017

Reading: Chapter One, *The American Yawp*

### **WEEK TWO**

Monday, August 28, 2017

Reading: Chapter Two, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

Reading: Chapter Two, *The American Yawp*

August 31, 2017

Writing Assignment 1 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, September 1, 2017

Group Discussion

### **WEEK THREE**

Monday, September 4, 2017

Reading: Chapter Three, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Reading: Chapter Three, *The American Yawp*

Friday, September 8, 2017

#### **WEEK FOUR**

Monday, September 11, 2017

Reading: Chapter Four, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Reading: Chapter Four, *The American Yawp*

September 14, 2017

Writing Assignment 2 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, September 15, 2017

Group Discussion

#### **WEEK FIVE**

Monday, September 18, 2017

Reading: Chapter Five, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Reading: Chapter Five, *The American Yawp*

Friday, September 22, 2017

-exam prompt given

September 24, 2017

Exam One: Due Sunday @ 11:59PM on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com

#### **WEEK SIX**

Monday, September 25, 2017

Reading: Chapter Six, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Reading: Chapter Six, *The American Yawp*

September 28, 2017

Writing Assignment 3 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, September 29, 2017

Group Discussion

## **WEEK SEVEN**

Monday, October 2, 2017

Reading: Chapter Seven, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Reading: Chapter Seven, *The American Yawp*

October 5, 2017

Historiographical Abstract: Due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, October 6, 2017

## **WEEK EIGHT**

Monday, October 9, 2017

Reading: Chapter Eight, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Reading: Chapter Eight, *The American Yawp*

October 12, 2017

Writing Assignment 4 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, October 13, 2017

Group Discussion

## **WEEK NINE**

Monday, October 16, 2017

Reading: Chapter Nine, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Reading: Chapter Nine, *The American Yawp*

Friday, October 20, 2017

## **WEEK TEN**

Monday, October 23, 2017

Reading: Chapter Ten, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Reading: Chapter Ten, *The American Yawp*

October 26, 2017

Writing Assignment 5 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, October 27, 2017

Group Discussion

October 29, 2017

-Historiographical Essay due on Sunday @ 11:59PM on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com

**WEEK ELEVEN**

Monday, October 30, 2017

Reading: Chapter Eleven, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Reading: Chapter Eleven, *The American Yawp*

Friday, November 3, 2017

**WEEK TWELVE**

Monday, November 6, 2017

Reading: Chapter Twelve, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Reading: Chapter Twelve, *The American Yawp*

November 9, 2017

Writing Assignment 6 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, November 10, 2017

Group Discussion

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

Monday, November 13, 2017

Reading: Chapter Thirteen, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Reading: Chapter Thirteen, *The American Yawp*

Friday, November 17, 2017

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

Monday, November 20, 2017

Reading: Chapter Fourteen, *The American Yawp*

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

(Thanksgiving Break)

Friday, November 24, 2017

(Thanksgiving Break)



**WEEK FIFTEEN**

Monday, November 27, 2017

Reading: Chapter Fifteen

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Reading: Chapter Fifteen

November 30, 2017

Writing Assignment 7 due on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com @ 11:59PM

Friday, December 1, 2017

Exam Two: Due @ 11:59PM on Blackboard via TurnItIn.com

**WEEK SIXTEEN**

Monday, December 4, 2017

Final Exam @ 10:30-12:30 (OPTIONAL)

Tuesday, December 6, 2017

Writing Assignment 8 calculated

**All dates are subject to change.**