



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST 1301 : US History To 1876 Spring 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Katherine Gaskamp

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OFFICE: AB4, Room 472

OFFICE HOURS: TR 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment.

Course Title:	HIST 1301
Course Subject:	US History To 1876
Class Days & Times:	ONLINE
Credit Hours:	3
Class Room Location:	ONLINE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course surveys American history from the first Native American tribes through the United States Civil War and Reconstruction. It critically engages the political, social, cultural, religious, economic, and ecological aspects of the various groups that contributed to the emergence of an American nation state and nationally based culture. This course also compares and contrasts American culture to other societies through cross-cultural encounters.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Throughout this semester, our course goals are to:

- Examine the contributions of different ethnic and social groups and their development of a multicultural United States society.
- Use cross-disciplinary approaches to provide students with a broad awareness of United States political, economic, social and cultural life through the lens of history.

Despite having a reputation of being nothing more than a mess of dates, names, and places, history is, first and foremost, about people and how they lived their lives. It is about the factors that shaped their existence and the choices they made. You will discover how multi-national settlers colonized the New World, created a new Republic, and dealt with sectional conflicts that ended in a great civil war. By reading and reflecting upon a collection of primary and secondary sources during each unit, you will develop the skills to determine your own interpretation of the past.

CORE CURRICULUM SKILL OBJECTIVES:

This core class fulfills the three credits needed for Component Area VI: American History. All courses in Component Area VI must address, and assess, critical thinking skills, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

- I. **Critical Thinking Skills:** 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 information presented in the course content.
- II. **Communication Skills:** Students will learn communication skills in this course through class participation, the reading and discussion of historical texts, and written exams. Visual aids such as films and photographs will be used during the presentation of course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these materials originated.
- III. **Personal Responsibility Skills:** 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.
- IV. **Social Responsibility Skills:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and 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.

TEXTBOOK:

This course uses a FREE and ONLINE textbook, *The American Yawp*.

To access the textbook see: <http://americanyawp.com>

RECEOMMENDED TEXT:

All of your assignments will be written. This is an excellent guidebook for successful writing, research, and avoiding plagiarism.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th Edition. Boston: Bedford, 2010.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Boards (500 points):

This course will analyze a total of fifteen textbook chapters and multiple primary sources so students can gain an understanding of what colonial British North America was like and how the United States of America was founded and why. These readings will allow you to create a chronological narrative of American history that will allow you to have a general understanding of the American past and how it is affecting the United States today. To help students interpret the knowledge they gained throughout the readings, the weekly chapters will be associated with a Discussion Board. These are open forums where students will have to discuss a number of topics, communicate feelings, and respond to controversial questions. Communication is key in all aspects of society, and written communication allows individuals to publicly make an argument with evidence, and without interruption. Though there will be FOURTEEN discussion boards for this semester, your grade will only show your top ten scores.

Exams (300 points):

Students will take TWO written exams (150 points each).

Every exam is intended to test your ability in analyzing the information contained in the textbook, and primary sources within the specified time period.

Each exam will have two parts: short answer and essay.

The short answer section will consist of themes, terms, and historical individuals from the textbook readings, videos, and primary sources. You will be given 10 terms to choose from but you will only be responsible for answering **FIVE** totaling 50 points. I am specifically looking for: who, what, where, when, and why. Each short answer must be completed in paragraph format.

The essay section of your exam will be worth 100 points. You will be given 3 to 4 essay options and you will choose **ONE** to answer. You must have an introduction paragraph with a thesis statement, a body paragraph with evidence to support your thesis, and a conclusion paragraph restating your thesis.

Primary Source Quizzes (200 points):

Students will complete FOURTEEN primary source quizzes throughout the semester. Students will use critical thinking to answer research questions while interpreting the past. Your top ten scores will be calculated into your Final Grade.

NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU NOTIFY ME BEFORE THE ASSIGNED DUE DATE.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

This course is based off a standard 1,000-point system.

*****To pass this course you must have a minimum of 600 points*****

A = 900 – 1,000 points

C = 700 – 799 points

F = 599 points or less

B = 800 – 899 points

D = 600 – 699 points

DISCUSSION BOARDS (10)	500 POINTS
PRIMARY SOURCE QUIZZES (10)	200 POINTS
EXAMS (2)	300 POINTS
TOTAL	1000 POINTS

ASSISTANCE WITH STUDYING AND WRITING:

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the support resources available through the university.

The **SAM Center** (Student Advising & Mentoring Center), which helps students improve their note-taking, time management, and study skills. The SAM Center is located in CHSS, suite 170. You can make an appointment at the SAM Center by email (samcenter@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-4444).

Additionally, you can visit the **Reading Center**, which assists students with effective reading strategies and developing the confidence to excel in their classes. The Reading Center is located in Farrington, room 109. You can stop by during their office hours (M-Th 8:00am-7:00pm; F 8:00am-3:00pm; Sun 2:00pm-7:00pm) or make an appointment by calling 936-294-3114.

For help with organizing an essay or formulating a thesis, go the **Writing Center** in Farrington 111. Their office hours are (M-F 10:00am-3:00pm) or contact them by phone (936-294-3680) or email (wctr@shsu.edu). They also offer distance tutoring via Skype.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

If caught plagiarizing or cheating the student will receive a 0 on the assignment or exam. If the student attempts to cheat or plagiarize again that student will fail the course and be turned-in to the Dean.

For the complete listing of the university's policy please see:

http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/faculty-handbook/academic_dishonesty.html

Please see the student code of conduct for more details on academic honesty here:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Students are permitted to use laptop computers, tablets, or cell phones for the sole purpose of taking notes, referencing assigned reading materials, and researching relevant class material. Cell phones, iPods, MP3, or any other technological device that is not necessary for classwork needs to be silenced and put away at the beginning of each class. At no time should students answer a call or text during class. If there is an emergency please leave the classroom to answer the call or text.

EMAIL:

Email is our primary line of communication. All emails will be sent to your SHSU.EDU email address, not your personal email account. I will not respond to emails if they are from your personal account. Please check your email every other day.

BLACKBOARD:

All handouts and outside reading material not in your textbook will be posted on the blackboard site for this course.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

The student must notify the faculty member in writing within the first 12 days of the semester of the intent to be absent due to a religious holy day. Under Texas Education Code 51.911, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time as established by the faculty member.

For a complete listing of the university's policy, see:
http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/faculty-handbook/student_absences_religious_holy_days.html

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Be nice. Treat others as you want to be treated. If you have any questions as to what exactly this means see:

<https://www.shsu.eu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

AND

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=7>.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:

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 the Services for Students with Disabilities in Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building).

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.

For a complete listing of the university's policy, see:
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

CLASSROOM VISITORS:

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 through the Registrar's Office or email the professor.

*****Student enrollment in this course confirms that you have read and accepted these policies.*****

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEKLY UNITS	TEXTBOOK CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
WEEKLY UNITS	INTRODUCTION	Introduction DB (extra credit) DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Jan 21
WEEK ONE Jan 17 – Jan 21	CH 1 – The New World	DB1 & PSQ1 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Jan 28
WEEK TWO Jan 22 – Jan 28	CH 2 – Colliding Cultures	DB2 & PSQ2 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Feb 04
WEEK THREE Jan 29 – Feb 04	CH 3 – British North America	DB3 & PSQ3 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Feb 11
WEEK FOUR Feb 05 – Feb 11	CH 4 – Colonial Society	DB4 & PSQ4 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Feb 18
WEEK FIVE Feb 12 – Feb 18	CH 5 – The American Revolution	DB5 & PSQ5 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Feb 25
WEEK SIX Feb 19 – Feb 25	CH 6 – A New Nation	DB6 & PSQ6 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Mar 04
WEEK SEVEN Feb 26 – Mar 04	CH 7 – The Early Republic	DB7 & PSQ7 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Mar 11 Midterm Exam DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Mar 11

WEEK EIGHT Mar 05 – Mar 11	Spring Break	
WEEK NINE Mar 12 – Mar 18	CH 8 – The Market Revolution	DB8 & PSQ8 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Mar 25
WEEK TEN Mar 19 – Mar 25	CH 9 – Democracy in America	DB9 & PSQ9 DUE by 11:59 PM on Monday , Apr 02
WEEK ELEVEN Mar 26 – Apr 02	CH 10 – Religion and Reform CH 11 – The Cotton Revolution	DB10 & PSQ10 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Apr 08
WEEK TWELVE Apr 03 – Apr 08	CH 12 – Manifest Destiny	DB11 & PSQ11 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Apr 15
WEEK THIRTEEN Apr 09 – Apr 15	CH 13 – The Sectional Crisis	DB12 & PSQ12 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Apr 22
WEEK FOURTEEN Apr 16 – Apr 22	CH 14 – The Civil War	DB13 & PSQ13 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, Apr 29
WEEK FIFTEEN Apr 23 – Apr 29	CH 15 - Reconstruction	DB14 & PSQ14 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 06
WEEK SIXTEEN Apr 30 – May 06	FINALS	Final Exam DUE by 11:59 PM on Thursday , May 10