

**CRN 24128 - HIST 1301.14:
The United States to 1876
3.0 Credit Hours – Spring 2018
Syllabus**

Location: Online
Class Time: Online
Instructor: Blake Tritico
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Goals:

This course introduces the student to major themes in United States history from pre-colonial times through Reconstruction. You are exposed to important historical trends that affect contemporary politics and the relationships between race, class, gender, and religion to these trends in United States history.

Be advised that this course requires you to read the material on Blackboard and **write an argumentative essay of at minimum, of 450 words each week.** The four exams and the final exam are a minimum of 750 words also in an argumentative essay format. There are no PowerPoint slides, video lectures, or other materials beyond the primary sources and other materials from the textbook. This course structure allows you to discovery themes within this historical time period and context. This course requires reading, reflection, and writing. To be successful you must have the time to read, reflect, and write on the material presented.

Specific goals of this course are to develop these skills in the manner described below:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students are taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and culture, 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;
- **Communication Skills:** Communication skills are addressed in this class through the reading and discussion of historical texts, and writing assignments. Visual aids such as photographs are used during presentation of the course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these material originated;
- **Personal Responsibility:** Personal responsibility is addressed in this course as students articulate and demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

- **Social Responsibility:** Social responsibility is addressed in this course as students learn to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

From the Course Catalog:

[HIST 1301 - United States History To 1876](#)

The colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876.

3.000 Credit hours

3.000 Lecture hours

Levels: Correspondence, Undergraduate

Schedule Types: [Lecture](#), Online Lecture

History Department

Course Attributes:

Core V - History & Pols 2301, Writing Enhanced

Course Textbooks:

The **required textbook** for this class is *Constructing the American Past: A Sourcebook of a People's History*. Eighth edition, by Oxford University Press.

ISBN13: 9780190280956

ISBN10: 0190280956

This textbook is available on Amazon, Chegg, textbooks.com and other sources. Please make sure you have the **eighth edition**.

There may be other course materials used, if so, these will be posted to Blackboard for you.

Course Requirements:

Computer and Internet:

This is an online course; a functioning computer and access to a **reliable** Internet connection are **required**. You cannot complete this course successfully from a smartphone or other device. Let me stress again, a **reliable** Internet connection is a course requirement. Lack of Internet connectivity is not a valid reason for failure to submit assignments on time.

Office Hours:

My office hours are by appointment. I am available by email (btritico@shsu.edu). Please do not wait until you are in trouble with this course to contact me. It is much easier to get help early rather than at the end of the semester. I am here to help you succeed in this course!

Email:

Communication skills are key to success in life and this course.

Email addressed to me needs to be written professionally. This means email to me comes *only from your SHSU account*; all other accounts are deleted or treated as spam. At a minimum, the following are required:

- in the subject line **the course identification (HIST 1301.14)**
- a clear and concise subject
- a greeting (e. g. Hello Mr. Tritico)
- the email needs to be written in complete sentences with proper grammar and spelling
- a sign off with your name as it appears in the grade book.

Please do not “piggy back” on previous emails I have sent to the class – start a fresh email! I check email throughout the day, from 9:00AM until 4:00PM, Monday through Friday. I do not check or respond to email after 4:00PM or on the weekends. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. This means if you send me an email on Friday at 4:01PM, I may not respond to it until as late as Tuesday at 9:00AM.

Attendance Policy:

There is no attendance policy in an online course.

Late Work/Make-up

Late work and make up Exams **are not allowed** please do not ask. In cases of dire emergencies (ICU/ER, etc.), or military service, exceptions are made with adequate documentation.

Course Assessment:

The following are used to assess knowledge and progress against the stated outcomes of the course: Weekly Primary Source Quiz, Short Writing Assignments, and written Exams. All of these assignments are written, taken as a test (Primary Source Quiz), or submitted through Turn-It-In as a .docx file (Short Writing Assignment and exams), and have a **minimum** word length.

Please note doing the minimum word count earns the minimum grade. **You must include a word count. Failure to include a word count on SWA or exams results in a 10 percent penalty.** Word count is minus course information, citations, etc. in all

submitted work. Word does this for you, Review -> Word Count. At the end of your document, insert the word count like this: --467--

Primary Source Quiz (PSQ): There are 13 Primary Source Quizzes covering the assigned readings indicated in the course schedule. These assignments are designed to ensure comprehension of the readings. These are also preparation for the SWAs. All PSQs are multiple choice. Each PSQ is based on the Primary Source Analysis Rubric provided on Blackboard. Do your research, answer all the questions on the Primary Source Rubric, and you are then prepared for the PSQ. Of the 13 Primary Source Quizzes, I use the 10 best grades.

All PSQs open on Blackboard Monday at 8:00AM and are due that same Monday by 11:59PM of the week assigned.

Short Writing Assignments (SWA): There are 13 SWAs covering the assigned readings indicated in the course schedule. These assignments are designed to ensure comprehension of the readings. These are also preparation for the types of questions on your exams. Of the 13 SWAs, I use the best 10 grades. All SWAs are written in formal style, as argumentative essays, and are **a minimum of 450 words.**

All SWAs are found on Blackboard in the Module section, are submitted through Turn-It-In, and are due by 11:59PM on Wednesday of the week assigned.

Exams: There are four unit exams and a final exam. Only the best four exam grades are used to calculate your final grade. **All exams are formally written as an argumentative essay.** The exam question is available on the Monday before the exam is due. This gives you time to prepare for the exam, to do research, think critically about the problem, and draft your essay. Students who do these three things score exceptionally well on my exams. **Exams are a minimum of 750 words.** Again, the minimum word count earns a minimum grade.

All Exams are submitted through Turn-It-In, exams open on Friday at 12:00PM and close on Sunday at 11:59PM of the week due.

Course Schedule:

Please pay attention to the course assignments and when they are due.

- All PSQ are due on **Monday**. The PSQ are available every Monday from 8:00am – 11:59pm.
- All SWA are due on **Wednesday**. The SWA are available every Monday at 8:00am and due every Wednesday by 11:59pm.
- All exam questions are posted to Blackboard on Monday at 8:00am and the exam is due by **Sunday** at 11:59pm of the week due.

Course assignments follow the Course Calendar (see Blackboard). **It is your responsibility to understand this calendar and submit course assignments on time.** For a detailed schedule, please see the Course Calendar on Blackboard.

Written Work Grading Rubric

Grade	“D-F” Work	“B-C” Work	“A” work
Assignment Components			
Identification of author’s thesis	Author’s thesis not identified.	The author’s thesis is present, but either not in the introduction of the assignment or vaguely identified.	The author’s thesis is clearly and concisely identified in the introduction.
Author’s thesis put into proper context	No context for author’s thesis provided.	Some context for author’s thesis is included, but it remains unclear why the argument is significant.	The author’s thesis is placed into its proper context with author’s viewpoint and reason for writing. Significance of argument is clear.
Recognition of author’s most important supporting evidence	No recognition of the author’s most important supporting evidence.	Some supporting evidence is recognized, but not the most important for the thesis.	The author’s most important supporting evidence is recognized and stated clearly.
Evaluation of author’s argument and evidence	No evaluation of author’s argument and evidence.	Evaluation of author’s argument is weak, unconvincing, or incomplete.	Persuasive evaluation of the author’s argument and evidence.
Mechanics, style, and organization	No topic sentences. Writing is unclear. Many errors in grammar and spelling.	Some topic sentences missing. Paragraphs are choppy or too long. Unclear writing. Occasional errors in grammar and spelling.	Topic sentences identify key points. Paragraphs connect and flow logically. Correct grammar and spelling throughout.

This rubric is used for **all** written work in this course. You can see what is required for an A. Please note that submitting the **minimum** word count on an assignment is likely to get a minimum grade. “A” level work requires more than the minimum effort.

- For citations, use Chicago Style (**footnotes – NOT inline citations**).
- Include a **word count** (e.g. –437--) at the end of each written assignment, not including footnotes or bibliographies. Word count does not include class details, citations, or bibliographies. **Failure to include word count costs 10 percent of the grade.**
- All written work needs to be in a Word document, no other formats accepted.
- You must use Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with one inch margins for all written assignments. **I do not accept written work in any other format.**

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit available for this course.

Grading:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Final Exam*	100 points
Short Writing Assignments	500 points (50 points each - best 10 of 13)
Primary Source Quiz	300 points (30 points each - best 10 of 13)
Total	1200 points

*Only the best four exam grades are used to calculate your final grade.

Grading Scale:

1080 - 1200 points	A
960 - 1079 points	B
840 - 959 points	C
720 - 839 points	D
719 points or less	F

Assistance with Studying and Writing:

You are also urged to utilize 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.

University Policies:

Can be found here: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in their academic experiences, both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work is 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.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- Cheating on an examination or test, for example by copying from another's paper or by using unauthorized material before or during the test
- Plagiarism, which one represents as one's own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source

All academic dishonesty cases are first reviewed by the instructor, who can assign a penalty. Students have the right to appeal. Please see the Student Guidelines handbook for the proper procedures.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT PLAGIARISM AND HONESTY

Using the words, ideas, or conclusions of another person without giving proper credit is a form of intellectual dishonesty known as **PLAGIARISM**. This behavior always has been, and still is, unacceptable and dishonest. Exact quotes must be cited according to the Chicago Manual of Style (footnotes). **Paraphrasing** means to restate, therefore, the working must be completely changed. Altering a few words or phrases is not sufficient...the entire passage must be restated in **YOUR OWN** words.

Do not jeopardize your place in this class by succumbing to the dishonest production of required work--it is dealt with swiftly.

Penalty: The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty of any kind, including plagiarism, is a grade of zero for the work in question. *A second incident of academic dishonesty results in a grade of F for the course, additionally; I will do my utmost to pursue your expulsion from the University.* Please see the Student Code of Conduct.
<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

Americans with Disabilities 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 Counseling Center which is across from the Lee Drain Building (You can call them at 936-294-1720). If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and speak with the professor as soon as possible. All

disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

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. 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.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

Instructor Evaluations

You will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester.

Changes in the Syllabus

The Instructor reserves the right to change the course syllabus at any time.