

HIST 1301 Syllabus for Summer 2008

United States History I

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Office Location: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Information

Course Description: HIST 1301 Study of the History of the United States to 1877.

SCANS competencies: None required, but students will need good reading, writing and study skills to succeed in this course. Students will be expected to read about 450 pages of textbook, and, depending on the individual instructor, may be obliged to read an outside book and/or do a research paper. Students will have to write essays, book reports, and/or research papers and will be expected to observe decent English grammar and spelling rules. Although students will be told when tests will take place and be given detailed learning objectives to facilitate study, students will be expected to study information in detail to prepare for the tests.

instructional methodology: lecture/active learning. This means that on most days, we have lecture, but we also have other activities where you help yourself and your classmates learn.

Course Rationale: The Texas legislature requires students to take 6 hours of American history to graduate from an institution of higher learning in Texas. This course helps fulfill that requirement. Students taking History 1301/1302 can expect to improve their reading and writing competencies, critical thinking skills, research skills, etc., all of which help students better succeed in life outside academia.

Common Course Objectives: Please <http://www2.austin.cc.tx.us/history/1301syll> for a complete listing of these objectives.

Course Policies

attendance: You are responsible for your own attendance. If you stop coming and don't withdraw yourself, you will get an "F". If you come so few times that you have no idea what is going on, you will earn an "F."

withdrawals: If you decide that you do not want to take this course, you must withdraw yourself. Only a trip by you to the admissions office, followed by filling out the appropriate forms, can do that.

incompletes: If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from finishing the semester's work on time, but you have finished most of the work and have a passing grade on the work you have already done, I will consider allowing you an incomplete. If you take an incomplete, you must finish the work during the agreed-upon time period. If you do not, you will be failed, regardless of your prior grade in the class. **Most students do not finish incompletes, thus they should be sought only as a last resort.**

students with disabilities: Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three

weeks before the start of the semester. (Disabilities include a wide range of impairments. Even if your difficulty does not interfere with most life functions, if it interferes with being able to perform tasks as they are usually done, such as test-taking with pen and paper, it may be considered a disability with regard to school.)

academic freedom: The free and open exchange of ideas is vital to the pursuit of learning.

scholastic dishonesty: ACC's Academic Honesty Policy reads: "Acts prohibited by the College for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework." **If I determine that you have cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, I will fail you on that assignment. If you do so again, I will fail you for the course and report the incident to the Dean of Students. (Cheating includes having someone else do your work for you.)**

Blackboard: This class makes use of Blackboard. You can find your grades there as well as any updates. The only required assignment on Blackboard is the Orientation Test.

Class cancellations: If a class has to be cancelled, I will put an alternative assignment, and post any necessary rescheduling, on Blackboard.

Required Texts and Supplies:

Textbook: Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty*, v. I, 2nd edition; ISBN 978-0-393-93027-6

Supplies:

(suggested, so you can keep track of your assignments) labeled computer disk, labeled file folder *(mandatory, because you can not do your assignments without these)* lined notepaper, blue or black pen, 4 green scantrons.

Assignments:

Exams: 100 pts. ea.

You will have a choice between 50 question multiple choice tests and 10 question short answer tests. If you do the multiple choice test, you will need to have a green scantron and a pencil. If you opt for the short answer test, you will need a **blue or black pen**.

Make-up exams and re-tests:

There are no make up exams or retests. However, you may substitute one exam grade with a 5 page essay, due the same day as the last test. Substitute topics for each exam will be included with the exam review material, which you will find on Blackboard. The cover sheet of your essay must say which test grade the essay is substituting for.

Bonus: 5 points per test

A 25 question multiple choice practice test for each exam will be up on Blackboard. You may take any practice exam as often as you like prior to the day of the test—the questions will change each time. Any earned points will be added to your test grade.

Class Rules:

- Turn off your cell phone. Do not text while in class, either.
- Laptops are OK.
- Tape recorders are OK.
- No drinks or going to the restroom during tests.
- Detailed instructions and reviews for assignments can be found on Blackboard. Look there before you ask me.
- When emailing me, use your full name and “HIST 1301” in the subject line and include your email address in the body text, to make sure your email doesn’t get marked as SPAM.
- Allow 24 hours for a response to email.
- Do not hold conversations during class.
- Exams will be held during the first 90 minutes of Saturday’s class.

Schedule of lectures and assignments:

July 12-13 Ch. 1-3; Expansion of Europe, English settlements
July 19-20 Ch. 4-8; Exam 1; American Identity, American Independence
July 26-27 Ch. 9-11; Exam 2; Market Revolution, Democracy and Slavery
Aug. 2-3 Ch. 12-15; Exam 3; Manifest Destiny, Civil War, Reconstruction
Aug. 9-10 Exam 4; substitute papers due