



**History 1301.101CL (6205)  
United States History I  
Spring 2023  
M/W 9:30am - 10:50am (Bldg 8 - Rm 255)**

**Instructor:** J. Matthew Bennett, M.A.  
**Office:** N/A

**E-mail:** jbenett16@com.edu  
**Phone:** 713.909.3985

**Student hours and location:**

M/W from 11am - 12pm or by appointment - meetings can be on campus, or over the phone.

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

Edwards et al. *America's History: Concise Edition*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2018. (ISBN: 9781319196080)

**Course Description:**

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 I 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. Prerequisite: TSI Reading 351 or equivalent developmental course with a grade of "C" or better.

**Course requirements:**

The course grade is based on the accumulation of points. Each assignment has a point value and the total amount of points for this course is 1000. The assignments and their point values are as follows:

- **14 Knowledge Check Quizzes: 280 pts. (20 pts. Each)** - These will be short quizzes to check for understanding of the weekly lesson material and will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.
- **4 Discussions (Participation): 200 pts. (50 pts. Each)** - This will be graded based on participation in a number of discussion forums. Discussion forums are a way for students to engage with each other about the course content.
- **3 Primary Source Essays: 240 pts. (80 pts. Each)** - These will be short 1-1.5-page essays discussing a selection of primary source material. Details of this assignment will be made available early in the semester.

- **Responsibility Essay: 180 pts.** - Required by the college, this will be a written essay comprising 3 pages discussing the responsibility of a historical figure covered within the timeline covered by this course. Details of this assignment will be made available early in the semester and will be due prior to finals week.
- **Oral Presentation: 100 pts.** - Required by the college, this will be a 5-7-minute presentation discussing each student's research for the Responsibility Essay. Details of this assignment will be made available early in the semester and will be due prior to finals week.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (Final grades will be calculated according to the following formula):**

❖ Quizzes	280 pts.	28%
❖ Discussions	200 pts.	20%
❖ Primary Source Essays	240 pts.	24%
❖ Responsibility Essay	180 pts.	18%
❖ Oral Presentation	<u>100 pts.</u>	<u>10%</u>
	<b>1000 pts.</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

A 900 - 1000 points (90 - 100% average)	C 700 - 799 points (70 - 79% average)
B 800 - 899 points (80 - 89% average)	D 600 - 699 points (60 - 69% average)
	F 0 - 599 points (0 - 59% average)

**Rounding**

Rounding is done at the sole discretion of the instructor. Grades will not be increased if students have a record of disruptive behavior or the instructor feels that a higher grade would not be justified.

***Please Note: Grades are earned. They are not a figure to be negotiated between the instructor and students. It is important to understand that not every student will receive a perfect score on every assignment; in fact, few ever do. Only uniformly outstanding work will receive an "A." Work that is above average will receive a "B." Work that is average/sufficient will receive a "C." Work that is below average will receive a "D." Work that is failing will receive an "F." Students expecting to receive an A for simply attending every class and completing every assignment as instructed should drop this course immediately.***

**Makeup/Late Assignment Policy (Read Carefully)**

Excusing or making-up assignments is at the sole discretion of the instructor and will be considered on a case by case basis, and may incur a grade deduction. Quizzes CANNOT be made-up. Not because I don't want to, but the Learning Management System (Brightspace) does not allow me to individualize assignments, so please complete them within the allotted time. Email submissions will not be accepted without approval.

Make sure you attend class regularly and keep up with the assigned readings. If at any time you are unsure of the material we are covering, please get with me. For information on Incompletes or other college policies and requirements, consult the COM Student Handbook.

**\*\*A "broken" computer or no internet connection are NOT acceptable excuses for missing an assignment\*\***

### Questioning a grade

If students have questions or other issues with a grade, this is the procedure to follow:

First, the instructor will not discuss an assessment/assignment right after they are graded (other than to correct a math error in the grading). Students should review graded assignments and any comments made by the instructor. After waiting a day students should make an appointment with the instructor and come to that meeting with specific questions and concerns and be prepared to specifically explain why they deserved a higher grade (do not simply say "I studied and thought I should have done better"). If the instructor and student do not reach an agreement, the assessment/assignment will be re-graded with the score being increased, decreased, or unchanged.

At the end of the semester, please do not email me asking for your grade to be raised because you need extra points to maintain your GPA or to graduate or for other such reasons. Again, any questioning of your grade must include specific questions or comments regarding specific aspects of an assignment.

### Attendance Policy/Procedure

The nature of this course is such that one should attend all scheduled sessions. There is a clear and direct correlation between attendance and success in the classroom, therefore regular attendance is strongly urged. However, in the event of illness or extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate. With that being said, attendance will be taken per college guidelines. Please be aware of those guidelines and attend class regularly so as not to be dropped or failed for absences.

**\*The instructor will not drop/withdraw students for nonattendance\***

### Actively Read

You will have 3-5 hours of reading weekly. To *actively read* means to take notes in a structured and meaningful way while reading the text. Read all that is assigned and strive to create an outline or summary of the main ideas, events, terms, people, etc. of each section. This will be invaluable in aiding your comprehension and retention; also, the notes will provide study material for you to consult prior to discussions and essays. If you do not read, or you do not absorb the reading, your grades will suffer. Please be aware that material in the texts may not necessarily be covered in class but will be questioned about in the quizzes.

### **Classroom note taking and study habits**

It is strongly encouraged that students take notes, as the weekly quizzes will partly be based on lecture material. Furthermore, notes may be utilized for discussions and essay assignments. Concerning study habits, get together with your fellow students and form study groups. A student may understand something another student might have trouble with and vice versa, and can help each other out.

### **Student Conduct**

The classroom should be a learning centered environment in which faculty and students are unhindered by disruptive behavior. Students are expected to maintain proper decorum in the classroom. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the class and/or the College.

### **Academic Freedom**

Each person has a right to his/her opinions. However, this does not mean that every opinion is right. In order to pass the course, the student must be knowledgeable about the material whether or not he/she agrees with the course content, perspectives presented, or opinions of the instructor. Students will be evaluated on their knowledge of the material from the lectures, texts, and films. Active participation is expected in class and all viewpoints will be allowed as long as discussion takes place in a respectful, thoughtful, and academically minded manner.

### **Electronic Device(s)**

Electronic devices, with the exception of laptops, **ARE NOT ALLOWED** in the class. This includes cell phones, and video/audio recorders, etc. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Laptops will be permitted in the classroom for the purpose of note taking. Keep in mind that if you are not on task taking notes and surfing the web, you are not only distracting yourself but your fellow students. Any student found to be off task will have their laptop privileges revoked. As for recording lectures, an accommodation will only be permitted for ADA students. No unauthorized recording will be permitted.

### **Adult Content Disclaimer**

In our discussions, readings, and possible viewings of films about American history we will undoubtedly discuss sexuality, violence, racism, sexism, and other topics that might be unsettling. It is my firm belief that U.S. history is full of amazing and inspiring but also frequently tragic moments and we need to grapple with them all. Please be prepared to discuss as mature adults.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Proper e-mail etiquette (student name, class name, and proper addressing of the instructor) is required if you wish for your e-mail to be answered in a timely fashion. Remember that I am neither your boy/girlfriend, nor your drinking buddy!

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty - such as cheating on assessments or plagiarism are extremely serious offenses and will result in a 0 on that assessment/assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline actions.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Shinya Wakao ([swakao@com.edu](mailto:swakao@com.edu)/409.933.80107).

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### **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook Student\_Handbook\_2022-2023\_v4.pdf (com.edu). An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 3.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of failure due to a lack of attendance, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to

withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:** If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	Critical Thinking	Responsibility Essay
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	Critical Thinking	Responsibility Essay
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.	Critical Thinking	Responsibility Essay, Discussions, Primary Resources Essays
4. Develop, interpret, and express idea on a History 1301-related topic through written communication.	Communication Skills	Responsibility Essay
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through oral communication.	Communication Skills	Oral Presentation & Discussions
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through visual communication.	Communication Skills	Oral Presentation
7. Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility	Responsibility Essay
8. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to decision-making.	Personal Responsibility	Responsibility Essay

**SCHEDULE (subject to change):**

	Lesson(s)	Reading(s)	Graded Assignment(s)
Week #1 January 16 - 22	Course Introduction Lesson 1 - New World, Old World	AH - Ch. 1	-Quiz #1 (Syllabus Quiz)
Week #2 January 23 - 29	Lesson 2 - England's Colonies	AH - Ch. 2/3/4	-Quiz#2
Week #3 Jan 30 - Feb 5	Lesson 3 - Toward Revolution	AH - Ch. 5	-Quiz #3
Week #4 February 6 - 12	Lesson 4 - The War for Independence	AH - Ch. 6	-Discussion #1 -PS Essay #1 -Quiz #4
Week #5 February 13 - 19	Lesson 5 - Building a Nation	AH - Ch. 7	-Quiz #5
Week #6 February 20 - 26	Lesson 6 - The Early Republic	AH - Ch. 7, cont.	-Quiz #6
Week #7 Feb 27 - Mar 5	Lesson 7 - Jeffersonian America	AH - Ch. 7, cont.	-Quiz #7
Week #8 March 6 - 12	Lesson 8 - Unity & Division in the Early Republic	AH - Ch. 8	-Discussion #2 -PS Essay #2 -Quiz #8
Spring Break March 13 - 19	N/A	N/A	N/A
Week #9 March 20 - 26	Lesson 9 - The Age of Jackson	AH - Ch. 9	-Quiz #9
Week #10 Mar 27 - Apr 2	Lesson 10 - Building the Continental Empire	AH - Ch. 11	-Quiz #10
Week #11 April 3 - 9	Lesson 11 - Divergent Societies	AH - Ch. 10	-Quiz #11
Week #12 April 10 - 16	Lesson 12 - The Road to War	AH - Ch. 12	-Discussion #3 -PS Essay #3 -Quiz #12
Week #13 April 17 - 23	Lesson 13 - The Civil War	AH - Chs. 13/14	-Quiz #13
Week #14 April 24 - 30	Lesson 14 - The Aftermath of the Civil War		-Discussion #4 -Quiz #14
Week #15 May 1 - 7	N/A	N/A	-Oral Presentations
Week #16 May 8 - 14	Finals Week	N/A	-Responsibility Essay

AH - America's History