



History 1302.013I1
United States History II
1st 8 Weeks – Fall 2025
Online

Instructor Information: Dr. Smith, csmith55@com.edu

Student hours and location: Anytime through email or virtual meeting. You can reasonably expect a response in 24-48 hours during the school week. Weekend email will be answered on Monday or when checked. I do not check email on Saturday or after 10PM. Professors do have lives of their own too!

Required Textbook/Materials: *The Gilded Age: A History in Documents* by Janette Greenwood. **There is no required textbook for the entire course, only for the reading assignment.** There is a supplemental textbook (The American Yawp) that can be found in the “Supplemental Materials” tab.

Course Description: A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction eras to the early 1990s. Topics may include: Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, The Age of Reform, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Space Age, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, and the Reagan Era. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II 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.

Course requirements:

Online Conduct: Voltaire once said, “To the living we owe respect, but to the dead we only owe the truth.” We will do both in this class. We will tell the truth about the dead and respect the living. This section provides some guidelines on how to conduct yourself in an online class. Some guidelines include, but are not limited to:

1. Students must be familiar with various forms of technology when taking an online course.
2. Students must have access to the internet. **Not having access to the internet and/or other plans/responsibilities/vacation/anything else is NOT an excuse for missing lectures, exams, quizzes, or any other assignments.** This includes any system outage on any end of your connection, whether it is COM, your ISP, or your dog chewed up your router. This is an online class. Prepare accordingly and have a backup plan. **HINT: The best backup plan is to keep up with your work and not wait until the last minute.**

3. **Students need to understand that, because this is an online class that is not self-paced, self-discipline is required and this class will take up time.** Online classes cover the same material as a face-to-face class and it is up to the student to make time to get it done.
4. Students are expected to keep in contact with Dr. Smith.
5. **When emailing Dr. Smith, students need to include what school, class, and section they are enrolled in to get a timely response.**
6. Students are expected to check the class and the email the school has on file for them often so that they do not miss important posts.
7. Online courses are more formal than other online forums, like social media, and students are expected to behave as if they are in a formal setting. That means being professional, correct grammar and spelling, and being mindful of language. Students are allowed to use emojis to convey tone because tone is typically lost online, but do not overuse them.
8. **DO NOT TYPE IN ALL CAPS LIKE THIS!!!! IT IS ANNOYING!!!!**
9. Be positive. Be respectful. Have fun!
10. Any violations of the Code will result in a referral to the Office for Student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class.

Important safety tips: The professor also reserves the right to do the following to violators of the classroom behavior outlines: 1. Call out said violator's inappropriate behavior. 2. Eject said violator from the class. 3. Alter said violator's grade on the basis and severity of the violation, including dropping the student from the class entirely. This syllabus is a contract between the professor and all students enrolled in the class. Coming to the class on a particular day implies the student has read the contract and willfully abides by it. It is very simple, respect the professor and the other students and you will be shown the same respect.

Course Work Requirements: This is a course that requires the student to log in weekly, listen to lectures in their entirety, complete the quizzes, do the exams, and any other assignments if they want to be successful. Each lecture contains material that is not available in the textbook, material that the student is responsible for and will be tested upon; therefore it is essential that students make a concerted effort to watch the lecture videos. Rigorous note taking and studying of lecture notes is expected if the student is to succeed on quizzes and exams. In addition to listening to lectures, students that feel lost or confused on a subject should contact the professor first or the textbook pertaining to the lecture on that subject if they choose to utilize the optional textbook. Any work that has been determined to come from an unapproved internet source, whether it is cited or not, will not be accepted. **Once a week is over, the material for that week is gone forever. Do not ask Dr. Smith to re-open closed material.**

Brightspace Tabs Walkthrough: This will help students understand the purpose of each course tab at the top of the page in the course's Brightspace.

Course Home: This is where students need to begin the course and this will help get students through the first week of class. It contains the course announcements, checklists, and quick links to various areas of the course.

Content: This is where you will spend most of your time. This tab contains the Read Me First, Syllabus, as well as all of the Units under the “Content” section. Also, it contains quick links to the Assignments, Assessments, and Course Resources (rubrics, FAQs, other materials) sections of the course.

Assignments: This is where you will turn in your paper, presentation, and optional assignments.

Discussions: Links to all of the class’s discussion boards. This is where the Introductions, all of the Unit discussion boards, the paper assignment discussion board, and the optional Technology discussion board are located. Remember, there will be a Unit discussion board almost every week!

Quizzes: Quick link to all of the Unit quizzes, Syllabus Quiz, Reading Mega Quiz, and the Optional Exam.

Grades: This is where you find...your grades. Crazy, I know, right?!

Course Tools: Quick ways to find certain aspects of the class, such as Announcements, Quizzes, etc

Course Resources: Distance Ed. Support, COM Library, NetTutor, and test taking tips

Determination of Course Grade:

Syllabus Quiz (15 points): A short five (5) question quiz over various elements of the syllabus. Each question is worth three (3) points. It can be found in the “Content” tab in the “Syllabus” section or “Quizzes” tab in Brightspace.

Introduction (15 points): A short introduction about yourself. See the instructions on how to do this in the “Discussions” tab in Brightspace.

Gilded Age Reading Mega Quiz (50 points): Students will be quizzed over their understanding of the letters, articles, and other various writings and photos found in the book. Students will be required to read and understand the following selections from *The Gilded Age: A History in Documents*: **What is a Document?; How to Read a Document; Chapters 1, 3, 6, 8, 10.** The assignment will open **August 25, 2025 at 8AM**. Students will have **forty (40) minutes** to answer **twenty-five (25) short answer questions**. The reading assignment Mega Quiz will be available under the “Quizzes” tab on Brightspace.

Unit Quizzes (10 points per Unit – 120 points total): Each Unit has an attached quiz. Each quiz will be five (5) questions, worth two (2) points each. Each quiz must be taken before the end of its assigned week. Quizzes can be found in their respective Unit folder or “Quizzes” tab. **You will only have twelve (12) minutes to take the quiz. You only have ONE chance to take a quiz. There are NO retakes. It is advised that you take the quiz immediately after finishing the Unit lecture. Unit folders can be found under the “Content” tab in the “Content” section in Brightspace.**

Discussion Board Posts (25 points per Unit – 200 points total): Each week, students will answer a question or two about the Unit material in a discussion board post. Each student’s individual post is worth fifteen (15) points. After posting their response to the question, each student will provide at least two (2) responses to other students’ posts, each post is worth five (5) points. **A rubric for how student posts will be graded is provided under the “Content” tab in the “Course Resources” section in Brightspace.**

Extra Credit (Optional): There are two ways to earn optional extra credit in this class. Both are worth twenty (20) points, so up to forty (40) points of extra credit, depending on the quality of the work. If you would like to do the assignments, they will be found in the “Optional Assignment” tab on Brightspace the last week of class. **Dr. Smith retains the right to reject extra credit for any reason. It is extra credit and therefore does not pertain to the class’s standard credit.** A rejection of extra credit will not affect the grading of standard credit. Extra credit options will be available under the “Content” tab in the “Assignments” section in Brightspace. **Any academic dishonesty precludes a student from extra credit.**

Late Work and Fairness Policy: All assignments with a deadline must be turned in on or before that deadline. **Late work is not accepted.** If you believe you might miss a deadline, talk with Dr. Smith before the deadline date. **Not knowing due dates or having other plans/responsibilities are not an excuse because all due dates are listed on this syllabus and in the Brightspace calendar. No, I cannot “just open assignments back up.” This is about fairness to all students in the class.** Everyone has the same opportunities and time windows to complete work.

Feedback on Your Assignments: Feedback for this course will take a variety of forms. First, there is self-feedback. The quizzes will inform students of wrong answers, but will not provide students with the correct answer. This is to encourage students to go back to their notes, find the correct answer, and why they missed the question. If that cannot be found to a student’s satisfaction, then students are free to email Dr. Smith to discuss the material. Second, the discussion boards will provide self- and peer-feedback on the material through the various discussion of the material. Dr. Smith will provide feedback, comments, and redirecting of the conversation when needed. Third, Dr. Smith will provide individual feedback to each student in the paper, presentation, extra credit, and My Journal through Brightspace comments. Grades for exams and quizzes, students will receive immediately. Written assignments usually have a two-week turnaround. Sometimes it will be quicker than two weeks. Other times it will be longer than two weeks, depending on the volume of assignments that need grading. If students would like more personalized feedback, students are free to email Dr. Smith and/or set up a virtual meeting.

Course grades will be calculated as follows: **There is no other rounding of grades, except those listed below. Do not point beg. It will go poorly for you.**

Introduction	- 15 points
Syllabus Quiz	- 15 points
Reading Mega Quiz	- 50 points
Unit Quizzes	- 120 points
Discussion Boards	- 200 points
Total Points	400 points

Final Grade

A: 358 – 400 (89.5 – 100%)

B: 318 – 357 (79.5 – 89.4%)

C: 278 – 317 (69.5 – 79.4%)

D: 238 – 277 (59.5 – 69.4%)

F: < 238 (59.5%)

Course Due Dates and Schedule

(Date Assignments for Week Open – Date Assignments for Week are Due)

Week 1 (Aug. 18 – Aug. 24): Units: 1, Syllabus Quiz, Introductions

Week 2 (Aug. 25 – Aug. 31): Units: 2, Gilded Age Reading Mega Quiz Opens

Week 3 (Sept. 1 – Sept. 7): Units: 3, Gilded Age Reading Mega Quiz Closes

Week 4 (Sept. 8 – Sept. 14): Units: 4, 5

Week 5 (Sept. 15 – Sept. 21): Units: 6, 7

Week 6 (Sept. 20 – Sept. 28): Units: 8, 9

Week 7 (Sept. 29 – Oct. 5): Units: 10, 11, 12 (10 and 11 are due at the end of the week, 12 will remain open)

Week 8 (Oct. 6 – Oct. 9): Units: 12 (Yes, this is a weird week. No, I do not know why it is this way. We are just as perplexed as you!).

(Note the semester ends on Thursday, October 9, 2025. You MUST have everything completed by that time.)

The professor retains the right to change anything on this syllabus.

Attendance Policy: The nature of this course is such that one must log in to the class weekly. This is not a self-paced class and you must keep up with the weekly work. Students have the responsibility to complete all work when it is due by the end of each week. **Each week starts at 8AM on Monday and ends at 11:59PM on Sunday (except the last week – see above). All material assigned that week is due by the end of that week, unless noted elsewhere. The course due date schedule is above...you literally just passed it. Once the week is over, the material is inaccessible, as in, once it is gone, it is gone. Do not ask Dr. Smith to re-open closed material. The professor retains**

the right to alter grades based on attendance and/or participation, whether positive or negative. In the event of illness or extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to inform the professor in a timely fashion. The professor may give attendance information regarding any student to counselors, administrators, and advisors.

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.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper, Discussion Boards
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper, Exams, Discussion Boards
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Exams, Quizzes, Discussion Boards
4. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through written communication.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Paper, Quizzes, Exams, Discussion Boards
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through oral communication.	Communication Skills (CS2)	Lectures, Exams, Presentation
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through visual communication.	Communication Skills (CS3)	Lectures, Exams, 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 (SR)	Lectures, Exams, Quizzes, Presentation, Paper, Discussion Boards
8. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Lectures, Exams, Quizzes, Presentation, Paper, Discussion Boards

relate consequences to decision-making.		
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Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. When in doubt – cite!! Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

Basically, any form of academic dishonesty on any assignment will result in a zero for that assignment and a referral to the Dean of Students. Further punishments could result in a failure for the course, removal from the course, and possible removal from the college.

A.I. Warning: The use of A.I. in this class is strictly forbidden and any use of A.I. for any purpose is a violation of the academic integrity policies. **This is your first and only warning.** Dr. Smith and the tools at his disposal are the final arbiter in this process. Any work deemed to be fully or partially A.I. created will receive an automatic zero, no questions asked. **The bar for a violation is low.** Repeated violations could result in an automatic F for the class and referral to the Department Chair and the Dean of Students for any further punishments, up to and including: a Student Conduct hearing, removal from the class with a F and permanent academic integrity issue mark on transcripts, and/or removal from the college itself.

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 Dr. Shinya Wakao at swakao@com.edu or 409-933-8107

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 <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>

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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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 or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.