



**History 1301.106CL
US History 1 to 1877
Spring 2024
M-W 12.30-1.50 pm
LRC, Room 252**

Instructor Information

Name Dr. Gilchrist White
Email gwhite@com.edu
Office Phone 409.933.8212 (Social and Behavioral Sciences Office; the Administrative Assistant can get a message to me.)

Student Hours and Location

Student Hours Mon-Wed, 12-12.30 pm; or, by Appointment
Office Location LRC, Suite A, Social and Behavioral Sciences Office

My Teaching Philosophy

Learning is best achieved when students become engaged with the material and discover information on their own. Students also need interaction with other learners through discussions, debates, collaboration, and evaluation. Individual learners also need to reflect on their learning—to evaluate his/her past experiences and how they relate to his/her present situation, and to plan for future learning and growth. A teacher's job is to help learners with this on-going process.

This philosophy places students at the center of their own learning and in charge of it.

Required Textbooks

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright, Ed. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook*. Vol. 1: To 1877. 2019. 2022-2023 updates included.
(This is a free textbook that you can read online, save as a PDF to your computer, or purchase through Stanford University for \$25. When you open the page, you will see a link for print or PDF versions of Volumes 1 and 2 at the bottom on the screen.)

Instructions to access the book:

1. Open your browser and search for [The American Yawp](#) (or click on this link).
2. This opening page has the Table of Contents with Volume 1 chapters in the left column. Click on the chapter title to go to it.
3. In addition, the home page has other links. One is to the Reader with primary documents for each chapter. 2 other links will take you to a PDF version of the textbook that you can download for free and a link to purchase a print copy of the textbook through Stanford University Press.

Other Requirements

You must use Microsoft Office Word for your essays and other written assignments. You may download a free copy of Office 365 through the College web site.

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 1 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 1 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.

History 1301 is an academic transfer course satisfying COM's American History Core Curriculum requirement.

Course Requirements

1. Exams

Each exam will have an objective section, usually multiple-choice questions, and an essay section. The objection section will be given in class. The essay section will be written outside out of class and submitted through an Assignment link in D2L. Exam material will be drawn from both the PowerPoint lectures and assigned readings and any other material covered in the unit such as films. Exams will not be cumulative. (4 @100 points each; 400 points total)

- A Study Guide will be available for each exam/unit of study. Each will be due when the respective exam is due and will not be accepted late. (25 points each; 100 points total)

2. Historical Research Paper

Each student will write a 3-5-page research paper over a topic in US History from 1492 to 1877. Several steps are required and are part of the final grade on the paper.

- Submit your topic to your instructor in an email. (5 points)
- Paper proposal which will include the thesis statement and sources you plan to use. (20 points)
- Completed paper. (100 points)

Specific instructions for writing the paper and due dates will be provided in a handout.

The Proposal and the Research Paper itself will be turned in through an Assignment link in D2L.

3. Oral Presentation

Your Oral Presentation will be based on your Historical Research Paper. A detailed handout will be provided. (50 points)

4. Social Responsibility Paper

The assignment will be on a topic in American history between 1492 and 1877. Students will understand the obligation of citizens or members in regional, national, and global communities, and will demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, global communities. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided. (100 points)

5. Personal Responsibility Assignment

This short writing assignment will require students to assess themselves at the end of the semester. It will be available the last week of the semester. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided. (50 points)

6. Short Writing Assignments

There is a total of 8 of these short writing assignments. Each assignment will be a paragraph length response to questions about selected primary documents. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided for each of these assignments. (8 @ 25 points; 200 points total)

7. Miscellaneous Assignments

- Syllabus Quiz (week 1) 10 points

Grading Formula

A cumulative point system for grading is used in this course:

Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points
Study Questions (4 @ 25 points each)	100 points
Historical Research Paper	100 points
Social Responsibility Paper	100 points
Personal Responsibility Paper	50 points
Short Writing Assignments (each 25 points)	200 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	<u>10 points</u>
Total	1010 points*

** Your grade will be based on the number of points you have earned divided by the total points available. The D2L Grade book keeps a running total of points so that you can always see how you are doing.*

Grading Scale:

A	909 – 1010
B	808 - 908
C	707 - 807
D	606 - 706
F	605 and below

I have been as accurate as I can with the number of points available, but assignments can be dropped or added as needed to insure your comprehension of content. Therefore, the point total, and therefore the grading scale, may change. I will keep you informed of any changes.

Late Work

I do not like to accept late work. However, I understand that occasionally a student may have an unexpected problem getting an assignment in on time – for whatever reason. If you find yourself in that situation, you need to see me before or after class or email me ASAP (use my COM email).

If I agree to accept your late assignment, you will have **2 (two) weeks** to submit it, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the assignment earns a "0" – unless you and I have agreed on different terms.* All assignments must be uploaded to D2L.

Missed Exam

Objective Portion: If you miss the objective, in-class portion of an exam, an alternate exam will be given. *I WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY have a makeup exam available. **YOU** must request the alternate exam.* You will have **2** weeks to take the makeup exam, and I will

deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the objective section of the exam will earn "0" (zero) points.*

Written/Essay Portion: If you miss submitting the written essay part of an exam by the due date, it will be treated as *Late Work*. You will have **2 (two) weeks** to submit the exam essay, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the essay section of the exam will earn "0" (zero) points.*

Make-Up Policy

Review the Late Work and Missed Exam Policies above.

Written assignments may be turned in late up to 2 weeks after the due date. However, you need to discuss it with me first, and a letter grade will be deducted from the late assignment. After the 2 week period, the assignment will earn 0 (zero) points.

If you are having trouble with an assignment, let me know BEFORE it is due. I will work with you as much as I can.

Extra Credit

There are 2 ways to earn extra credit in this class.

1. Course Evaluation, available toward the end of the semester. If you complete the evaluation, I will award 5 points to your course point total.

NOTE: As with all course evaluations, I will not see the results until after grades are in and they are not identified by name so the results are completely anonymous. I only receive a list of students who completed the evaluation.

2. Extra Credit Film Review. You must watch a film covering an event that occurred or a person who lived between 1492 and 1877. There are many excellent films both recent (within the last 5 or so years) and older films (10 to 20 or 30 years old).

This extra credit assignment is in D2L in Content. A list of film titles is provided in D2L, but other titles must be approved by your instructor before it is turned in. If the title is not approved, the review will not be accepted. A list of possible films is included with the review assignment.

Specific instructions for this assignment are available in the Assignments Folder in Content. Only one review will be accepted, and it is worth 15 extra credit points, added to your course point total.

Attendance Policy

COM recognizes no excused absences other than those prescribed by law: religious holy days and military service (see the current *Student Handbook*).

In accordance with that policy, I recommend that you miss no more than 4 classes, for whatever reason. Failure to actively participate in the class WILL affect your course grade. A suggested amount of time is 6-9 hours per week spent in reading, reflecting, writing, and participating in class.

Please do not schedule doctor's appointments or other events during class time.

If something happens and you know you will be unable to participate for a short period of time, notify me and keep me informed of your situation. I will work with you as much as I can.

Tardiness Policy

If you must be late, come in and take the nearest vacant seat. See me after class.

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.

If you have questions outside of class, email me through COM email. If you have computer problems and CANNOT access D2L or the Internet, leave a message with the Administrative Assistant, Kerry Kloesel (409-933-8212), and I will call you as soon as I can.

Table Mapping SLOs, Core Objectives, and Assignments

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

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 exams – is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam or paper and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism is a common form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his/her work to be used by others is also guilty.)

Links to Resources about Avoiding Plagiarism

[Purdue University OWL](#)

[The Tutoring Center at COM](#)

Concerns/Questions Statement

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact your instructor using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with your instructor, you continue to have questions, please contact the Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409.933.8107 or swakao@com.edu.

General Course Outline *See detailed Calendar in separate handout.*

(Schedule subject to change)

Weeks 1-4: Beginnings, Exploration, Early Colonization

- Lectures, class discussion, films
- Chapters 1-4 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period
- Week 4: Exam 1
Research Paper Topic due

Weeks 5-8: British Colonies and Empire, the American Revolution, the New Nation

- Lectures, class discussion, films
- Chapters 5-8 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period
- Week 7: Research Proposal due
- Week 8: Exam 2

Spring Break!

Weeks 9-12: Industrial Revolution, Jacksonian Democracy, Manifest Destiny, Reform

- Lectures, class discussions, films
- Chapters 9-11 and 13 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period
- Week 10: Historical Research Paper due
- Week 12: Exam 3

Weeks 13-16: Reform, 1820-1860, Politics 1850-1860, the Civil War, Reconstruction

- Lectures, class discussions, films
- Chapters 12 and 14-16 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period
- Week 13: Social Responsibility Assignment due
- Weeks 15-16: Oral Presentations; Extra Credit Film Review due
- Week 16: Exam 4; Personal Responsibility Paper due

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/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf. *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. 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 February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw from the 2nd 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

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.