



History 1301-024I2
United States History I
Fall 2025
Online Course – 2nd 8 Week Session

Instructor Information:

Ignacio D. Alvarado

Email: ialvarado5@com.edu

Office hours and location: Online – Mon-Fri 10am-3pm via email. I will be most responsive to emails within these hours. If you send me an email outside of these hours, I will do my best to answer it within 24 hours. These hours and contact methods are subject to change.

Required Textbook/Materials:

- The American Yawp (<https://www.americanyawp.com>). This is your textbook. You may click on this link to access it, or access it through the modules on our course directly on Brightspace.
- Access to a reliable computer and reliable internet access.
- Microsoft Office (for writing assignments)
- Respondus Lockdown Browser
- Webcam or computer camera (for taking exams and for the Oral Presentation assignment)

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.

Course requirements: All assignments and exams will be turned into D2L Brightspace. Further instructions for each assignment will be posted on Brightspace on each assignment page.

Syllabus Quiz: This is a short quiz on the contents of this syllabus. This is to ensure that everyone has read the syllabus and understands their responsibilities in this course.
(25 points for the quiz)

Exams: There are four exams in total for this course, one for each module. These exams will be strictly multiple-choice questions, will be taken online, and will be timed. Material for each exam will come from the readings in our textbook. Make sure to look at the study guide provided in the course for each exam ahead of time. This will help you to be much more prepared for the questions. Look on Brightspace for specific dates and times for each exam as they open.
(100 points for each exam; 400 points in total)

Primary Source Analysis: Each module will have two Primary Sources that you must analyze. They may present contrasting views or similar ones. Your tasks will be to summarize each documents' main points, explore how each document fits in with our course material, and compare the two sources to each other. These assignments are to help you understand opposing or contrasting viewpoints in history. These assignments will be turned in as Word documents to Brightspace, and they should be between 1-2 pages in total and no shorter than a single page.
(50 points for each Primary Source assignment; 200 points in total)

Module Discussion Questions: In each module, a Discussion topic will be introduced regarding a critical or controversial historical question and will be posted as forum topics on Brightspace. These will be based on either historical figures, movements, or ideas that are relevant to each module. These discussions will be a practice for civil debates on potentially controversial topics.
(50 points for participating meaningfully in each Discussion; 200 points in total)

Oral Presentation/Topic: In the final module, students will need to give a five-minute presentation and upload it to Brightspace. The topic should be related directly to our course material's time span; for example, a topic related to Native American relations with European settlers would be a good potential topic; a topic related to U.S. history in the Cold War would not. Early in this course, you will have an assignment due: picking a topic for your presentation and discussing your ideas. The topic and ideas for your presentation will be uploaded as a brief Word document to Brightspace, and will be worth 25 points. This is to ensure that you are preparing for the presentation early, rather than scrambling for a topic at the last minute. Feel free to use our textbook as a place to look for potential topics.

Students will record their presentation and either upload it directly to Brightspace in the "Oral Presentation" section of our course, OR upload it to YouTube and then upload the link to Brightspace; the choice is yours. There will be no audience for the presentation apart from myself for grading purposes. The presentation is worth 150 points of your total grade.
(150 points for the presentation; 25 points for the topic proposal; 175 points in total for both assignments together)

Grade Breakdown:

Exams – 100 points each / 400 points total

Primary Source Analysis – 50 points each / 200 points total

Module Discussion Questions – 50 points each / 200 points total

Syllabus Quiz – 25 points total

Oral Presentation Topic – 25 points total

Oral Presentation – 150 points total

Total Possible Points: 1000

Extra credit assignments will vary in their value.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

The following table shows point totals and how they will be used to determine your final grade in this course. While I am more than willing to discuss your progress in the course or any issues you may be having, I will not negotiate any grades.

- **A: 900-1000**
- **B: 800-899**
- **C: 700-799**
- **D: 600-699**
- **F: 0-698**

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: I generally do not accept late work. I do understand, however, that circumstances can sometimes get in the way of turning in an assignment. If this happens, let me know as soon as possible via email. There must be a valid reason for you to have missed the deadline for an assignment (hint: valid reasons do not include simply forgetting the assignment and/or procrastination). If I give you an extension on the assignment, you will have between 4 days – 1 week (depending on what we agree is necessary, and how far along we are in the course) to complete and turn in the late assignment. I will deduct one letter grade from the assignment, since it is turned in late. After this grace period, if the assignment has not been turned in, it will earn a grade of 0.

If you miss a deadline for an exam, you must provide documented proof of why it was missed. A make-up exam can only be done if the initial exam was missed due to a legitimate emergency or circumstance. As an example, not knowing the exam would open on a specific day is not a legitimate reason. There will be reminders throughout the semester regarding exam days. Exam 4 will not have a make-up.

Extra credit opportunities will be available as the course progresses. These opportunities will be at my discretion.

Attendance Policy: Because of the shorter length of this course and the amount of reading and assignments, students should plan to spend at least **6-8 hours** each week reading the material and working through assignments. You should also be logging in several times a week, between 3-5 times, to work on assignments, catch up on readings, or simply to remind yourself of deadlines.

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.

Please look carefully at the following guidelines and follow them throughout this semester. These are essential for successful communication.

- The best way to get in contact with me about the course is by email. My email address is in the first page of this syllabus. When emailing me, make sure to use your official COM email address, NOT your personal one. I will not be responding to any emails from personal email addresses since they will likely end up in my spam folder. Additionally, we need to communicate via official COM email addresses in order to adhere to FERPA regulations. Using your official COM email address will ensure that I am actually communicating with you.
- I will do my best to answer any emails within 24 hours, especially during my posted office hours. However, do note that I am unlikely to respond on nights or weekends unless there is an assignment due.
- I expect all email correspondence to be written in a formal, professional tone. Emails should have a brief subject about your message, and you should refer to me as “Mr. Alvarado” in your greeting. In your sign-off at the end of the message, you must include your name, class, and section; this is to help me know to whom I am speaking.
- When posting on the forums, you will also use formal college-level writing. I expect everyone to treat each other with respect in their interactions, even if there is disagreement over your perspectives. Your responses to the discussion topics and to each other need to be well thought out.

A Few More General Tips

- If you are ever confused about an assignment, look at the requirements for each assignment (posted on Brightspace for each assignment) first, before reaching out to me
- Use whatever methods of study work best for you (note taking, flashcards, study groups, etc.)
- If you have further questions on the material in the course, reach out to me via email. The textbook is quite extensive, so I do not expect to see too many questions on the material
- Make sure to check the course frequently, as I will be opening content and assignments throughout the session
- Make sure to complete all assignments within a reasonable time, to avoid any technical issues that might come up

- Read the textbook frequently! There is a lot of reading in this session, so make sure to spend a good amount of time each week reading the assigned chapters of each module. I recommend reading all chapters of a module within the first week of the module opening, if possible. Doing this will ensure that you are well prepared for the assignments of each module, and that you are caught up on all material in a timely fashion
- If you are having trouble keeping up with the material, or an issue occurs that is affecting your progress, let me know as soon as possible. Do not wait until the final week of the course to reach out. The sooner that we address your situation, the more likely we will be able to help you get back on track

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze and interpret primary sources	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Primary Source Analysis
2. Analyze and discuss critical historical questions/topics	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Module Discussion Questions
3. Effectively communicate and engage historical topics with others in a civil manner	Social Responsibility (SR)	Module Discussion Questions
4. Demonstrate research skills and ability to share findings through oral communication	Communication Skills (CS3)	Oral Presentation
5. Demonstrate writing skills and ability to express historical ideas through written communication	Communication Skills (CS1)	Primary Source Analysis and Module Discussions

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 your source!! 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.

Statement on the Use of A.I.: The use of Artificial Intelligence (or A.I.) for written assignments is strictly prohibited in this class. Any use of A.I. by a student in the class will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with as such. Prior to being graded, all written assignments will be checked for the use of A.I. using several A.I. detectors. Any questions on this issue can always be directed to me; reach out to me via email and we can discuss your concerns.

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 409-933-8107 or swakao@com.edu.

Course Outline/Schedule/Important Dates:

This is a tentative schedule, with dates subject to change as necessary. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments and assessments will be due at 11:00pm Central Time on the date listed. Make sure to contact me much earlier than the due date/time if you have any doubts or trouble about any given assignment. I am not likely to answer any emails past 7:00pm.

Module 1: October 13 - October 24

Chapters 1-5 of the Textbook

Syllabus Quiz Due: Oct. 16

Module 1 Discussion Due: Oct. 20

Census Day: Oct. 20

Module 1 Primary Source Analysis Due: Oct. 22

Module 1 Exam Due: Oct. 24

Module 2: October 25 – November 7

Chapters 6-9 of the Textbook

Oral Presentation Topic Due: Oct. 29

Module 2 Discussion Due: Nov. 3

Module 2 Primary Source Analysis Due: Nov. 5

Module 2 Exam: Nov. 7

Module 3: November 8 – November 19
Chapters 10-12 of the Textbook

Module 3 Discussion Due: Nov. 13
Module 3 Primary Source Analysis Due: Nov. 17
Module 3 Exam: Nov. 19

Module 4: November 20 – December 4
Chapters 13-15 of the Textbook

Module 4 Discussion Due: Nov. 24
Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of W: Nov. 25
Module 4 Primary Source Analysis Due: Nov. 26
Thanksgiving Holiday: Nov. 27 – Nov. 30
Oral Presentation Due: Dec. 3
Module 4 Exam Due: Dec. 4

Syllabus Disclaimer: Policies and due dates are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Instructor's Note: Before asking questions on policies, due dates, requirements, etc., consult this syllabus before contacting me. If you ask me about something that is covered in the syllabus, I will refer you to it.

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.