



**HIST 1301-321H1  
United States History I  
Fall 2024  
League City Campus, Room 210  
Tuesday/Thursday  
7:10 AM – 8:30 AM**

**Instructor Information: Debra Ramsey**  
[Dramsey1@com.edu](mailto:Dramsey1@com.edu)  
409-933-8307

**Student hours and location** M/W 6:30 – 7:00 AM – League City Campus Room 136  
T/Th 6:30 – 7:00 AM – League City Campus, Room 210  
M/W 9:00 – 10:30 AM – COM LRC Suite A, 225  
M/W 12:30 – 1:30 PM – COM LRC Suite A, 225  
T/Th 1:30 – 2:30 PM – COM LRC Suite A, 225

**Required Textbook/Materials:** We will utilize American Yawp free online textbook. The link has been provided. You can view this textbook on the web or download a PDF format. You have the option to purchase a hard copy. The COM Bookstore has the HIST 1301 for \$33.95 plus tax. American Yawp <https://www.americanyawp.com/>

**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 and 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:**

**Online Lecture Material:** This is a Hybrid class, which means we only meet 2 days a week. We will very possibly not get through all the material we need to in one day, so you will be required to view online video lectures.

**Active Participation:** Active participation in class is not group work. You will be given material to be prepared to discuss in class prior to the class. Active participation is answering questions posed by the instructor and being prepared by reading the material prior to class

**Homework:** Students are expected to read each assigned chapters.. Generally, in college: A student spends 3 hours for every hour in class. For a three-hour course (such as History), most students spend about 7-9 hours per week studying and preparing for class. Students are expected to read and prepare prior to coming to class. This will lead to class discussions and a better understanding of the chapters.

**Discussion Boards:** There are weekly discussions, each week the discussion will open on Monday. Initial posts are due by Friday of that week, and two responses are due by Sunday of that week.

**Exams:** There will be **four exams** during the semester with a value of **100** points each, 50 points for a Multiple-Choice portion, 50 points for the Written portion. Exam material will be drawn from quizzes, assigned readings, D2L/Brightspace assignments and all class activities. Students should pay attention to terms in the study guides and quizzes.

Each exam may consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and map questions

**Core Objective: Critical Thinking**

**Writing Portion Exams:** There will be four writing portion exams during the semester, in addition to the multiple-choice exams. The instructions for the writing portion will be on D2L.

Mechanics (Spelling, grammar, proper in text citations and works cited if needed)	25%
Format (Double Spaced, Times New Roman Font)	15%
Content (Discussion of topic, accuracy, length of paper)	60%
	100%

**Assessment Quizzes:** In addition to the four exams, there will be assessment quizzes. Quizzes will count for 100 points (10 points each quiz). **Like exams, quizzes cannot be made up.** Missed quizzes receive a grade of zero. All quizzes will be in D2L and timed based on the number of questions in the quiz. Please do not email the instructor asking what chapters the quizzes cover. This information is in D2L. Quiz dates are tentative depending on how far we get on our topics in class.

**Research Proposal:** You must turn in your Research Paper Proposal in order to turn in your Research paper draft. You must view all feedback on the Proposal in order to turn in your Research paper draft. Instructions are in D2L.

**Research Paper Draft:** Students will turn in a Research Paper draft. Instructions are in D2L. Students must turn in a draft and view the feedback before you can turn in your final Research Paper

**Research Paper: Each** student will write a minimum 5-page research paper on a topic in US History from 1492 - 1877. This paper should be in a research paper format and **NO LESS** than 5 pages. A works cited page should be included. Follow MLA formatting guidelines, including citations and a works cited page. Paper must be double spaced Times New Roman font, 12 pnt. Please review rubric for grading criteria. Before you write your paper, post your topic on the appropriate discussion board. This is to make sure you choose a topic that falls into this class's scope. If you do not post in the discussion board and get your topic approved, you risk receiving a zero for the paper. If your paper is not 5 pages long , you will lose points in the Create an argument through use of historical evidence, You must use at least 5 sources (**no textbooks of any kind**).

Students are required to use Tutoring for this paper, you may either use COM Tutoring or Tutor.com

The Research Paper Assignment will be graded using the following formula:

Analyze sources	25%
Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	25%
Effective use of Critical Thinking Skills	25%
Effective use of Communication Skills (written)	25%
	100%

**Oral Presentations:** Each student will create an oral presentation over the topic that you wrote your research paper on. You will not read the paper but give a presentation telling us what you learned about the subject. Students will create their video on the appropriate assignment. The presentations should be 3-5 minutes long. I need to at least see your face at the beginning of your presentation. You may use a PowerPoint for the rest of your presentation.

Verbal Communication	33.3%
Content/Organization	33.3%
Enthusiasm/Audience Awareness	33.3%
Total	100%

**Responsibility Paper Draft: Students** must turn in a draft of the Responsibility paper. Students must turn in a draft and view all feedback to turn in the final paper.

**Responsibility Paper:** Students will pick a person or movement that fits into the time period of 1492-1877. Students will write a minimum two-page typed paper on the Social and Personal Responsibility of the subject. The student must include a paragraph in their paper discussing the social and personal responsibility of the individuals involved. Please be specific when discussing personal and social responsibility. Students will use **primary and secondary** sources for their paper. You must include a works cited page. Students are required to use Tutoring for this paper, you may either use COM Tutoring or Tutor.com. If your paper is not a minimum of 2 pages you will lose points in the area of Critical Thinking Skills.

Example Topic: Harriet Tubman’s decision to help runaway slaves, what are the consequences of her actions? What personal responsibility does she have and how does it influence those around her? What social responsibility does she have and how does it influence those around her?

Effective use of Critical Thinking Skills	- 25%
Effective use of Communication Skills (grammar & work usage, sources)	- 25%
Analysis of the Social Responsibility component of the topic	- 25%
Analysis of the Personal Responsibility component the topic	- 25%
	100%

**All Paper Requirements: Points will be taken off for incorrect formats**

- Spelling and capitalization need to be correct
- All papers must be typed, double spaced with a 12-pt. font
- All pages must have appropriately sized margins.
- All papers must contain information detailed in the procedure section of these guidelines
- Do not submit a paper you have used for another class.
- All Papers require a works cited page with sources that were used

**Sources: Please use the COM Library for sources for all papers.**

**Sources NOT to use:** Any encyclopedia, Wikipedia, History.COM, PBS, anything that ends in .org, NPS, NPR, Kahn Academy, no news stations, Whitehouse.gov, google books. Also do not use any article that does not show its sources. Most websites are not college level academic sites. Use the Library, you can do this online. Please review the Writing Section in D2L

**Extra Credit:** All Extra Credit is already available in D2L. Please do not ask me for more extra credit, or alternate assignments if you fail to turn in assignments. I will not provide any assignments to replace missed assignments. This is the only extra credit that I will give you. Please do not email me and ask for more extra credit.

**DUE DATES:** All due dates are listed in D2L. Please utilize the Calendar, Announcements, and the assignments themselves for the due dates. Please do not email your instructor asking for due dates, they are listed in D2L.

**Turnitin:** All papers will be submitted to Turnitin. Please check your similarity report, this flags plagiarism. Also, Turnitin now checks to see if your paper was written by Artificial Intelligence, you will not see this percentage, but your instructor will. **Any percentage of Artificial Intelligence usage will result in a zero for your paper. Do not use Grammarly or any other online helpers to help you write your paper, it will show up as Artificial Intelligence.** There will be no rewriting of papers once the due date has passed. If you need help with papers, use the COM Tutoring Center.

**No “Recycled Assignments for Course Credit:** You may not re-submit an essay or discussion post (or portions thereof) that you did in another course for credit in this course, including material from one of my classes in an earlier semester. Therefore, even if you have done an assignment before in another class, you must do it from scratch this semester.

**Feedback:** To improve your writing, you should be reviewing feedback. When you upload your paper, you should review your similarity percentage and fix your papers.

**Technology statement:** The instructor is not required to consider lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet or computer access shall not constitute a valid excuse for missed work. Any student who cannot keep up with the coursework owing to a lack of computer or Internet access or functionality should refer to the Library Computer Lab hours of operation (<https://www.com.edu/computer-labs/library-computer-lab>) and plan to complete all coursework during posted hours.

If you fail to complete an assignment or exam because your computer crashes or loses internet access, forget to attach a file, attach a wrong/blank/empty file to an assignment, did not verify submission of the correct file/information/link/etc., or did not use the appropriate browser or operating system to access and complete course work, then you are not entitled to make up or resubmit the course work. If the assignment, discussion,

project, or exam was not completed or submitted in a timely manner due to your error or due to end-user technological issues of any kind, it cannot be made up.

**Grades:** Please make sure you are checking your grades weekly, if you see any issues you need to let me know asap. Do not wait until the end of the semester. Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking me for a grade bump. I give plenty of extra credit, I do not bump grades. I will not round up grades. Please remember this class does not go by percentages but by points.

**Course grades** will be calculated as follows:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Attendance	100
Responsibility Paper Draft	30
Responsibility Paper	70
Responsibility Paper Tutoring	10
Research Paper Proposal	10
Research Paper Draft	30
Research Paper	70
Research Paper Tutoring	10
Oral Presentation Video	70
Discussion Boards	100
Quizzes	100
Multiple Choice Exams	200
Writing Portion Exams	200
Total	1000

**Grade Scale:**

A (90-100% average)	900	to	1000	90	to	100
B (80-89% average)	800	to	899.9	80	to	89.9
C (70-79% average)	700	to	799.9	70	to	79.9
D (60-69% average)	600	to	699.9	60	to	69.9
F (59% or below)	Below 600			Below 60		

**Make-Up Policy:** There will be **NO** makeup tests or quizzes given. You are given dates for exams in advance. If you miss an exam you need to provide **DOCUMENTED PROOF** of why you missed the exam. The only situations in which a make-up exam will be allowed are **GENUINE AND DOCUMENTED EMERGENCIES**. If the exams are taken on D2L, I expect this to be an **EXTREMELY** rare occurrence. There is no make-up for assignments. Simply not being prepared for an exam is not a valid excuse for not taking an exam on the scheduled date and time. There is no Make-up work, you have a window of several days and in some cases several weeks to complete assignments. I do not go back and open assignments up.

**Late work will not be accepted.** Please do not ask for alternate assignments. If you have issues with an assignment, you need to see me **BEFORE** the assignment is due. I cannot help you if you contact me after the assignment is due. **Please do not email me missed assignments, all assignments must be uploaded to D2L.** I will substitute your lowest exam grade for one missed exam (this **DOES NOT** mean I drop a grade). I will also substitute the lowest Writing Portion grade for one missed Writing Portion. If you turn in the wrong paper, I will not substitute for that paper. If you miss more than one exam those grades will be zero. I do not give extensions on papers as they are available for several weeks. The only situations in which a make-up exam will be allowed are **GENUINE AND DOCUMENTED EMERGENCIES**

Please be aware going on a trip/vacation does not warrant getting extra time to complete assignments.

If you have issues with an assignment, you need to see me **BEFORE** the assignment is due. I cannot help you if you contact me after the assignment is due.

If you have issues with the grade on an assignment **DO NOT** wait until the end of the semester to say something. I will not go all the way back to look at those assignments.

**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. Instructor will reply to email

within 24 hours, weekend emails will be answered on Monday. Please include your course name and number in the subject line. (HIST 1301-321)

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

**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 a 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 appropriate discipline actions.

Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. It is a serious offense of academic dishonesty and legally could be construed as



infringement of intellectual property. Plagiarism of an assignment will result in a **grade of zero** on the assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Please do not turn in papers you have previously turned in for another class. You will receive a zero.

**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 at swakao@com.edu 409-933-8107

**Computers, phones, earbuds:** Computers, phones and earbuds should be put away during class. You are in a college level class; you will be treated as such. If you choose to use a computer, phone or listen to music you are not present and actively participating in class. Your grade can be affected because you are engaged elsewhere.

Course Outline: **Subject to change**

History 1301  
United States History I

Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Syllabus/D2L/Writing Early America/Exploration	Read Chapters 1-2 Discussion: Introduction Discussion: Leif Erickson initial post due by Friday. 2 responses due by Sunday Syllabus Quiz in D2L Quiz 1 in D2L (Chapters 1&2)
Week 2	Colonization/Revolution Exam 1 – Chapters 1-5	Read Chapters 3-5 Quiz 2 in D2L – Chapters 3 & 4 Discussion: Roanoke initial discussion post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday Research Paper topic due Exam 1 MC will be in class 8/29 Exam 1 Writing Portion 8/29
Week 3	New Nation Constitutional Convention	Read Chapters 6-7 Quiz 3 in D2L– Chapters 6 & 7 Discussion: Marbury V. Madison initial post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday Responsibility Paper and Tutoring due 9/4
Week 4	Market Revolution Age of Jackson – Democracy in America Exam 2 Chapters 6 - 9	Read Chapters 8-9 Quiz 4 in D2L – Chapters 8 & 9 Discussion: 1824 Election initial post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday Exam 2 MC in D2L due 9/15 Exam 2 Writing due 9/15
Week 5	Religion and Reform Antebellum South – Cotton Revolution	Read chapters 10 –11 Quiz 5 in D2L – Chapter 10 Discussion: Slavery and Religion initial post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday
Week 6	Manifest Destiny Exam 3 Chapters 10-12	Read Chapter 12

		Quiz 6 in D2L – Chapter 11 & 12 Discussion: Texas Revolution initial post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday Exam 3 MC in D2L due 9/29 Exam 3 Writing due 9/29
Week 7	Sectional Crisis Civil War	Read Chapter 13 –14 Quiz 7 in D2L – Chapter 13 Discussion: Sherman’s March to the Sea, initial post due by Friday, 2 responses due by Sunday Quiz 8 – Chapter 14 & 15 Research Paper and Tutoring Due 10/3
Week 8	Civil War/Reconstruction Final Exam	Read Chapter 15 Quiz 9 in D2L – Chapter 15 Exam 4 MC in class 10/10 Exam 4 Writing 10/8

### **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\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 26.

**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).

**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.