



**History 1301.014IN  
US History 1 to 1877  
Spring 2023  
Online**

**Instructor Information**

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

**Office Hours and Location**

Office Hours Mon-Wed, 9-10; or, by Appointment  
Office Location Online through TEAMS; I will also monitor email Mon-Fri between 8 and 5, and check email at least once a day on Weekends and holidays

**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**

P. Scott Corbett, et al, *U.S. History*. Published by OpenStax. Updated May 20, 2022. (*This is a free, downloadable textbook.*)

Instructions to access the book:

1. Open your browser and search for Openstax. It is provided by Rice University.
2. Click on subject and search for the book *US History*. There are instructions to download the app, download the PDF, read online, or order a print copy.

You may also Click on this link if you are reading this syllabus online in Desire2Learn: [US History \(Openstax\)](#) to access the book. This link is a direct link to our textbook.

**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. Go to COM's Home Page. Click on the College Operations tab and scroll down to the Information Technology button. Click on it. At the top of IT's page is a button "Office 365." Click on it and follow the instructions on the page.

**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 online section of multiple-choice questions and an essay section. The online section will be under Quizzes in Desire2Learn (D2L). The essay section will be written outside D2L 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 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 of total)
- Paper proposal which will include the thesis statement and sources you plan to use. (20 points of total)
- Completed paper. (75 of total)

Specific instructions for writing the paper and due dates will be provided in D2L. (100 points)

### 3. Social and Personal Responsibility Paper

Students will pick a person or movement that fits into the time period of HIST 1301: U.S. History to 1877 and write a two-page typed paper on the Social and Personal Responsibility of the subject. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided in D2L. (100 points)

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?

### 4. Discussions

A large part of the learning process is done in collaboration with others—discussing the readings and historical events and listening to others. In this class, these activities are imperative for richer understanding of the events and people who made history. (*Online, listening is reading carefully.*)

There are 2 types of discussions in this class. The first kind are general discussions about material we've read or films we have seen. For example, in week 1, you are assigned an Introduction and a What is History discussions. Each of these general discussions will be worth 10 points each. (11 @ 10 points each = 110 points)

The second type of discussion will be over Primary Documents. Briefly, a primary document

or source is some sort of first-hand account of an event. For example, the Black Lives Matter marches and protests have been reported on by television stations, newspapers, internet blogs, and photographers – all these eyewitness accounts are primary documents. Each of these discussions on will ask you to read, analyze, and interpret primary documents, and then post your interpretations in a discussion forum in Blackboard's Discussion board. There will be focused questions for you to answer. (9 @ 20 points each = 180 points)

For both types of discussions, you will read your classmates' posts and reply to at least 2 of them.

Replies to earn full credit:

- Your responses must be more than "I agree with you," if you want to receive full credit for your responses. Your replies should have some substance: if you agree with a posting, why? If you disagree, why?
- When you respond to others, observe the rules of Netiquette—we don't have the advantage of body language and tone of voice to moderate our words. Since our replies can happen at the click of a button and cannot be retracted, be polite even as you disagree with someone.
- Be aware of your audience and purpose.

*To earn full credit, you must post your responses to the questions and reply to at least 2 other posts in the discussion forum.*

Refer to the rubric posted in the Assignments Folder in Content for the specific grading requirements.

*Note: your response to the question(s) will be due Friday night and your replies to other posts will be due Sunday night each week.*

#### 5. Oral Presentation

You will have a choice of topics from a list I will provide; each presentation will be 3-5 minutes in length and must include a visual aid (this includes PowerPoint, posters, photographs, etc.). A detailed handout will be provided. (50 points)

#### 6. Miscellaneous Assignments

- Syllabus Quiz (week 1) 10 points

### **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. Written 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).

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 is 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.

### 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/Personal Responsibility Paper	100 points
Discussions (points vary; see above)	290 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	<u>10 points</u>
Total	1050 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	945 – 1050
B	840 - 944
C	735 - 839
D	630 - 734
F	629 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 is not accepted.** 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. Please do not email me missed assignments.

All assignments must be uploaded to D2L Brightspace.

I will substitute your lowest exam grade for one missed exam – whether it is the online, timed section OR the essay (this DOES NOT mean I drop a grade). If you miss more than one exam (either the online or essay sections) those grades will be a zero.

### Make-Up Policy

There will be NO makeup tests or quizzes given. You are given dates for exams in advance. Please make every effort to be available the days an exam is open. Essays and other papers are available for several weeks. You should be working on them and not wait until the last minute. I will not give extensions on any papers as they are available for weeks. Late work will not be accepted.

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.

**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.**

### Attendance Policy

In an online class, “attending” means logging in at least 2-3 times per week—at your convenience—and participating actively in the class. “Active Participation” is completing discussions each week, completing writing assignments, and taking exams.

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 discussion forums.

If something happens and you know you will be unable to log in and participate for a short period of time, notify me and keep me informed of your situation.

**Note: Simply logging in to your online course does not constitute attendance.**

### 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 D2L for specific due dates and assignments. Schedule subject to change)

Weeks 1-4: Beginnings, Exploration, Early Colonization

- Chapters 1-4 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions and films
- Week 4: Exam 1 due  
Research Paper Topic due

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

- Chapters 5-8 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions and films
- Week 7: Research Proposal due
- Week 8: Exam 2 due (the Monday after Spring Break – turn it in anytime between Friday when it is opened and the Monday deadline)

*Spring Break!*

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

- Chapters 9-11 and 13 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions
- Week 10: Historical Research Paper due
- Week 12: Exam 3 due  
All Oral Presentations due

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

- Chapters 12 and 14-16 in *US History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions
- Week 13: Responsibility Assignment due
- Week 16: Exam 4 due; all extra credit film reviews due

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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 career. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 3.

### **Fn Grade**

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 will be submitted for an Fn grade (for an online class, the last date an assignment is submitted will be considered the last date of attendance.)

### **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 visit the Community Resource Center in the Student Center or 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 in the Student Center or at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).