



History 1301.308CL/138CL
US History 1 to 1877
Fall 2021
Mon-Wed 7.30-8.50 am

Instructor Information

Name Dr. Gilchrist White (Blackboard lists me as "Terry White")
Email gwhite@com.edu
Office Phone 409.933.8316
(Leave a voice mail. Speak clearly and slowly.)

Office Hours and Location

Office Hours Mon-Wed, 9-11; Mon 1-2; TTH, 9.30-11.30 or, by Appointment
Office Location M-003, Mezzanine of the Library

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

Edwards, Rebecca, Eric Hinderaker, Robert O. Self, and James A. Henretta. *America's History, Concise Edition*. 9th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2018.

Other Requirements

You must use Microsoft Office Word for your essays and reflective pieces. 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.

BlackBoard

This class has a Blackboard component. You are expected to turn in most major written assignments such as essays through a link in Blackboard. You will also participate in the discussions in BB as well as in class. I will also post the syllabus, assignments, and other course documents in the class so that you will have 24/7 access, and I will keep the grade book up-to-date so you can check your grades.

In the event of school closure due to weather or my unexpected absence, it is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to check for announcements regarding such assignments.

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 identification and short answer section and an essay section that will be written/typed out of class. The essay section will have one or two questions and the identification and short answer section may be given in class or online in Blackboard. A week will be allotted to write and submit the essay portion. Exam material will be drawn from both the PowerPoint lectures and assigned readings and any other material in the unit. Exams will not be cumulative. (4 @100 points each; 400 points total)

2. Historical Argument Paper

This paper will require you to read and interpret primary and secondary documents about an event in American history. You will be given the topic and specific instructions for writing the paper. (100 points)

3. Historical Secondary Interpretations: Differing points of view

Each of these short writing assignments will be based on secondary interpretations of an event in American history. They are in your textbook, but a handout will be provided for each one. (4 @ 50 points each; 200 points total)

4. Personal/Social Responsibility Paper

This paper will cover an issue in American history in which you will analyze individual choices in a social and ethical setting. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided. (100 points)

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. Discussions

Discussions will take 2 forms: analysis and interpretation of primary documents and responding to more general questions about American history. With these discussions, you will post your response, and then, you will read your classmates' posts and reply to at least 2 of them. The General discussion questions will be worth 10 points each. The questions on the primary documents will be 20 points each. Please see the rubrics in the Assessments Folder on the Course Menu to see how your posts will be graded. (5 @ 10 points each; 10 @ 20 points each; 250 points total)

7. Miscellaneous Assignments

This category covers a group of assignments that don't fit anywhere else.

Syllabus Quiz	10 points
First Email	5 points

Note: There may be other assignments that I have not listed, but generally, these are the kinds of work we will do this term.

Grading Formula

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

Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points
Historical Argument (100 points)	100 points
Historical Interpretation (4 @ 50 points each)	200 points
Personal/Social Responsibility Paper	100 points
Discussions (3@ 10 points; 10@ 20 points each)	250 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Miscellaneous	<u>15 points</u>
Total	1115 points*

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

Grading Scale:

A	1004 - 1115
B	892 - 1003
C	780 - 891
D	668 - 779
F	667 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 email me ASAP.

If I agree to accept your late assignment, I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty.

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.

Make-up Policy

Generally, any in-class group work cannot be made up. However, most of the assignments will carry over into Blackboard. For example, our class discussions. Any assignments in Blackboard can be completed, but the Late Policy will apply to any work turned in late. (see above.)

Extra Credit

The only extra credit offered is to complete the 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 receive a list of students who completed the evaluation, but not what students said.

Additional extra credit may be available but is not guaranteed.

Submission Policy

All written assignments will be submitted through the Assignment Links that include a SafeAssign component. There will be a link in the Content Folder for the week an assignment is due.

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. Missing classes will affect your grade. Please do not schedule doctor's appointments or other events during class time.

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 BB Course Messages. If you have computer problems and CANNOT access Blackboard or the Internet, leave a voice mail on my office phone above, 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.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a 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.)

Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of "0" on his/her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook.

"Source" may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.
3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source.

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 more detailed Calendar for specific due dates; schedule subject to change)

Weeks 1-4: Beginnings, Exploration, Early Colonization

- Chapters 1-4 in *America's History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions; short writing assignment
- Exam 1

Weeks 5-7: British Colonies and Empire, the American Revolution, the New Nation

- Chapters 5-7 in *America's History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions; short writing assignment
- Exam 2

Weeks 8-11: Economic Development, Political Transformations, Reform, Manifest Destiny

- Chapters 8-11 in *America's History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions; short writing assignment
- Historical Argument Paper
- Exam 3

Weeks 12-16: Politics Leading to Civil War, the Civil War, Reconstruction

- Chapters 12-14 in *America's History*
- Primary documents from the period; discussions; short writing assignment
- Personal and Social Responsibility Paper
- Exam 4

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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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 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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement

Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to setup their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

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 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 2.

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.

COVID-19 Statement

All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.

Technology Outage Policy

Campus-Wide

Students are responsible for completing all course work by the due dates stated in the assignment schedule. Occasionally the College may experience emergency campus-wide technology outages. Should this occur during a Quiz or submission of an Assignment, you will need to notify the instructor. You will need the Quiz to be reset or for the instructor to extend assignment due date. The assignment due date will be extended or the quiz will be reset after the campus-wide outage is confirmed by Informational Technology.

An Announcement will be sent to all students relaying the information about the new due date for the assignment or quiz. In case of a personal technology issue or if you have questions about an assignment or need clarification of requirements, you are expected to contact the instructor using Course Email. The College has a number of [computer labs](#) so access to requisite technology needed to complete assignments should not be an issue.

Personal Technology Outage

You should have a back-up plan in case you experience problems with your computer or internet service. If you experience technology problems, it is your responsibility to turn your work in on time. If you experience Internet problems, fill out a support ticket before you contact your instructor. The link can be found under the Resources Menu, "COM, Course and Technical Links" on the left side bar of the course; click on the link and submit a support ticket.