



**HIST 1301.01114**  
**United States History I**  
**5 Week Online Course Syllabus**  
**Summer 2025**

**Instructor:** Richard Faillace, Ph.D., [rfaillace@com.edu](mailto:rfaillace@com.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Textbook:** 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/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.

**Required Open Educational Resource (OER) Textbook**

*The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Vol 1: To 1877.*

This is a free open-source textbook, easily accessible online at [www.AmericaYawp.com](http://www.AmericaYawp.com).

Reading assignments are listed in the course schedule and material from these readings will be used in quizzes.

**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. The instructor will reply to emails during the workdays. Please do not expect an answer to emails over the weekend or scheduled holidays. You will receive a reply to your emails within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours at the latest.

**Grading:**

Quizzes and Exams	40 percent of the final grade
Social Responsibility Paper and research video	20 percent of the final grade
Lecture Response Videos	40 percent of the final grade

**Quizzes (40%):**

There are four quizzes, each worth 100 points and in total the quizzes make up 40 percent of your grade. Every quiz has three parts:

- **Multiple Choice Section:** Consisting of ten multiple choice questions worth 2 points each.
- **Short Answer Section:** You will answer five questions, each worth 10 points. Each response should be clear, focused, and three to five sentences long, demonstrating your understanding of the material.
- **Essay Section:** You will choose two out of three essay prompts. Each essay is worth 25 points and should provide a well-organized, thoughtful response that fully addresses the question. Each essay should be five paragraphs – including an introduction, three supporting paragraphs that include historical information, and a conclusion.
- **The quizzes require Respondus Lockdown browser and webcam.** Please make sure to arrange to all needed technology before the quizzes. This is not the instructor's responsibility. Please contact the COM helpdesk if you have any issues.

### **Social Responsibility Paper + Research Video Presentation (20%):**

- **Paper:** Write a five-page, double-spaced research paper using both primary and secondary sources on a historical figure during the period we are covering. The topic must be narrow, approved by the instructor, and related to course content. Use MLA formatting, include citations and a works cited page. Any paper submitted without citations will not receive a grade. Previously submitted papers are not permitted. You may not use AI to write any part of this paper. Any unethical use of AI will result in a failure for the course.
- **Research Video Presentation:** Email the instructor at the end of the first week of class to have your paper topic approved. After your topic is approved, record a ten-minute video addressing the following:
  1. Why you selected this subject
  2. What professional historians think about the topic
  3. What significant primary sources you plan to use
  4. The topic's significance to the development of the United States and how did this person demonstrate social responsibility
  5. What algorithmic biases you detect when probing your topic using AI tools
 Both the paper and the video will be averaged for your final grade on this assignment.

### **Lecture Response Videos (40%):**

Every week, I will publish three lecture videos on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Friday, I will provide you with a list of specific questions related to the week's lecture videos in the discussion board. You will need to submit your own response video, 10 minutes long, addressing these questions thoughtfully. In addition, each week I will upload primary source documents to the discussion board, which you are expected to incorporate into your response. Together, these lecture response videos and use of primary sources make up 40 percent of your final grade.

### **Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit for this course.

**Late work**

Late work will not be accepted. If you miss a quiz or assignment, you will automatically receive a grade of 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](mailto:swakao@com.edu) 409-933-8107.

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
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	Paper

## **Course Outline**

### **Week 1: June 2–June 6**

- Lecture 1: Introduction and Indigenous America
- Lecture 2: European Exploration
- Lecture 3: Early Colonial Society

#### *Assignments:*

- Read *The American Yawp*, chapters 1-5
  - Submit Lecture Response (due Monday June 9)
  - Paper topic selection email (due Monday June 9)
  - Quiz 1
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### **Week 2: June 9–June 13**

- Lecture 4: The French and Indian War
- Lecture 5: American Revolution
- Lecture 6: The Early Republic

#### *Assignments:*

- Read *The American Yawp*, chapters 6-12
  - Submit 3 Lecture Response Video (due Monday June 16)
  - Quiz 2 (covers weeks 1–2, due Monday June 16)
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### **Week 3: June 16–June 20**

- Lecture 7: Jacksonian Democracy
- Lecture 8: Reform and Reaction
- Lecture 9: Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny

#### *Assignments:*

- Read *The American Yawp*, chapters 13-14
  - Submit Lecture Response video (due Monday June 23)
  - Research video presentation (due Monday June 23)
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### **Week 4: June 23–June 27**

- Lecture 10: Road to Civil War
- Lecture 11: The Civil War
- Lecture 12: Northern Victory

#### *Assignments:*

- Read *The American Yawp*, chapters 15
  - Submit 3 Lecture Response Video (due Monday June 30)
  - Quiz 3 (covers weeks 3–4, due Monday June 30)
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### **Week 5: June 30–July 3**

- Lecture 13: Reconstruction
- Lecture 14: Looking Forward to the American Century
- Lecture 15: Final Review

#### *Assignments:*

- Review *The American Yawp*
- Social Responsibility Paper (due Thursday July 3)
- Quiz 4 (Thursday July 3)

## 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\\_v6.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v6.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 Summer I session is June 24, 2025.

**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.