



**HIST 1301-111H1  
HIST 1301-611H1  
United States History I  
FALL 2025  
COM ICB Room 228  
Monday/Wednesday  
9:30 AM – 10:50 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 LCY Room 210

M/W 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM COM LRC, Suite A, 225

M/W 2:40 PM – 2:50 PM, LMHS

T/Th 7:00 – 7:30 AM Hitchcock High School Room 209

T/Th 9:30 – 10:30 AM 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 the 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 the creation of the federal government.

**Course requirements:**

**Census day:** Census day is 8/25. You must attend class by 8/25 or you will be dropped for non-attendance

**Attendance:** Class begins at 9:30 AM. You are expected to be on time. If you are 10 minutes late you will be counted tardy for the day. I know sometimes things happen. Just please let me know.

**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. Active participation is not doing work for other classes or texting on your phone.

**Homework:** Students are expected to read each assigned chapter each week, and any other material the instructor has given to prepare 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 Assignments:** Students will be assigned reading assignments to complete prior to class. Students will upload their detailed answers to questions to the appropriate assignment in D2L. Be prepared to discuss these reading assignments in class.

**Exams:** There will be **four multiple-choice exams** during the semester with a value of points each. 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, available on D2L at the start of the module. Each exam may consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and map questions

**Core Objective: Critical Thinking**

**Assessment Quizzes:** In addition to the four exams there will be at least 10 quizzes. Quizzes will count for a total of 100 points. Quizzes will be in class. Quizzes may consist of Multiple Choice, short answer, or map quizzes. **Like exams, quizzes cannot be made up.** Missed quizzes receive a grade of zero. Quizzes are considered Pop Quizzes, which means they are not scheduled in advance, you should be prepared on any day to take a quiz.

**Research Paper Assignment**

**Step 1-** Post your topic on the appropriate Discussion Board by the due date in D2L. If you do not post your topic, you will not be able to move to Step 2.

**Step 2 - Research Paper Video Summary:** Students will turn in a Bongo Video over their Research Topic.. Instructions are in D2L. Students must turn in a video and view the feedback before you can turn in your final Research Paper

**Step 3 – Final Research Paper:** **Each** student will write a minimum of 5-page research paper over 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 points Please review rubric for grading criteria. Before you write your paper, post your topic in 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 on the discussion board and get your topic approved, you risk receiving a zero for the paper. You must use at least 5 sources (**no**

**textbooks).** You will also be required to use the COM Tutoring center or Tutor.com to receive feedback for your paper. If your paper is not at least 5 pages long, you will lose points.. If you do not complete this step you cannot move to step 4 – Oral Presentation

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

You must complete the Steps in order to move to the next step. If you miss a step you cannot progress to the next step.

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%

**Step 4 -Oral Presentations:** Each student will create an oral presentation over the topic 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. The Oral Presentation link can be found in Content in the Research Paper/Oral Presentation Section.

Verbal Communication	33.4%
Content/Organization	33.3%
Enthusiasm/Audience Awareness	33.3%
Total	100%

## Responsibility Paper:

**Step 1 - 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. If you do not turn in the paper draft and read the feedback, you cannot turn in the final Responsibility Paper. (Step 2)

**Step 2 – Final Responsibility Paper:** Responsibility Paper: Students will use one of the people listed in D2L and will write a two-page typed paper on the Social and Personal Responsibility of the person. 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 have at least 3 sources. You must include a works cited page. You will also be required to use the COM Tutoring center or Tutor.com to receive feedback for your paper. If your paper is not a minimum of 2 pages you will lose points in the area of Critical Thinking Skills. **NO TEXTBOOKS**

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?

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

### **You must complete Step 1 to move to Step 2**

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
- Do not use headings on papers

**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.

**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.

**Do not email your instructor assignments all assignments must be submitted in D2L unless they are done in class.**

**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.

**Lockdown Browser /Respondus:** Prior to taking exams, you will need to download the Lockdown Browser app to your computer, which must have a webcam and microphone. This app is required to ensure academic honesty, enabling you to take your exams from the comfort of your home rather than coming to campus or a testing center. On the D2L login page you will see a section titled Respondus Lockdown Browser. Please review the information and download the Lockdown Browser. You will take the syllabus quiz using Respondus to make sure you have it set up for exams. Your exam will prompt you to install or update the LockDown Browser before you begin.

### **Guidelines**

When taking an online test, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach

- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Make sure you are using the most current version of your web browser
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam
- When using Wi-Fi, it's best to avoid networks that might have heavy traffic, such as libraries, bookstores and cafe

[Intro To LockDown Browser](#)  
[LockDown Browser device compatibility.](#)

**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:

Assignments	Points
Attendance/Participation	100
Responsibility Draft	30
Responsibility Paper	70
Responsibility Tutoring	10

Research Topic	30
Research Draft	70
Research Tutoring	20
Oral Presentation Video	70
In Class Discussions	300
Quizzes	100
Multiple Choice 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. A trip or vacation is not a valid excuse to make-up work/tests or receive work/test early.. Extra time for assignments will not be given because you take a trip/vacation during the semester.

**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 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**

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 1301-111/611)

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, and 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. If you are using a phone during class, or working on coursework, you will lose points in the Attendance/Participation section.

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 Leif Erickson and Columbus Assignments due 8/20 @ 9:00 AM
Week 2	Colonization/Revolution	Read Chapters 2 & 3 Roanoke Assignment due 8/25 @ 9:00 Am Research Paper topic due 8/31
Week 3	Exam 1 – Chapters 1 -5	Monday 9/1 - Labor Day no class Read 4 & 5 Exam 1 opens 9/4 closes 9/6
Week 4	New Nation Constitutional Convention	Read Chapters 6 & 7 Marbury V. Madison Assignment due 9/8 @ 9:00 AM Return Constitution Quiz 9/10 Responsibility Draft 9/8 @ 11:59 PM
Week 5	Market Revolution Age of Jackson —Democracy in America  Exam 2 Chapters 6 - 9	Read chapters 8 & 9 Election of 1824 Assignment due 9/15 @ 9:00 AM Responsibility Final paper and Tutoring due 9/15 Exam 2 MC in D21 opens 9/18 closes 9/20
Week 6	Religion and Reform Antebellum South – Cotton Revolution Manifest Destiny Exam 3 Chapters 10-12	Read Chapter 10 Great Awakening Assignment due 9/22 @ 9:00 AM Slave Revolts Assignment due 9/24 @ 9:00 AM Research paper draft due 9/22

		Exam 3 MC in D2L opens 9/25 closes 9/27
Week 7	Sectional Crisis Civil War	Read Chapter 13 –14 Dred Scott Assignment due 10/6 @ 9:00 Am Shermans March to the Sea Assignment due 10/8 @ 9:00 Am Research Paper and Tutoring due 10/1 @ 11:59 PM
Week 8	Civil War/Reconstruction Final Exam	Read Chapter 15 Oral Presentation due 10/6 @ 11:59 PM Johnson’s Impeachment Assignment due 10/6 @ 9:00 AM Exam 4 MC in in class 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/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](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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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.