



**HIST 1301-05017**  
**United States History I**  
**Summer 2025**  
**Online**

**Instructor Information:** Debra Ramsey  
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409-933-8307

**Student hours and location** M/T/W/Th 8:00 – 9:00 AM Virtual

**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:**

**Census day:** Census day is 5/13. You must have completed an assignment to be considered in attendance. If you do not complete an assignment by 5/13 you will be dropped from the course.

**Exams:** There will be **three 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**

**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 cafes

### [Intro To LockDown Browser](#)

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

**Introduction Post:** Students will post an introduction video in the appropriate discussion board. Start by introducing yourself. Your name and things that you like to do outside of school. What is your expectation in 5 years, Where do you plan to be, and what do you plan to be doing? Also, if you could have dinner with anyone from History, who would it be and why? Respond to two other posters. Please review the rubric so you know how this discussion will be graded.

### **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 – Final Research Paper:** Each student will write a minimum of 3-page research paper over a topic in US History from 1492 to 1877. this paper should be in a research paper format and **NO LESS** than 3 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. . You must use at least 3 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 3 pages long, you will lose points in the Create a Historical Argument section.

Students are required to use Tutoring for this paper, you may 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 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 PowerPoint for the rest of your presentation but you must cameo yourself in the PowerPoint. Please click on the Module that says Oral Presentation, you will see a link there to complete this assignment.

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

**Responsibility Paper:** Students will choose from the persons listed in D2L. Students will write a 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 (**NO TEXTBOOKS**). 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 2 full pages, you will lose points.. **This is a COM required assignment.**

**Example:** 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 Tutor.com or COM Tutoring

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 Times New Roman 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
- All Papers should be in MLA format

**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.

**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.** Do not allow Word, Grammarly or Google Docs to change the grammar of your paper, this is considered AI. There will be no rewriting of papers once the due date has passed. If you need help with papers, use the COM Tutoring Center or Tutor.com.

**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.

**Online Attendance Policy:** Student attendance in online courses is defined as active participation in the course. Online courses will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for student participation no more frequently than daily, which can be documented by any or all the following methods:

- Contributing to an online discussion or text chat session
- Submitting an assignment or working draft

- Working through exercises; taking a quiz or exam
- Viewing and/or completing a tutorial
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a course-related question
- Another course participation.

These academic activities are tracked and documented through the College's learning management system, email system, and publisher websites. Course tracking will be used to assess the amount of “attendance” in an online course. Any student who fails to attend the orientation session or complete a scheduled assignment during the first week of class will be reported as absent.

In order to be considered attending the online class you must complete the assignments Introduction Discussion and Syllabus Quiz by census day, which is 12/10. If you do not complete the assignment, you will be considered non-attending and dropped from the class.

**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:

Introduction	20
Syllabus Quiz	20
Research Topic	20
Research Paper	100
Research Tutoring	20
Responsibility Paper	100
Responsibility Tutoring	20

Exams	300
Oral Presentation	100
Total	700

Grade Scale			
90-100% A	630	to	700
80-89% B	560	to	629.9
70-79% C	490	to	559.9
60-69% D	420	to	489.9
Below 60% F	Below 420 points		

**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 in class on that day as I will not give make-up exams or quizzes. 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.

**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 1301-050)

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

Course Outline: **Subject to change**

History 1301

United States History I

Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Syllabus/D2L/Writing Early America/Exploration Colonization/Revolution Exam 1 – Chapters 1-5	Discussion: Introduction Read Chapters 1-5 Syllabus Video Quiz Research Paper topic due Exam 1 MC
Week 2	New Nation Constitutional Convention Market Revolution Religion and Reform Exam 2 – Chapters 6-10	Read Chapters 6-10 Exam 2 MC Responsibility Paper due
Week 3	Antebellum South— Cotton Revolution Sectional Crisis Civil War Reconstruction Exam 3 Chapters 11-15	Read Chapters 11-15 Research Paper due Oral Presentation due Exam 3 MC

## 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 May Mini Session is May 28.

**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.

