



**History 1301.012I1
United States History 1 to 1877
Fall 1st 8 Weeks 2025
Online**

Instructor Information

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

Student Hours and Location

Student Hours Mondays, 8.30 – 9 am; Tuesdays 7 – 7.30 pm; or, by Appointment
Office Location TEAMS, online; link will be in Course Folder in Content. 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

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright, Ed. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook*. Vol. 1: To 1877. 2019. 2022-2023 updates included.
(This is a free textbook that you can read online, save as a PDF to your computer, or purchase through Stanford University for \$25. When you open the page, you will see a link for print or PDF versions of Volumes 1 and 2 at the bottom on the screen.)

Instructions to access the book:

1. Open your browser and search for [The American Yawp](#) (or click on this link).
2. This opening page has the Table of Contents with Volume 1 chapters in the left column. Click on the chapter title to go to it.
3. In addition, the home page has other links. One is to the Reader with primary documents for each chapter. 2 other links will take you to a PDF version of the textbook that you can download for free and a link to purchase a print copy of the textbook through Stanford University Press.

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.

Course Description

A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era through 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 objective section, usually multiple-choice questions, and an essay section. The objective section will be given online and will be timed. The essay section will be written out of 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)

2. Social Responsibility Paper (with a research component)

Each student will write a 3-5-page paper on a topic in US History to 1877. In addition to using one primary source and 2 secondary sources (the research part), the student will also address the outcomes for social responsibility. (200 points)

- A Proposal for the Social Responsibility Paper is required (50 points)

Specific instructions for writing the paper and the proposal with due dates will be provided in a handout.

3. Oral Presentation

Your Oral Presentation will be based on your Social Responsibility Paper. A detailed handout will be provided. (50 points)

4. Discussion

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.*)

The discussions cover films, lectures, and other materials from the class. For example, in week 1, you are assigned an Introduction discussion and a discussion on 2 short films. Each discussion is worth 10 points.

As part of your discussion grade, you will read your classmates' posts and reply to at least 2 of them. Your replies must be more than "I agree with you," if you want to earn full credit. If you agree, why do you agree? Give your reasons.

There is a detailed Rubric for the discussions in the Assignment Folder in Content and in the Discussion itself.

(10 discussions @ 10 points each; 100 points total)

5. Self-Reflections.

You will write 4 of these self-reflections (first person narrative) on your work in the class. These questions (such as challenges, successes, or use of time) apply to the work you are doing in class. Specific instructions and questions will be in handouts. There is no specific word count as long as you answer all questions. (50 points each; 200 points total)

6. Short Writing Assignments

There are 2 of these short writing assignments. Each assignment will be a paragraph length response to questions about selected primary documents. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided for each of these assignments. (2 @ 25 points; 50 points total)

8. Miscellaneous Assignments

- Syllabus Quiz (week 1) 10 points

Grading Formula

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

Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points
Social Responsibility Paper with research	200 points
Proposal for Social Responsibility Paper	50 points
Self-Reflections (4 @ 50 points)	200 points
Discussions (10 @ 10 points)	100 points
Short Writing Assignments (2@ 25 points)	50 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	<u>10 points</u>
Total	1060 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 954 – 1060
- B 848 - 953
- C 742 - 847
- D 636 - 741
- F 635 and below

Late Work

Although I do not *like* to accept late work, 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 (use my COM email).

If I agree to accept your late assignment, you will have **1 (one) week** to submit it, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 1 (one) week, the assignment earns a "0" – unless you and I have agreed on different terms.* All assignments must be uploaded to D2L.

Missed Exam

If you miss Exams 1, 2, or 3 for whatever reason, you have a "grace" period for 2 days after the due date to turn your Exam Essay or to take the online section. If either or both parts of the exam fall between the due date and the 2-day "grace" period, your grade will be lowered the equivalent of one letter grade as a penalty. *After the grace period, the essay or online section of the exam will earn "0" (zero) points.*

This policy DOES NOT APPLY TO EXAM 4 which is due on Wednesday, October 8 at 11.59 pm. **No late Exam 4s will be accepted.**

Make-Up Policy

There is no make-up in an online class. You either take/do your exams, assignments, and discussions, or not; you can't make them up other than the conditions for an exam and late work.

Review the Late Work and Missed Exam Policies above.

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.

Extra Credit

There are 2 ways to earn extra credit in this class.

1. The first way is to complete the Course Evaluation, available toward the end of the term. If you complete the evaluation, I will add 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. When you complete the evaluation, you will take a screen shot of the completion page and email it to me.

2. The second way is to complete a written film review. You must watch a film covering an event that occurred or a person who lived between 1600 and 1877, the end of Reconstruction. There are many excellent films both recent (within the last 5 or so years) and older (10 to 20 or 30 years old).

The Assignment includes a list of pre-approved films. If you would like to review a film not on the list, you must email the title to your instructor for approval before the review is turned in. If the title is not approved, the review will not be accepted.

A copy of the film review assignment is available in the Assignments Folder in the Content Menu in D2L. Only one review will be accepted, and it is worth 10 extra credit points, added to your course point total.

Attendance Policy

In an online class, "attending" means logging in on a regular basis. At least 2-3 times a week is recommended for an 8 or 16-week course—at your convenience—and participating actively in the class. "Active Participation" is posting in the discussions, 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 in an 8-week class 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. To meet Census Requirements, you must complete the Syllabus Quiz and at least one the first 2 discussions (Introduction and What Is History?) in Week 1.

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, 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.

I try to answer emails within 24 hours, and I generally post grades once a week.

Table Mapping SLOs, Core Objectives, and Assignments

Core Objectives for this course:

- Communication: to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Critical Thinking: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	Critical Thinking Skills Communication	Social Responsibility Paper
Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	Critical Thinking Skills	Social Responsibility Paper
Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history	Critical Thinking Skills Communication	Exam Essays and Objective sections
Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills	Exam Essays
Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through oral and visual communication	Communication Skills	Oral Presentation
Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities	Social Responsibility	Social Responsibility Paper
Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and relate consequences to decision-making	Personal Responsibility	Self-Reflection 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.

Course Outline

Unit 1/Weeks 1 & 2: Beginnings, Exploration, Early Colonization

- Readings: *The American Yawp*, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Lectures, films, discussions
- Syllabus Quiz due August 20
- Exam 1 due August 31

Unit 2/Weeks 3 & 4: British Colonies and Empire, the American Revolution, the New Nation

- Readings: *The American Yawp*, Chapters 5, 6, & 7
- Lectures, films, discussions
- Self-Reflection 1 due September 3
- Short Writing assignment 1 due September 12
- Social Responsibility Proposal due September 10
- Exam 2 due September 14

Unit 3/Weeks 5 & 6: Industrial Revolution, Jacksonian Democracy, Manifest Destiny, Reform

- Readings: *The American Yawp*, Chapters 8, 9, 10 & 12
- Lectures, films, discussions
- Self-Reflection 2 due September 17
- Social Responsibility Paper due September 21
- Oral Presentation due September 28
- Exam 3 due September 28

Unit 4/Weeks 7 & 8: Politics 1850-1860, the Civil War, Reconstruction

- Readings: *The American Yawp*, Chapters 11, 13, 14 & 15
 - Lectures, films, discussions
 - Self-Reflection 3 due October 1
 - Short Writing assignment 2 due October 5
 - Extra Credit Film Review due October 6
 - Exam 4 due October 8
 - Self-Reflection 4 due October 9 at **NOON**
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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 <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

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 1st 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 2nd 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 or 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.