

**Common Course Syllabus**  
**History 1301**  
**Department of History**

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Discipline:** History

**Course Number:** HISTORY 1301

**Course Title:** United States History I

**Credit:** 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

**Satisfies a core curriculum requirement?** Yes, American History

**Prerequisites:** TSI compliance in Reading

**Available Formats:** Conventional, INET, ITV

**Campus:** Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

**Textbook:** Varies according to instructor.

**Course Specific Instructions:** Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

**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.

**Course Objectives addressed:**

1. **critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Course Purpose:** To acquaint students with the diversity of American history and to promote critical thinking in interrelating the past to the present. Fundamentally, the course promotes general understanding of a body of knowledge any literate person should possess about the history of his own country.

**Course Requirements:** To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

**Course Evaluation:** See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Attendance Policy:** Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of American political, social, and economic institutions and traditions from the arrival of Europeans to the mid-nineteenth century. This would include the ability to:

- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

**Dr. Laura Graves, Professor of History  
Chair, Department of Social Sciences  
Department of History  
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**806-716-2305**

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**HIST 1301: United States History I and HIST 1302: United States History II**

**HIST 1301: United States History I**

**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.

**Instructor: Dr. Laura Graves, Professor of History and Chair, Department of Social Sciences**

**Contact me:**

- ✓ AD (Administration Building) 127 8-9:15 M-Th; 9:00-11:00 F
- ✓ 806-716-2305 leave a message
- ✓ e-mail is conducted **via Blackboard** after the first day of class

**Textbook for HIST 1301 (required):**

James Oakes, Michael McGerr, Jan Ellen Lewis... *Of the People: A History of the United States, Volume 1: To 1877*. Third Edition. ISBN 9780190254865  
Paperback

**Getting the right textbook:** You can obtain your class textbook package from the SPC bookstore. Those with financial aid might find this the best resource since the SPC bookstore can debit your financial aid account. However, if you prefer, you can obtain textbook packages from a variety of on-line retail outlets; some are very fast and reliable, others are not. You can also order your textbook package from the textbook publisher. *YOU are responsible for making certain that you order the correct package and that you have been sent the correct textbook package for this course. Order wisely and do not wait until the last minute to have your material shipped to you!*  
The **brief edition** will not work for this course.

**Textbook RENTAL information**

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Click on book for the course. There will be several options so make sure it's the right book. Volume is usually the difference between them.

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## HIST 1301

### **HIST 1301 Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives:**

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of American political, social, and economic institutions and traditions from the arrival of Europeans to the mid-nineteenth century. This would include the ability to:

- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of American political, social, and economic institutions and traditions and its role in the world from the arrival of Europeans to the mid-nineteenth century. This would include the following:

- discovery of the western hemisphere
- colonization of North America
- short-term and long-term causes and results of the American Revolution
- development of the US constitution
- territorial expansion
- American political and social development
- American reform movements
- creation of the national government between 1787 and 1861
- evolution and development of American foreign policy
- social, economic, and political issues that led to the Civil War
- social, economic, and political consequences of the Civil War
- reconstruction

**Course Objectives:** During this course students will be taught how to think critically, how to communicate effectively, and how to identify and practice social and personal responsibility. Class

lectures and assignments will focus on these techniques and students will be given opportunities to implement the different techniques.

5. **critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
6. **communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
7. **social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
8. **personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Skills you need to be successful in this course:**

- ✓ effective time management, since you need to keep up with the reading and the writing assignments
- ✓ efficient reading skills, since you will be required to read one chapter from the textbook each week and take a reading quiz on that chapter
- ✓ good writing skills, since you will be required to put your thoughts into words for me to read and grade
- ✓ good cheer and intellectual curiosity, since these are necessary tools for you to do well in the class If you will make the commitment to become an active participant in the class you will do well in the class Success really is all about attitude and effort
- ✓ ordinary computer and word processing skills OR the ability and willingness to ask the SPC Levelland Technology Center folks for help

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## **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE & CLASS POLICIES**

**Attendance, drops and withdrawals, and academic integrity:**

**Attendance**

- FOUR missed assignments (at any time; for any reason) will result in you being dropped from the course.

### **Dropping the course**

- YOU must drop this course at the SPC registrar's Office (there is **no on-line drop system** so on-line students must take care of this in person at the registrar's office). This is an official procedure which is described in the SPC Catalog. No one but YOU can initiate the drop and it must conform to the procedure for dropping a course. Failure to initiate and finalize the drop procedure will result in an F grade on your transcript. The drop cannot be made retroactive. The drop date can be found on the SPC calendar.
- Students who stop attending a class should go through the procedure for dropping a course; otherwise they may be administratively withdrawn for lack of attendance and their record will show an "X," "U," or "F" instead of a "W." Failure to follow college policy by withdrawing according to this procedure will be reflected on a student's transcript by the presence of "X," "U," or "F" marks, as determined by the instructor. A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops or withdrawals that occur prior to and through "The Last Day to Drop" as indicated in the appropriate class schedule. A student who quits attending class and is administratively withdrawn from class will receive a grade of "X," or "F" as determined by the instructor. "The Last Day to Drop" is indicated in the college class schedule.
- **Dropping an on-line class: You must contact Andrew Ruiz, Registrar (806-716-2371)**
  - option 1:** if the student is in Lubbock or Levelland they will need to go to the admissions office (Levelland or Reese Campus) to drop the class.
  - option 2:** if the student is in does **not** live in Lubbock or Levelland they should contact the Registrar's Office (806-716-2371) for further instructions.

You will need the following:

1. Statement indicating which class you want to drop
2. Student's Name
3. Student's Date of birth
4. Student ID# or last 4 digits of social security #
5. Telephone #
6. Student signature
7. Photo ID (usually a driver's license)
8. payment of drop fee
9. **If you follow these instructions you do NOT need my signature.**

### **academic integrity**

- Anything that borders on cheating, plagiarism, or affects the academic integrity of the assignment or of the course will be dealt with using the harshest measures possible -- the least thing that could happen to you is dismissal from my class roster with a failing grade.
- Cheating includes group work on the chapter exams.
- Your work must be *in your own words* and it must be original (cheating and plagiarism -- that is copying your friend's work or copying from another source -- will be dealt with in the harshest manner: you will be dropped from the class with an "F")
- Your work must be turned in on schedule to receive credit – neither chapter exams nor major exams and assignments can be turned in after the due date and time have expired. There are no exceptions to this provision.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a morally repugnant choice. At SPC we take the offense of plagiarism very seriously.

Plagiarism is a very simple thing to spot: a failing student all of a sudden writes an essay that ought to be published – and guess what it usually is published! A mediocre student all of a sudden starts to use words and phrases that if asked to explain what the word or phrase means the offender cannot do so. But what you probably do not know is that having read widely in almost all of the areas I have you write on I have read most of the works that have been used in on-line sources. I am not a novice when it comes to the scholarly material nor am I a novice when it comes to how students your age should write. You are young students with little experience and I expect you to write like it – I have never asked you to write and think like professional historians and I certainly have not graded your work from that benchmark.

Secondly, plagiarism is the theft of another person's work. If you copy something from an internet source and present it as your own that is cheating, copying, and it is against the rules. In the "old days" before the internet, students had to at least go to the library and find a book to copy from; the internet has unfortunately made that a very simple (too simple, perhaps) process. If you take anything from this letter remember this: all anyone has to do to check for plagiarism is take a random phrase from an essay, copy it, and paste it into a Google search and the source comes up. Unlike the old days, I don't have to go to the library in search of the proof – I have access to the same sources as you! The internet has made plagiarism much easier but it has also made catching it much easier, too!

Plagiarism can also be defined as one or more students turning in the same or similar papers. I remember what I have read and can spot similar words and phrases from paper to paper, from section to section, and from semester to semester. SPC also maintains a file of every paper submitted by every student and student papers are automatically scanned for uncanny similarities.

Plagiarism also includes anything copied from an internet source, such as Wikipedia.

I am not just offended that you think so little about your own honor that you would steal from someone else, but I am disgusted that you would waste my time having to deal with this. **The consequence of plagiarism in my classes is this: the offender(s) will be receive zero credit for the entire assignment or exam or will be automatically dropped from the class with an F.**

**SPC Policy regarding "standard English":** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 806-716-2529 or 806-716-2530.

**Blackboard Accessibility Standards:** Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® \(VPAT®\) tool](#), see the [VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1](#). For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA](#) see [Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement](#). To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)

### **Student Privacy**

South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, I will NOT release or discuss your class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but you. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from me – if they need this sort of information they must ask you for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

**How this Course is conducted:** This course is conducted using on-line tools. SPC uses Blackboard (Web Course Tools) to deliver course materials, exams, assignments, and correspondence between the professor and all students in the class. **All** correspondence, assignments, and exams are delivered and received via Blackboard. Keep in mind that the course is structured so that you have access to all of the course content 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to fit your schedule; however, I am not available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

**Blackboard support and help:** Blackboard tutorials can be found on MySPC under Students>Distance Education. Once on the Distance Education page, click on Blackboard Learn 9 on menu to the right. Or access the tutorials at <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm>. When you log in to Blackboard there is a module (or box) that has help information on the My Blackboard Tab. You can also learn more about Blackboard Learn through the [On Demand Learning Center](#). The On Demand Learning Center includes short, interactive video lessons called Quick Tutorials and short documents, called Getting Started Guides, designed to get you familiar with a feature in 15 minutes.

**HELP with Blackboard problems:** The best way to contact SPC Blackboard technical support is by emailing [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu). A Blackboard specialist will be available in the Fall and Spring semesters until 9:00 p.m. *I am not trained trouble-shoot technological problems!*

**Computer and Internet Requirements:** The first requirement is that the student has access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection. I do not recommend any particular brand of computer. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they have the necessary computer resources and skills to take this class. Students are not required to purchase their own computer, but must have access to one that meets these specifications. There are computer labs available for student use on our Levelland, Lubbock, Reese Center, and Plainview campuses.

I encourage you to submit your work in this course early and not wait until the last minute as excuses that involve computer problems will NOT get your deadline extended. In other words, if you wait until the last minute and have computer problems and can't submit your work then you have missed the deadline and will receive no points for that assignment.

Message access is provided within Blackboard for correspondence with your instructor.

To test for the ability to browse the Web, a computer must be able to visit the SPC Home Page. Click on the tab "Blackboard" at the top right corner of the page. Blackboard has several tools you can use to make certain your computer is upgraded to use Blackboard formatting. Also, there is a tutorial that is very helpful. All technological questions should be directed to the SPC technology center (their information is on the opening page of Blackboard). I do not offer computer or Blackboard related technical assistance or advice but the Technology Center does and so too does the tutorial on the Blackboard log in page.

At this time, SPC recommends using Firefox browser <<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ie.html>> (free download) when taking tests rather than Internet Explorer, Safari or other browsers.

Before starting your chapter exam or film exam, it is important for you to follow a few guidelines to better ensure that you will not experience technical problems that might cause your assessment to "lock".

\*Close all windows on the computer and then launch a new window to login to Blackboard. Taking an exam on Blackboard and trying to do several other things at the same time (watching a movie, listening to music, talking on Facebook, etc) will cause the Blackboard program and your exam to lock up.

\*Close all other applications before taking the exam.

\*Do NOT navigate to other locations or applications in Blackboard after the test opens or the assessment will "lock".

\*After opening the test, scroll to the bottom of the page to be sure the save and submit buttons are available.

\*Do NOT use any of the browser navigation buttons (i.e. Back, Forward, Home, etc.) during the exam. Using the scroll button on your mouse to move from one question to another could cause your answers to be changed. Use the bar on the right side of the page instead.

\*Do NOT click the Refresh or Reload buttons in your browser while taking the exam.

\*Do NOT open other browser windows or applications while taking an exam.

\*Do NOT click on buttons in the Blackboard navigation while taking an exam.

\*Do NOT leave the assessment page without saving your answers.

\*Do NOT click "Save and Submit" until you have completed the exam.

\*Once you have completed the exam and you are satisfied with your work – or the due date and time are about to expire – click "Save and Submit" so that your exam can be graded.

### **Assignments, Exams, and Grades**

Instructions, guidelines, and calendar for each type of graded assignment is located on the Blackboard course.

All assignments and exams are delivered via Blackboard. The mechanics and nature of the chapter exams and assignments is explained on the class Blackboard site.

At the end of the semester when all of your work has been submitted and numerically graded a letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale: A = 100-90 points, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, and F = **59**-0. (This means that you must make at least 60 point average to pass the class!)