Instructor: Robert A. Brown
Office Location: SS 144
Office Hours: MWF 10:00am- 12:00pm and by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5217
University Email Address: rbrown14@leo.tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

- Of The People: A History of the United States Concise Edition
  Volume 1: To 1877
  Publisher: Oxford University Press
  ISBN: 978-0195390735

Any additional materials, such as brief articles, videos, or primary documents, will be supplied by the instructor in class or through e-college.

Course Description:

Catalog Description: This course is a survey of US history to 1877. History 1301 is a broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877. Prerequisite and/or Co-requisite Classes: ENG 1301 or 1302.
Texas Common Course Number (HIST 1301)

Instructor’s Description: This class will focus on the development of the United States through the lens of conflict. Conflict is a theme that extends past war and into a discussion of ideologies and contradictions that make the United States unique. The student will be asked to engage in these discussions both in class and in papers. This class will focus heavily upon critical thinking, reading, and writing as these skills are fundamental to academic success regardless of major. Most students will find my approach to teaching history to be far more conceptually driven than previous history courses they have taken. Memorization of dates and names will rarely, if ever, be essential to success in this course, but understanding of ideas and conflicts that shaped the
personality of American society will be required. This course will also introduce History as a
debate and allow for the student to take positions on historical debates. Students will find that
there isn’t one right answer to most questions asked of them.

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will recognize ways in which slavery divided American society, and thus became
a leading factor in causing the Civil War.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams: There will be four exams throughout the course of the semester. These exams will NOT
be comprehensive. Exams will be writing intensive so that the student can show what he or
she has learned on selected topics. Students will be required to bring a Bluebook to class
for the examination. The instructor will NOT provide a Bluebook for unprepared students.
Students will also be required to put away all electronic devices, take off all brimmed hats,
and resist the temptation to talk on test days. If an electronic device is out on test day, the
test will be picked up and the student will be asked to leave. The top three test grades will
count, at one-hundred points apiece.

Reading Quizzes: Students will be expected to keep up with their readings. Reading quizzes
will be given frequently, and the student is expected to be ready for one at any time. The
questions are designed to give the student the opportunity to show that they have read. The
student will do this at the beginning of class on Mondays. Also, all readings that will be
quizzed over will be provided either through eCollege or a web link. Access to reliable
internet will be necessary to keep up with the class. Every quiz is worth ten points. More
than ten reading quiz grades will be given throughout the semester, but only the top ten
grades will count.

Significance Papers: Students will be required to write two 2-3 page reaction papers throughout
the semester. The first will be due the week before midterm and the second will be due two
weeks before finals. Reaction papers are not summaries. Each reaction will be made to the
student’s choice from the weekly readings.

Geography Quizzes: There will be two geography quizzes throughout the semester. Each will
be worth 50 points.

Attendance and Participation: Students are required to show up for class. Students cannot
make up any work or tests that they miss due to an unexcused absence. Excused absences
are determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. If a situation arises before that
class day the student should send an email to the instructor immediately or contact the
office. If a student is going to miss class due to a university event that requires their attendance, the student is expected to inform the instructor of this event a week in advance so that any special arrangements can be made. If a student misses a class period (including a test day) and does not contact the instructor in the 48 hours following they will not be allowed to make up any assignment or test from the class day they missed.

Grading: Attendance and participation will be graded in four sections throughout the semester. These will coincide with the four testing periods. During each testing period, attendance and participation is worth twenty five points for a total of one-hundred points. Every student is allowed one unexcused absence per testing period without penalty. The rubric for attendance and participation is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance (-4 per absence excluding 1)</th>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Participation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Period Total</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Points Possible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>300 (3 at 100 apiece)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>100 (10 at 10 apiece)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance Papers</td>
<td>100 (2 at 50 apiece)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography Quizzes</td>
<td>100 (2 at 50 apiece)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>100 (4 at 25 apiece)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale:

630-700 = A
560-629 = B
490-559 = C
420-489 = D
0-419 = F

Students must complete all assignments and course requirements to pass this course. If a student fails to complete an assignment, this will result in failure.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Word Processor:
This course requires Reading Responses written in any iteration of Microsoft Word. Therefore, you will need a computer that has access to such a word processor. If you do not have your own computer, feel free to take advantage of the computer labs on campus. There are labs located in the Hall of Languages and Gee Library that are free and will only require your student ID and myleo password for access.

eCollege:
This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamucommerce.edu/login.aspx. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. **Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you.**

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**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

The most effective/fastest way to get a hold of me is by email. I will respond to emails promptly as I check my email a few times a day. Make sure that you use your TAMU Commerce email address when sending me an email; I will not respond to emails from non-school addresses.

If you would like to meet me at my office at some time not specified as office hours by the syllabus, simply send me an email using your school email address (or eCollege) and I would be more than happy to arrange an alternative time to meet with you.

Whenever you need to turn something in, I require an electronic copy submitted in the eCollege Dropbox, but you can also turn paper copies in at the History Department office in the Ferguson Social Science building (SS 111) in extreme circumstances.

Also, I will not release the information about any student’s performance to any outside person, such as parents, without the express written consent of that student. This is to protect the legal privacy rights of the students.

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**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Class Attendance and Behavior**
1. Classroom: A record of each student’s attendance will be kept; see college catalogue or student handbook for details about attendance.
2. Excessive absences (3) should be avoided at all cost; it will/can cost a letter grade.
3. Lateness for class disrupts other students and the instructor. While anyone can be late on rare occasions, habitual lateness is unacceptable. Also, once in class, be prepared to stay for the entire class period. If not, a letter grade will be lost.
4. All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive leaning environment (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Late Work**
Any work submitted late will not be accepted, earning zero course points. Work may be accepted late in extreme circumstances, at my discretion. If you are ever unsure as to whether or not I will accept an assignment, turn it in as soon as possible and get in contact with me.
**Academic Honesty**
In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are ever unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask me.

**Instructor Rights**
As instructor, I reserve the right to amend and/or modify this syllabus as necessary.

**Writing Center**
Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/.

**ADA Statement**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Note: All student disability accommodations need to be approved through the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their office and make use of their resources.
Week 1 - No Reading

August 27th - Introduction, Syllabus Overview, “What is History?”
August 29th - “Why do History?”, “World Belief Systems”
August 31st - “Europe and the Americas at Contact”

Week 2 - “From Disease to Empire: Early European Colonialism of the Americas” Ch. 1, 2, and eCollege Reading

September 3rd - Labor Day
September 5th
September 7th

Week 3 - “Empire and Colonialism as Policy” Ch. 3, 4 and eCollege Reading

September 10th - Geography Quiz 1
September 12th
September 14th

Week 4 - “The Enlightenment and Great Awakening” Ch 5 and eCollege Reading

September 17th
September 19th
September 21st - Exam 1

Week 5 - “Enough Angst to make a Rebellion a Revolution” Ch. 6 and eCollege Reading

September 24th
September 26th
September 28th

Week 6 - “The Revolution” Ch. 7 and eCollege Reading

October 1st
October 3rd
October 5th

Week 7 - “The First Quarter Century: Surviving” Ch. 7, 8 and eCollege Reading

October 8th
October 10th
October 12th - Significance Paper 1 Due
Week 8- “United States onto the World Stage” Ch. 9 and eCollege Reading

October 15th
October 17th
October 19th - Exam 2

Week 9- “Slavery and Early Civil Rights” Ch. 10 and eCollege Reading

October 22nd
October 24th
October 26th

Week 10- “Jack the Donkey” Ch. 11 and eCollege Reading

October 29th
October 31st
November 2nd

Week 11- “Internal Strife and the pull of Manifest Destiny” Ch. 12, 13, and eCollege Reading

November 5th - Geography Quiz 2
November 7th
November 9th

Week 12- “Slavery and the Civil War” Ch. 14, 15, and eCollege Reading

November 12th
November 14th
November 16th - Exam 3

Week 13- “Civil War (Cont.)” eCollege Reading

November 19th
November 21st

Week 14- “Reconstruction” Ch. 16 and eCollege Reading

November 26th
November 28th
November 30th - Significance Paper 2 Due

Week 15- Flexible/ Review

December 3rd
December 5th
December 7th

Finals Week
Exam