



HISTORY 1301.03E  
U.S. HISTORY TO 1877  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012

Instructor: Gina Bennett  
Class Room: SS141  
Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50  
Office: SS130  
Office Hours: Monday 10:00-10:55 and 12:00-2:35, Wednesday 10:00-10:55 and 12:15-12:50  
University Email Address: gbennett@leomail.tamuc.edu

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED**

[TAP] James Roark, et al., *The American Promise*, Vol. 1: To 1877, Fifth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 0-312-66313-7

[RAP] Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past*, Vol. I: To 1877. Fifth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 0-312-0564130-9

ONE (1) of the texts listed in the "Book Analysis List" for an essay assignment.

**COURSE 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.

Pre-requisite and/or Co-requisite Classes: ENG 1301 or 1302.

This course introduces the field of US history by developing the students' skills at critical analysis of both reading and writing assignments and class participation. Students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States from the age of European exploration and conquest through Reconstruction. Students will read a textbook, one primary source reader, additional readings as needed, and one book on a selected topic. Through these readings, assignments, and lectures students will examine major themes in American history, such as colonization, the founding of a new nation, the forging of an American culture, the entrenchment of slavery, the coming of the Civil War, and the meaning of Reconstruction.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME**

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

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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## **INSTRUCTIONAL / METHODS / ASSESSMENTS**

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete your readings prior to class and be prepared to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. You will submit all written assignments at the beginning of the class to the instructor.

<b>ASSIGNMENT EXPLANATION</b>
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## **EXAMS**

Students must complete all four exams. The format consists of Multiple Choice and Essay questions. Students are highly encouraged to not miss exams as a makeup exam consists of two essay questions over the materials covered. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete makeup test within 7 days of the scheduled exam. **NO EXCEPTIONS. FAILURE TO MAKE UP A MISSED EXAM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.**

## **BOOK ANALYSIS**

Each student will choose ONE (1) book from the list provided by the instructor during the beginning of the semester and write a book analysis. Some of the books are primary sources written by historical figures while others are secondary sources written by scholars. If you would like to read a book that is not on the list provided, you must receive approval from the instructor. The Book Selection Sign-Up procedure will be announced in class. Please note, more than one student cannot select the same book so I encourage you to make your selection as soon as possible!

The book analysis is more than a simple book review. This is a 4 to 5 page paper (full pages, double spaced, 1 inch margins) in which you will examine:

- 1) the background of the author
- 2) the thesis of the book with a brief summary
- 3) its intended audience
- 4) the critical and/or popular reception of the book
- 5) your opinion of its usefulness in American history
- 6) what it helped you understand better about America today

Being as specific and concise as possible is key to this assignment so be clear, detailed, to the point, and avoid just ‘filling space’ on the page.

At least three (3) citations from the book that support your argument must be included in the paper. You must also provide citations for outside sources, such as scholarly book reviews. If you are unfamiliar with the process of finding scholarly book reviews through the library, visit [Gee Library Tutorials](#) and click on [Finding Articles Using Supersearch](#). Remember, any quotations, statistics, or paraphrasing someone else’s ideas in your own words must be cited with the author and page number. All papers must include a Work Cited page in [MLA](#) or [Chicago](#) format (all History majors must use Chicago style). Significant latitude is given for style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling and grammar, meet with me or visit the TAMU-Commerce Writing Lab. **Book Analyses cannot be made up. No late work accepted. Failure to submit the book analysis will result in an automatic F for the course.**

### **READING QUIZZES**

Reading Quizzes will occur at various unannounced times throughout the semester. This is done to insure you are reading the material to be covered on the class for the day. Quizzes will consist of short answer/multiple choice questions. These quizzes cannot be made up and will consist of 20% of your semester points.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

This course moves at a fast pace and focuses on a variety of complex events and ideas, sometimes spending only one day on a particular large topic. For this reason, your attendance is just as important as keeping up with the readings and writing assignments and will be recorded. Students will be allowed two unexcused absences for the semester—each additional unexcused absence will affect your attendance grade. University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service. All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarceration or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences.

As this is a university level course, discussion is also an expected part of the class. You are encouraged to ask questions and answer those questions asked to the class. There will also be opportunities to voice your informed opinions and debate certain issues. I do not grade on your opinion but rather on your engagement, participation, and ability to support your arguments.

<b>GRADING</b>	
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10 RAP Reading Quizzes at 20 points each	200 points total
4 Exams at 100 points each	400 points total
1 Map Test at 100 points	100 points total
2 Reading Logs at 50 points each	100 points total
1 Book Analysis at 100 points	100 points total
Attendance & Participation	100 points total

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Total points for the class

1000 points

Semester Grades: A: 1000-900; B: 899-800; C: 799-700; D: 699-600; F: 599 and below.

**\*\*NOTE: Failure to complete any exam, map test or the book analysis will result in an automatic failing (F) grade for the course. You must complete all these assignments.**

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

If you need to contact me outside of office hours, email is best. Unless otherwise announced, I will respond within 24 hours. Office hours are found at the beginning of this syllabus and are posted outside my office. Feel free to visit me during office hours any time.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

The following are unacceptable or non-scholarly sources. Do not use or cite them:

Wikipedia

About.com

Ask.com

Encyclopedia Britannica (no general encyclopedias, specialized volumes are acceptable)

Infoplease.com

For other internet sites or possible questionable sources - when in doubt ask me.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates, other than reading quizzes, for which there are no makeups. All due dates are listed in the course schedule below. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

Five point extra credit opportunities will present themselves throughout the semester. Twenty-five total points (25) accumulated for the semester is the maximum available for this extra credit activity. This is something you will hopefully enjoy and may challenge those with a competitive appreciation for history. More information to follow.

### **CLASS CONDUCT**

I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Please exercise common classroom courtesy which includes: being on time, not interrupting me or your fellow students during discussion, turning off all electronic devices not intended for class, staying focused on the material rather than social networking, reading material for other classes, avoid sleeping and generally act in a way that indicates to me that you are engaged. Also, refrain from putting away your things before class is over since I will not keep you past the end time.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages as your final paper. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see me or visit the TAMU-Commerce Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

I have absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism! If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. If academic dishonesty is committed a second time, the student will immediately fail the course and the instructor will pursue the maximum university discipline possible. *This is not negotiable.* For more information from the Department of History, see the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

## **WRITING LAB**

The TAMU-Commerce Writing Lab is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

## **UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### ***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](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

<b>COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR</b>
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This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

Week 1: August 27-31, Introduction to Course and Ancient America

Mon: Syllabus, Maps, Where Do You Stand, General Info Cards, My Role/Your Role

Wed: TAP Chapter 1

Fri: RAP Chapter 1 Discussion

Week 2: September 3-7, European Exploration

Mon: Labor Day

Wed: TAP Chapter 2

Fri: RAP Chapter 2 Discussion

Week 3: September 10-14, The Chesapeake Colonies

Mon: TAP Chapter 3, Map Test

Wed: RAP Chapter 3 Discussion

Fri: Review for Exam

Week 4: September 17-21, Northern and Middle Colonies

Mon: **Exam #1 (50 Multiple choice)**

Wed: TAP Chapter 4

Fri: RAP Chapter 4 Discussion

Week 5: September 24-28, Eighteenth Century America

Mon: TAP Chapter 5

Wed: TAP Chapter 5, cont.

Fri: RAP Chapter 5 Discussion, **Reading log #1 due**

Week 6: October 1-5, Empire versus Independence

Mon: TAP Chapter 6

Wed: TAP Chapter 6, cont.  
Fri: RAP Chapter 6 Discussion

Week 7: October 8-12, Revolution and Republic  
Mon: TAP Chapter 7  
Wed: TAP Chapter 7/8  
Fri: TAP Chapter 8, **Reading log #2 due**

Week 8: October 15-19, New Nation to 1800  
Mon: TAP Chapter 9  
Wed: RAP Chapter 9 Discussion  
Fri: Review for Exam

Week 9: October 22-26, Power In America 1800-1824  
Mon: **Exam #2 (25 m/c worth 2 points each and 1 essay question worth 50 points)**  
Wed: TAP Chapter 10  
Fri: RAP Chapter 10 Discussion

Week 10: October 29-November 2, Expanding Republic to 1840  
Mon: TAP Chapter 11  
Wed: TAP Chapter 11 cont.  
Fri: RAP Chapter 11 Discussion

Week 11: November 5-9, New West/Free North  
Mon: TAP Chapter 12  
Wed: Tap Chapter 12, **Book analysis due**  
Fri: RAP Chapter 12 Discussion

Week 12: November 12-16, The Slave South  
Mon: TAP 13  
Wed: RAP 13 Discussion  
Fri: **Exam #3 (25 m/c and 1 essay question, same points as #2) [Note: no review for test #3]**

Week 13: November 19-23, Build up to Civil War  
Mon: Video and discussion  
Wed: TAP 14  
Fri: Thanksgiving break

Week 14: November 26-30, House Divided  
Mon: TAP 15,  
Wed: TAP 15, cont.  
Fri: RAP 15 Discussion

Week 15: December 3-7, Reconstruction  
Mon: TAP 16

Wed: TAP 16

Fri: Wrap Up and Review for COMPREHENSIVE FINAL (50 m/c)

Week 16: Final Week

**Final: Date TBA**