



**History 1301.01W—The United States to 1877  
Spring 2013 Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jessica Brannon-Wranosky

**Office:** Ferguson Social Sciences 107

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(Email is the best way to reach me, also you may leave a non-urgent message by calling my office phone or in my box in the History Department Office in SS 111.)

**Office Hours:** Online (via email or “Professor’s Forum”) OR MW 11:00 AM-1:00 PM & T 1:30 PM-4:30 PM in Person OR by appointment.

**Office Phone:** (903) 886-5224

**Website:** located inside “eCollege” inside your “myLeo” account

<https://casx.tamuc.edu/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fmyleo.tamuc.edu%2Fpaf%2Fauthorize>

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A READING INTENSIVE COURSE  
WITH ASSIGNMENTS DUE EVERY WEEK.**

**MATERIALS:**

**Texts:** There are two possible packets of books if you buy them through any bookstore. There are two required books for this course--*Give Me Liberty* and *Voices of Freedom* (Volume 1, Third Edition, of both books). *Voices of Freedom* does not come in an ebook, and you will get a paperback copy regardless of the packet you choose. The difference in the packets for each course is whether you want a paperback of *Give Me Liberty* or an ebook. For the ebook you get an access code to use to log in to the Norton Publishing website and sign in when you want to read the book. It is in a format similar to a pdf of the paperback book and has utilities to use virtual highlighting and ‘post-it notes.’ Buy one packet or the other (with an ebook or hardcopy of *Give Me Liberty*) for the correct class. Keep in mind, though, the ebook is harder on your eyes even though it is easier on your wallet.

**Required Readings:**

**Eric Foner. *Give Me Liberty. Volume I. Third Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2012. (ISBN 9780393911909)—paperback***

**Eric Foner, ed. *Voices of Freedom. Volume I. Third Edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2011. (ISBN 9780393935660)—paperback***

**Supplemental Readings and Resources:**

There are a number of readings and online podcasts linked from the publisher’s website to the weekly to do list for each chapter. These will enormously help students in the course better understand and analyze the information provided in the required textbook readings and to prepare for the required discussion forums, required chapter reading quizzes, and required essay exams.

**Course Description:** A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877.

**Course Pre-Requisites, Co-Requisites:** ENGL 1301 OR 1302

**Rationale of the Course:** The goal of this course will be to provide the student with a basic knowledge of United States History to Reconstruction as well as to provide a foundation for future historical studies.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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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**Explanation of Evaluation Criteria:** Students will be graded for this course on the basis of a “Start Here Quiz” (3%); fourteen weekly multiple-choice chapter reading quizzes comprising 1% of the final grade each (14% combined); three essay exams, exam 1 worth 15%, exam 2 and 3 each worth 20% of the final grade (55% combined); and weekly online group discussion forum participation totaling (28% of the final grade).

**Final Term Grade Explanations:** “A”=89.5 to 100; “B”=79.5 to 89.4; “C”=69.5 to 79.4; “D”=59.5 to 69.4; “F”=<59.5

**Text Usage:** For this course you have been assigned two texts: *Give Me Liberty* and *Voices of Freedom*—both of which are required readings. For the purposes of this course, you will be quizzed daily over assigned readings from *Give Me Liberty* (it is a secondary source). The other text for this course, *Voices of Freedom*, is a compilation of edited primary source materials carefully selected to complement readings in *Give Me Liberty*. For the exams you will be asked to write an essay utilizing primary source material presented in *Voices of Freedom*. You will also need to use information from the *Give Me Liberty* text to provide the rest of the story, context (background), and for some of the analysis for your essays. Access to both books is absolutely necessary to this course, as is having an understanding of and the ability to use primary and secondary sources. (Please see “Primary and Secondary Sources” under the “Exam Study Guides and Source Guides” tab in the menu on the course homepage.)

**Chapter Quizzes:** There are 14 quizzes including the “Week One Start Here Quiz” and fourteen chapter quizzes. Each is worth one point on your final semester average and is **due by 3 PM** on the assigned due date (see Class Schedule below.) As said above, the chapter quizzes will come from information in that week’s chapter(s) of *Give Me Liberty*. You have three chances within the timeframe the quiz is open to get your highest score. These multiple opportunities are for both your benefit to aid you in achieving a high score, but also to provide for any technological problems if you lose connectivity or service during one of your attempts. **There are no makeup quizzes once each quiz closes; and each new attempt erases previous attempts.**

**Chapter Discussion Forums:** To get full credit for the 28% of the semester grade delegated to discussion forum participation (1% per original post, 1% per peer response), for each forum students must make at least one original post in both discussion forums **AND** reply to at least one of your group-mates’ original posts in both forums. Students must post their original post by 3 PM on the Friday following the forum’s availability. Additionally, students, then, must respond to one classmate’s post by 3 PM the Friday following the original post’s due date. See discussion forum calendar at the end of this syllabus for more information on due dates, etc. **There are no makeup forums or responses once each is due.**

**“Professor’s Forum”:** This is a non-graded forum where students should go to receive helpful tips and advice from the instructor or to ask questions that may be valuable to the entire class.

The “Professor’s Forum” is designed to facilitate class communication and foster success. Students should check-in daily for pertinent, up-to-date class discussion threads. The forum may be accessed via the “Professor’s Forum” listing on the menu under “Course Home”.

**Essay Exams:** For each chapter, as discussed above, one discussion forum topic will be released. These are very similar to those essays that will appear as options on the exam. Use the forum topics to prepare for the essay exams. Two essay questions will appear on the exam, you will choose one of these to write about. On the exam, these questions will be drawn randomly from the pool of group discussion questions. Your essay will be graded according to how well you understand, explain, and analyze both material learned in the *Give Me Liberty* text as well as Primary Source material provided in *Voices of Freedom* in order to answer the question. In the course of your essays, you must reference Primary Source material in *Voices of Freedom* and cite when applicable to exam directions.

**Exam Reviews:** In the “Exam Study Guides and Source Guides” tab in the menu on the course homepage there is a document entitled “Exam Study Guide” with specific instructions on what needs to be in each essay and what is considered a complete “example.” **YOU MUST CAREFULLY CONSULT AND PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE “EXAM STUDY GUIDE” AND THE OTHER STUDY MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING YOUR ESSAY EXAMS.** Furthermore, this course is designed so that you have essay questions available as you read the chapters in both books. Do not wait until the last minute to study for your essay exams. Write each chapter’s essays in advance as you go through the course. There is a “Five Step Suggested Study Process” listed under the “Exam Study Guides and Source Guides” tab on the homepage to help you with strategies for approaching the essay exam process.

**Deadlines:** All quizzes and exams in this class will become available to students at 12:01 AM on the designated Saturday and must be completed and turned in by 3 PM on the following Friday. On exam weeks you have to do both the regular weekly assignments and the exams. Prepare for these in advance so that you do not get behind. (See class schedule below.) If you registered for the course during late add/drop, contact me immediately.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

**Technology:** Please take the “Student Orientational Tutorial” linked to your main courses page within eCollege that you should have completed prior to beginning this course. In addition to reliable web service on a daily basis for your online sessions, you also need access to Microsoft Word or to word processing software that you can save files in “Microsoft Word” compatible style. You also need a reliable place to save and keep copies of your coursework files for storage and reference.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Internet browser software (Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox work best)
- Word Processor (MS Word)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu).

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Emailing the professor's university email address ([Jessica.Wranosky@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jessica.Wranosky@tamuc.edu)) is the very best way to reach Dr. Wranosky. In every email, please make sure to provide your full name at the end, which course you are enrolled in, and a description of what your request or question is.

Dr. Wranosky will communicate with students through the email address they have on file in MyLeo (make sure yours is up to date and working throughout the semester), eCollege announcements, and the "Professor's Forum" discussion forum in the class. Please check these areas daily and before attending class. If an emergency arises, Dr. Wranosky will post the announcement for the class in all three of these locations.

In all forms of class communication including all online forums, students are expected and required to maintain a respectful tone and use semiformal to formal language.

### **eCollege Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

**Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

**Help:** Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege

**Technological Failure:** "If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The HelpDesk can be reached by clicking on the HelpDesk link in the Help pages as described above, or by sending an email directly to [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org). You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511." This information is also available through the "Technical Support" tab on the course main menu. Course instructors are not responsible for technical failures and should only be notified in cases of repeated failure or lack of response by the HelpDesk.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

**BOTTOM LINE—PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, OR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS (OR ANY OF MY OTHER CLASSES) IN ANY MANNER**

### **Academic Honesty Policy, Plagiarism (AKA Cheating):**

As mentioned above, the written component of this course is the essay exam. ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE ORIGINAL WRITINGS BY EACH STUDENT. COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AT WRITING OR TURNING IN THE SAME ESSAY OR CUTTING AND PASTING FROM ONLINE SOURCES (except your own discussion posts) IS NOT ALLOWED. Per the Texas A&M University-Commerce Department of History “Academic Integrity Policy” incidents of cheating, plagiarism (presenting another person’s work as one’s own), or other academic misconduct may be punishable by the assignment of a grade of zero, failure in the course, or expulsion from the university.

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

Suggested sites for further information include: <http://www.plagiarism.org/> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html> or <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.html>

### **Examination Policy**

**Taking Exams:** This is an online course in which you turn in essay exams online. You will have a two hour window in which to do this at any point during the days in which each exam is made available. This is a Two-Step Process. *Step 1: Log into the class and click on the “Exam” Listing on the course menu, then, click on the appropriate exam. This is where you will obtain your possible questions choices.* I highly suggest you write your essay in Word, save it as a Word document, and then copy and paste the text in the essay exam window. You must hit the “save answer” button AND the “submit for grading” button. You may either write your essay in the two hours provided or copy-and-paste it from documents you have written in preparing for the exam. *Step 2: You will then have to submit it in Microsoft Word format to the appropriate “Dropbox.” This second step is where I will actually grade your exam and provide feedback. Additionally, this is the point at which your exam is uploaded to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking.*

You must complete both steps by the deadline so that I can check for **plagiarism** or you will not get credit for the exam. (Note: you must use the “Dropbox” link to Turn-It-In.com inside the course. Do not go to Turn-It-In.com to do this.) Understand that I know many of you might study together, but your essays will have to be independently produced pieces of work that do not use another student’s or overly use another source’s information word for word. You are not to turn in the same essay or pieces of essays for more than one student’s exam. Make sure what you turn in is your own work. You will not know in advance which essay you are assigned, therefore, gambling on one student you are working with not getting the same essay is a bad idea. **DO YOUR OWN WORK.**

**Returning Exams to Students:** Students will receive access to graded exams, exam grades, and comments by 3 PM on the Friday following the due date.

### **Attendance Policy**

**“Attendance”:** Students are expected to turn in all work and attend to all weekly course requirements and announcements.

### **Assignment Policy**

There are weekly assignments for this course in the form of chapter quizzes, chapter discussion forums, and peer responses to the discussion forums. Additionally, there are three essay exams. Chapter forum and peer review information is to be entered directly into the windows provided in the eCollege discussion forum pages. Exams must be uploaded in two places, and the eCollege Dropbox folder upload must be in Microsoft Word format. No other file format will be accepted.

### **Late Work**

Students are expected to complete all assignments by the deadlines. There will be no make-up quizzes. Make-up exams will only be granted at the discretion of the instructor, with prior arrangement, and may be of a completely different format than the regular exams. Additionally, make-up exams will come with an automatic point deduction of at least 20%. There will be no make-up finals. Please note: all assignments in this course are available for an extended period of 24 hours or more (depending on the assignment) and the instructor will have little patience for procrastination.

### **Drop a Course**

A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

### **Incompletes**

There are no incompletes permitted for this course due to its live-online class components.

### **Administrative Withdrawal**

The professor expects each student to keep up with their performance level in the course and drop the course on their own if the student believes it is necessary. Yet, the professor reserves the right to drop any student who does not log-in to the course AND/OR who does not complete two weeks' worth of assignments from the course for non-attendance. Professor initiated administrative drops in this course are highly unlikely.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

**Federal ADA compliance:** Those students with special needs (recognized and documented by Texas A&M University-Commerce) should notify me immediately so I can discuss the availability of appropriate instructional aids or accommodations. These conversations will be confidential. If you do have special needs, you must register with the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services here at TAMU-Commerce.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

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- Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### **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>READING ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZ AND EXAM SCHEDULE</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan. 14-25	“A New World”	Both Texts, Ch. 1
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	“Beginnings of English America, 1607-60”	Both Texts, Ch. 2
Feb. 2-8	“Creating Anglo America, 1660-1750”	Both Texts, Ch. 3
Feb. 9-15	“Slavery, Freedom, Struggle for Empire...”	Both Texts, Ch. 4
<b>Feb. 16</b>	<b>(Exam One Available—Covering Chapters 1-4)</b>	
Feb. 16-22	“The American Revolution, 1763-83”	Both Texts, Ch. 5
<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>EXAM ONE</b>	<b>(Due by 3:00 PM)</b>
Feb. 23-Mar. 1	“The Revolution Within”	Both Texts, Ch. 6
Mar. 2-8	“Founding A Nation, 1783-89”	Both Texts, Ch. 7
Mar. 9-22	“Securing the Republic, 1789-1815”	Both Texts, Ch. 8
----- <b>SPRING BREAK MARCH 12-16</b> -----		
Mar. 23-29	“The Market Revolution, 1800-40”	Both Texts, Ch. 9
<b>Mar. 29</b>	<b>(Exam Two Available—Covering Chapters 5-9)</b>	
Mar. 30-Apr. 5	“Democracy in America, 1815-40”	Both Texts, Ch. 10
<b>Apr. 5</b>	<b>EXAM TWO</b>	<b>(Due by 3:00 PM)</b>
Apr. 6-12	“The Peculiar Institution”	Both Texts, Ch. 11
Apr. 13-19	“The Age of Reform, 1820-40”	Both Texts, Ch. 12
Apr. 20-26	“A House Divided, 1840-61”	Both Texts, Ch. 13
Apr. 27-May 3	“A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War”	Both Texts, Ch. 14
<b>May 4</b>	<b>(Exam Three Available—Covering Chapters 10-14)</b>	
<b>May 10</b>	<b>EXAM THREE*</b>	<b>(Due by 3:00 PM)</b>

**Important Schedule Notes:**

- All quizzes, reviews, and exams are set to release on Saturdays at 12:01 AM.
- All quizzes, exams, and discussion posts are due on Fridays at 3:00 PM; peer-responses are due the following Friday at 3:00 PM—EXCEPT THE LAST ONE—IT IS DUE BY 3:00 PM TUESDAY, MAY 7.
- All work may be turned in early, as long as it is in by the Friday deadline.
- **\*Extra Credit of 5 points (half a letter grade) on final exams turned in before 5 p.m. on to the Tuesday (May 7) during finals week.**

<b>DISCUSSION FORUM DUE DATES &amp; QUIZ SCHEDULE</b>
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<b>Available (12:01 AM)</b>	<b>Chapter‡ Forum Due Date (3 PM)</b>
Monday, January 14 (8am) Start Here Lessons & Start Here Quiz	Friday, January 25
Monday, January 14 (8am) Chapter 1 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, January 25
Saturday, January 26 Chapter 2 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, February 1
<i>Chapter 1 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, February 2 Chapter 3 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, February 8
<i>Chapter 2 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, February 9 Chapter 4 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, February 15
<i>Chapter 3 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, February 16 Chapter 5 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, February 22
<i>Chapter 4 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, February 23 Chapter 6 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, March 1
<i>Chapter 5 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, March 2 Chapter 7 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, March 8
<i>Chapter 6 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, March 9 Chapter 8 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, March 22
<i>Chapter 7 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, March 23 Chapter 9 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, March 29
<i>Chapter 8 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, March 30 Chapter 10 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, April 5
<i>Chapter 9 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, April 6 Chapter 11 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, April 12
<i>Chapter 10 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, April 13 Chapter 12 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, April 19
<i>Chapter 11 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, April 20 Chapter 13 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, April 26
<i>Chapter 12 Peer Response due</i>	
Saturday, April 27 Chapter 14 Original Forum Post & Quiz	Friday, May 3
<i>Chapter 13 Peer Response due</i>	
<i>Chapter 14 Peer Response due</i>	<b>**<u>Tuesday, May 7</u>**</b>

‡When the word “chapter” is used anywhere in this course—it should be assumed that it means for both textbooks *Give Me Liberty* and *Voices of Freedom*.

**Have a great semester, and please feel free and empowered to approach me with any questions.**