



**HISTORY 1301.08E and HISTORY 1301.09E**  
**The United States to 1877**  
**Course Syllabus: Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** Manuel A. Grajales  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science Building, Room 144  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm to 2pm. Wednesday, 9am to 11am, 12:30pm to 1:30pm, or by appointment.  
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**Course Information**

**Course Materials:**

The following required books are available in the book store. They can also be found through online distributors:

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty*, Vol. I, 4<sup>th</sup> Seagull Edition (W. W. Norton, 2013) ISBN-13: **978-0393911909**, \$45.16 (Amazon.com price for new copy). You may purchase an ebook if you like.

Additional materials will either be handed out in class or made available to you through E-College or email.

**Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to American History from the years of pre-Colonial interaction in North America to the Reconstruction. The purpose of the class is to aid students in furthering their learning on this critical time in the United States' history with an eye to how these events pertain to the nation today. Although the length and breadth of these numerous, important events are too vast to cover each thoroughly, the course will explore these initial centuries of American history by focusing on certain themes, which will allow students to not only become more familiar with the events themselves, but with their meanings and the individuals connected with these happenings. Some of the main themes discussed in this class will be war, race, industry, culture, and gender. While this class will mainly be formatted in lecture style there will be instances of required interaction, discussion, and question/answer sessions.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite: ENG 1301 or 1302

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

### **Student Responsibility Sheet**

The student responsibility sheet is designed to measure the Student Learning Outcome that assesses students' role in their education. It will be distributed to students electronically, via email or eCollege, in the first week of the semester. Completed responsibility sheets are **due on or before 5.00pm on Friday September 12th** (note: not our usually-scheduled class meeting time). The completed sheets may either be printed and submitted in person to the instructor or may be emailed to the instructor. ***Failure to submit these sheets will result in a failing grade for the course regardless of any other work that has been completed for the course.*** Consequently, responsibility sheets that are submitted late will not be accepted. For further explanation of this requirement, please do not hesitate to ask the instructor.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Instructional/Methods/Activities Assessments**

#### Attendance Policy and Participation

Being present and participating in class is one of the surest ways for success. Each day I will take attendance and keep track of students' participation in class throughout the semester. Students' overall attendance and participation will count for 10% of their final grade. Excused absences will only be allowed if the student can provide a written excuse considered acceptable by the University and the instructor. Specifically this includes participation in University-sponsored events, illness with a doctor's note, death in the student's family, or a court appearance. **Each missed day after 3 unexcused absences will result in a letter grade reduction from the semester/participation grade. More than 8 unexcused absences will result in an "F" for participation and may result in a failing grade for the course at the instructor's discretion.** Students are expected to engage in class room discussions. Please bring any questions you have on the material presented during lecture to class.

#### Quizzes

There will be five quizzes throughout the semester, given in class during the last 10-15 minutes. Quizzes will cover lectures, in-class discussion, videos/movies shown in class, etc. Lowest quiz score will be dropped.

The format for quizzes will be:

3 Multiple Choice Quizzes

2 One question, written responses.

One question response needs to be at least half a page.

#### Exams

Students will have three exams throughout the semester, as indicated in the syllabus. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, films, etc. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, a short answer identification section, and an essay question. The

written component affords students opportunities to discuss and analyze the significance of the course materials and historical content. Students are required to bring an Examination Blue Book (available in the Campus Bookstore) to class on the day of the exam. Exams are closed book. The only materials that need to be on your table during the exam are your Blue Book and your writing utensil. **All electronic devices must be turned off/ placed on silent and put away during exams. Failure to do so may result in an automatic “F” on the exam.**

Written Assignments: Movies and Historical Themes

Students will write one essay of 3-5 pages. The films chosen will focus on the time periods we will discuss throughout the semester. The student will choose from a list of movies that will be provided by the instructor. **Students are allowed to choose a movie not on the list with instructor approval.**

After the film has been chosen, a project proposal with a list of at least three to five secondary sources (books, journal articles, reputable Movie reviews, etc. **NO WIKIPEDIA**) will be turned in. Further details of the assignment will be made available by the instructor during the semester and the due date is listed in the Course Schedule below. Students will have the opportunity to rewrite their paper to improve their grade if they so choose.

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean

B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement

C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned

D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

**Grading**

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

3 Exams (18.33% each)	55%
5 Quizzes	15%
Paper Proposal/Bibliography	5%
Paper Assignment	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

### **Course expectations:**

The following are the basic expectations for success in this course.

- **Complete all reading and writing assignments before coming to class.** You must keep up with the assignments to perform well in this course. All of the readings can and should be applied to exam responses and writing assignments.
- Written assignments are expected on the assigned due date.
- **All assignments can be discussed with the instructor by email or in person during office hours.**
- Exams must be completed on the scheduled due date, unless the student provides a valid, documented excuse. Absence on exam days will only be excused with appropriate documentation (e.g., medical documentation). **If a student must miss an exam, the instructor must be notified of the absence prior to the exam and a make-up exam must be rescheduled within one week's time. Absences without a valid excuse or exams that are not made-up per these guidelines will result in a "0" grade for the exam.**

**To pass this class, all assignments must be completed! No Exceptions!**

### **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

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

Students are encouraged to contact me for any issues you might have. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. **The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary.**

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION**

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

#### *Internet/Word Processing/eCollege:*

Students will need internet for email and e-college access concerning course-related communications, etc. **You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.** You will need access to a word processor (Microsoft Office or equivalent) and printer to prepare for written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. 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@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

### *Turnitin:*

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox eCollege. All student work must be turned in to the dropbox on eCollege and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Please let me know if you have any problems.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### ***Classroom Behavior***

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. **This means turning off/silencing cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices** for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the instructor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. **If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise, but only if I know what is going on with you.**

### ***Late Papers***

All written assignments are due at the start of class on the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with my **advance approval** and will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade for every three days late. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify me in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. ***Notifying me in advance DOES NOT mean an email the night before the assignment is due (unless in case of emergency). I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.***

### ***Academic Honesty***

In all courses, we 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 even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.**

### ***Writing Center***

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance 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 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/>.

### ***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 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](#)

## **Course Outline/Calendar**

This schedule will guide you throughout the semester and indicates when quizzes and exams will be done or assignments due. **I will do my best to adhere to the schedule but I reserve the right to make adjustments to the syllabus during the course of the semester as circumstances arise.**

### **Week 1-Class Introductions      8/25-8/29**

Introduction of class, overview of expectations  
Explanation of movie paper project, including research options.  
**Make sure to rent/buy text book to start on Week 2.**

### **Week 2-A Brave New World: Europe and the Americas      9/1-9/5**

Chapter 1, The indigenous peoples of America and Europe's first advances  
Start Chapter 2, Beginnings of English America: Who came here?

### **Week 3-The America's under British Influence      9/8-9/12**

Continue Chapter 2, English matters affect Americas  
**Have choice of movie ready for the end of class Tuesday.**  
Chapter 3, The Creation of British America.  
**Quiz 1 (multiple choice) at end of Class Thursday**  
**Turn in Student Responsibility Sheets by Friday, 5:00pm**

Week 4- North American Slavery and Struggle to Maintain Empire 9/15-9/19

Continue Chapter 3.

Chapter 4, North American Slavery and British Struggle for Empire

Week 5-Struggle for Empire, cont. 9/22-9/26

Finish Chapter 4, Review for Exam

**Exam 1, Thursday**

Week 6-The Revolution: How David defeated Goliath 9/29-10/3

Chapter 5

**Have Movie paper proposal turned in (paper copy or email) by Thursday**

Week 7-Effects of Revolution & Attempts to create a Nation 10/6-10/10

Chapter 6, **Quiz 2 (Question on American Revolution) on Tuesday**

Chapter 7

Week 8-Creation and defense of a New Nation 10/13-10/17

Continue Chapter 7.

Chapter 8.

Week 9-Continue Defense of a New Nation 10/20-10/24

Continue Chapter 8, **Quiz 3 (multiple Choice) on Tuesday.**

Chapter 9

Week 10-Economic Development in the new United States 10/27-10/31

Finish Chapter 9 and Exam Review

**Exam 2 on Thursday**

Week 11-Political Development and question of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Slavery 11/3-11/7

Chapter 10

Start Chapter 11

**Film Paper due, Friday by 11:59pm (Midnight)**

Week 12-The beginnings of reform 11/10-11/14

Finish Chapter 11, **Quiz 4 (Multiple Choice) on Tuesday**

Chapter 12

Week 13-Reform and the push further West 11/17-11/21

Finish Chapter 12 Start Chapter 13, **Quiz 5 (Question on Reform Groups) on Tuesday**

Continue Chapter 13

Week 14-Thanksgiving Break 11/24-11/28

Tuesday: Ch. 13/14

No Class Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Week 15-Civil War      12/1-12/5

Chapter 14

**Redone papers due Tuesday, 11:59pm (Midnight)**

Finish lectures and Finals review

Week 16-Finals Weeks      12/8-12/12

**1301.08E, 8:00am class. Final Exam is on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 8am to 10am**

**1301.09E, 9:30am class. Final Exam is on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 8am to 10am**