



## HIST 1301.07E & 1301.10E (CL)

### US-U.S. History to 1877

### COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015

**Instructor:** Cynthia Loftin Graduate Assistant/Teacher

**Office Location:** 146

**Office Hours:** 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday or by appointment or Email

**Office Phone:** 903-468-3030

**University Email Address:** [Cynthia.Loftin@tamuc.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Loftin@tamuc.edu)

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### Textbook(s) Required:

[TAP]- James Roark, et al., *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, Volume One to 1877, 5th Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN: 978-0-312-66313-0

[RAP] Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past, Volume I*. Fifth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-0-312-56413-1

#### Textbooks(s) Recommended:

William Jr. Strunk and E. B. White, *Elements of Style 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*, (2000), ISBN:  
9780205309023

*A Note about the Course Texts:*

*Students are expected to acquire the course texts prior to the start of class. Failure to do so will hinder a student's ability to keep up with the course, and the Instructor is in no way responsible*

for such an eventuality. Allowances will not be made for students who lack possession of any one or both of the textbooks.

## Course Description

This course introduces the field of 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 the Civil War. Students will read a textbook, one primary source reader, and additional readings as needed. 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, and the coming of the Civil War.

## 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.

The historical biography will be graded as part of your grade, however, this will also be the instrument used for your Student Learning Outcome. Your historical biography in its finished form will demonstrate your ability to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments with explanations, follow conventions of grammar and syntax, demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues, and the work put in will show your understanding of your role in your 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 5.00 pm on Thursday January 22, 2015.** The completed sheets either may 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:

-Regular attendance is a requirement to pass this course. Each missed class day past 2 absences will result in a 10% deduction from the semester attendance grade. More than 5 absences may result in a failing grade for the course at the instructor's discretion.

-Students are expected to sign in on an attendance sheet provided. If a student does not sign the sheet (s)he will not be counted as present for the day. Any student leaving class early without having given prior notice to the instructor will be counted as absent.

### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete your readings prior to class on Tuesday and be prepared to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. You will submit all written assignments electronically through eCollege. With regards to the historical biography it will be uploaded to eCollege and a hardcopy in class on or before the due date so be sure to familiarize yourself with the application before any assignments are due. To access this course, go to MyLeo, login, click eCollege on the right side of the screen, then click My Courses on the left side of the next screen and look for this course.

### Participation/Discussion:

-In-class discussion is an important part of this course. A grade will be given based on participation in discussion, asking questions, making comments, etc. during class. Constructive comments and questions will earn high grades for this portion of the class. On the other hand, excessive distractions, interruptions, tardiness, sleeping, etc. will result in a low participation grade.

**NOTE:** Failure to attend class will result in a **0** for that day's participation grade.

**NOTE:** If no one attempts to answer questions from the instructor, the instructor reserves the right to call a **POP-QUIZ**. **Pop-quizzes cannot be made up due to an absence.**

### Assignment Explanations:

#### Discussion Posts

Discussion Post count as part of participation. A prompt will be in eCollege under Discussion Forums. Discussions Posts must contain two paragraphs (at least six sentences total). Failure to post will result in a drop in participation grade. **Responses** to classmate's Discussion Posts is **HIGHLY** Recommended  
**Discussion Posts cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

### Assignments/Quizzes/Exams:

-Writing Assignment: We will be exploring various aspects of society in the United States throughout the course. To demonstrate knowledge of these various aspects

including but not limited to class, race and gender/sexuality, students will complete a biographical paper on a historical figure of their choice.

***The paper will be 3-5 pages, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font, and with at least two sources. NO PDF FILE ACCEPTED***

***The Historical Biographical paper will be placed in the appropriate Dropbox basket, which is linked to Turnitin (Turnitin checks for plagiarism). Plagiarism will not be tolerated.***

***NOTE: At least two sources for this paper are to be either peer-review journal articles, examples are American Historical Review, History and Memory, Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Handbook of Texas, etc. Or books.***

***The Research librarians are happy to help students find the proper materials. Research librarians may be contacted as follows:***

[Sarah Northam](#)

Head of Research and Instruction Services  
College of Business & Entrepreneurship Library Research Guide  
903-886-5714

[Scott Lancaster](#)

College of Education & Human Services Research Guide  
903-886-5725

[Megan Beard](#)

College of Humanities, Social Sciences & Art Research Guide  
903-886-5714

#### **Tutors:**

Tutors are available at Gee Library and are available to offer assistance in finding appropriate research materials and with the mechanics of writing a historical biography, and it is HIGHLY RECCOMENED students avail themselves of this resource.

A list will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. The process of choosing a historical figure will be through eCollege and only two students per figure and will be conducted on a first-come-first-choice basis. However, choosing a figure not featured on the list is fine, but it must be cleared with the instructor first. More details over the biographical paper can be found on eCollege and will be covered more thoroughly throughout the semester. Written assignments are expected on the assigned due date. Five percent of the assignment grade will be deducted for each day it is late.

-The paper will be graded according to the following criteria:

-Compliance with the assignment

-The presence, strength and originality of a thesis

-The proper use of evidence to support that thesis

- The degree to which the paper is analytical and evaluative rather than narrative
- Evidence that the sources used and listed in the bibliography were read and understood
- Organization of the paper and logical progression of the argument
- Mechanics (spelling, grammar, syntax and punctuation)

-Readings Quizzes: Four quizzes based on the assigned readings in class on eCollege. The quizzes are found under the appropriate week under assignment. The quizzes are fifteen multiple-choice questions and must be finished within the hour allotted. No late quizzes will be accepted. The quizzes are open for three days, the dates are in the class calendar, and therefore, there are no surprises.

#### **Electronic devices:**

Electronic devices are allowed in class. However, if these items become a problem i.e. playing games, listening to music, etc. electronic devices will no longer be allowed in class.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

***All exams online, however, if Instructor suspects cheating at any time on Exams, quizzes and Discussion Posts will become in-class assignments!***

-Exams: There will be three exams in this course, none of which will be cumulative. Each exam will be composed of multiple choice questions, and two essay questions. Exams will be primarily based on the assigned reading, but some questions (including the essay portion) may/will be taken directly from lecture. Exams will be given online in eCollege. **The exams will open at 2 p.m. on Thursday afternoon and will close at 11:59:59 on Sunday night.**

Multiple-choice questions will be scored immediately in eCollege while essays will be scored by the instructor. Students are encouraged to type and save their essay responses in Word, **NO PDF FILE ACCEPTED** then cut and paste them into the exam app in eCollege to avoid losing work in the case of an outage. Students are free to use the textbook, reader, notes, and information in eCollege to complete the exam but no outside sources are allowed. **Any specific evidence such as quotations, statistics, or paraphrasing someone else's ideas in your own words must have a citation with the author and page number.** Significant latitude is given for writing style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling and grammar, contact the instructor or visit the TAMU-Commerce Writing Lab. **More than three typographical errors results in 1 full letter grade deduction from the exam score.**

**Exams cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

## Grading

3 Exams 50%

Biographical Paper 25%

4 Quizzes 15%

Discussion Posts 5%

Attendance/Participation 5%

---

Total 100%

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59 or Below

Written work: Grading criteria for written work holds true for exams, written quizzes and writing assignments.

It is based on the following:

A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean

B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence

C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence

D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay

NOTE: General grammatical disorder in written work will result in point deductions (excluding timed in-class quizzes).

Course expectations: 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.

- 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.

-Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. **Late work will not be accepted.**

-Reading assignments in the course schedule must be completed prior to the class day for which they are assigned. The general trend for this course will be to cover a chapter per week.

-Instructor reserves the right to modify course schedule as needs arise; i.e. moving through chapters either slowly or ahead and will notify students of any changes via email and in class.

**All assignments must be completed and submitted to pass this course.**

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

- To fully participate in online courses, you will need to use a current, Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - speakers or headphones.
- Depending on your course, you might also need a:
  - webcam
  - microphone

For courses where interactive tools are used, like VoiceThread or Class Live Pro, headphones are suggested for use with recording and playback. We recommend a webcam with an integrated microphone, such as the Microsoft LifeCam Cinema. All devices should be installed and configured before class begins.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. Java can be downloaded at: <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

### **Pearson LearningStudio Access and Log in Information**

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.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@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).**

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

### **Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

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 Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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 Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You will then be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

**Note:** Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

### **Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio**

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed?

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at
2. [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or 1-866-656-5511
3. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number

4. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
5. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson help desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

### **Internet Access**

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

### **myLeo Support**

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.

### **Learner Support**

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](#)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location.

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](#)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

For general questions and assistance with the course, the instructor will keep a schedule of 5-10 regular office hours per week. If a student cannot meet during the designated schedule, arrangements can be made to meet at a more convenient time. An email should be sent to the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the time the student plans on meeting. A reply can be expected within 24-36 hours.

# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures

### Class Decorum

Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of other is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. (See Student Guidebook)

### Academic Honesty

It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and the instructor that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is defined as selling or purchasing academic products with the intention that they be submitted to fulfill an academic or course requirement. Proper citation of sources must always be utilized thoroughly and accurately. Cheating/plagiarism/collusion will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment, and may also result in failure of the course and/or disciplinary action by the University. Any student found guilty of violating academic integrity policy will fail the assignment in question, will automatically fail the 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's plagiarism policy can be found on the department webpage. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.

### Late Assignments:

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. **Late work will not be accepted.**

### Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this course.

### Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center's resources for assistance with drafting their written assignments. Although the center will not write your paper for you, it may help you to improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, plan in advance because it can only help you if there is adequate time to incorporate their suggestions into your paper. Additionally, I am willing to read rough

drafts (and even multiple drafts) of your written work so long as the drafts are submitted at least one week prior to the due date.

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **ADA Statement**

#### **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*).

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

### **Week 1:**

Introduction to Course and Ancient America: Before 1492  
Syllabus and Introductions

Readings: TAP, Chapter 1  
RAP, Introduction for Students, Chapter 1

### **Assignment:**

**Discussion Post #1; Due Sunday January 25, 2015, by 11:59 p.m.**

Complete and submit Student Responsibility Sheet by on or before 5.00 pm on Thursday **January 22, 2015**. University policy states: failure to submit these sheets when due will result in a failing grade for the course regardless of other work completed.

**Week 2:**

Europeans Encounter the New World; 1492-1600

Readings: TAP, Chapter 2

RAP, Chapter 2

**Assignment:**

**Quiz #1 Opens Thursday January 29, 2015 and closes Sunday February 1, 2015, 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 3:**

The Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century; 1601-1700

Readings: TAP, Chapter 3

RAP, Chapter 3

**Assignment:**

**None 12<sup>th</sup> Day Census**

**Week 4:**

The Northern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century

Readings: TAP, Chapter 4

RAP, Chapter 4

**Assignment:**

**Discussion post #2 due Friday February 13, 2015, 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 5:**

Colonial America in the Eighteenth Century; 1701-1770

Readings: TAP, Chapter 5

RAP, Chapter 5

**EXAM I: TAP CHAPTERS 1-5 and RAP 1-5 MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59:59 PM ON SUNDAY February 22, 2015**

**Week 6:**

The British Empire and the Colonial Crisis; 1754-1775

Readings: TAP, Chapter 6

RAP, Chapter 6

**Assignment:**

**Historical figures final decision posted in eCollege Discussion Post by February 24, 2015**

**Quiz #2 Opens Thursday February 26, 2015 and Closes Sunday March 1, 2015; 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 7:**

The War for America; 1775-1783

Readings: TAP, Chapter 7

RAP, Chapter 7

**Tentative:** March 5, 2015 Library Day

**Assignment:** for Library bring post a list of books for your paper in Dropbox

**Assignment:**

**Discussion Post #3 Due Friday March 6, 2015**

**Week 8:**

Building a Republic; 1775-1789

Readings: TAP, Chapter 8

RAP, Chapter 8

**Assignment:**

**None**

**March 16- 20 Spring Break Enjoy**

**Week 9:**

The New Nation Takes Form; 1789-1800

Readings: TAP, Chapter 9

RAP, Chapter 9

**Assignment:**

**Quiz #3 Opens Thursday March 26, 2015 and Closes Sunday March 29, 2015; 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 10:**

Republicans in Power; 1800-1824

Readings: TAP, Chapter 10

RAP, Chapter 10

**Discussion Post #4 Due Friday April 3, 2015**

**EXAM II: TAP CHAPTERS 6-10 MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59:59 PM ON SUNDAY April 5, 2015**

**Week 11:**

The Expanding Republic, 1815-1840

Readings: TAP, Chapter 11

RAP, Chapter 11

**Assignment:**

**Preliminary Historical Biography Due in Class AND Dropbox by the Beginning of Class April 9, 2015 (ANY PAPERS NOT IN DROPBOX WILL NOT BE GRADED)**

**Week 12:**

The New West and the Free North  
Readings: TAP, Chapter 12  
RAP, Chapter 12

**Assignment:**

**QUIZ #4 Thursday April 16, 2015 and Closes Sunday April 19, 2015; 11:59 p.m.**

**Week 13:**

The Slave South; 1820-1860  
Readings: TAP, Chapter 13  
RAP, Chapter 13

**Assignment:**

**Discussion Post #5 Due Friday April 24, 2015**

**Final Draft of Historical Biography Due in Class AND Dropbox by the Beginning of Class April 23, 2015 (ANY PAPERS NOT IN DROPBOX WILL NOT BE GRADED)**

**Week 14:**

The House Divided  
Readings: TAP, Chapter 14  
RAP, Chapter 14

**Assignment:**

None

**Week 15:**

The Civil War  
Readings: TAP, Chapter 15  
RAP, Chapter 15

**Assignment:**

**EXAM II: TAP CHAPTERS 10-15 MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59:59 PM ON Tuesday April 12, 2015**

**Week 16:**

**Finals Week**

A.M. Class **Final Exam Monday**

Class **Final Exam Friday**