



**HISTORY 1301.13E and HISTORY 1301.14E
The United States to 1877
Course Syllabus: Fall 2015**

Instructor: Nicole Newton
Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building, Room 146
Office Hours: M 9am-12pm, T 10am-11am and 2pm-4pm, R 10am-11am and 2pm-4pm
Class Information: HIST 1301.13E – TR 11am-12:15pm in BA 221
HIST 1301.14E – TR 12:30pm-1:45pm in BA 244
University Email: nnewton@leomail.tamuc.edu

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, 4th Seagull Edition (W. W. Norton, 2013) ISBN-13: **978-0393920307**, \$48.41 (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:

A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877. Assignments will focus on reading, writing and analysis.

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 18th**. The completed sheets must be printed and submitted in person 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 one quiz each week over the readings found in *Give Me Liberty*. These quizzes will be available online and will have 10 questions that must be completed in no more than 25 minutes. All quizzes will be due Saturday evenings at 11:59pm, unless otherwise instructed.

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 essay questions, provided to students at least one class day before the scheduled exam. **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 Assignment:

This assignment has two distinctive sections. In the first section, students will imagine that they are a person from any time period discussed within the scope of this class (ex: a Revolutionary War soldier, an American Indian, a child working on tobacco farm, etc.). For the first part of the assignment, students will give a general overview introducing their person with details including, but not limited to: religious affiliation, location, gender, social status, political standings, and age (*10 pts*). Students will then use that identity to craft 3 journal entries or letters (of at least 300 words each) from that character's perspective. Each entry/letter must be prefaced by a historically-accurate description of its context. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible, but ALL entries/letters must be historically accurate (*30 pts each*). An example of an introduction and one entry will be provided in eCollege for reference.

In the second section, students will be required to write a short essay (500-1000 words) which makes an argument about the social climate of the period they have chosen. That argument must be substantiated by evidence from AT LEAST 3 academic sources (we will discuss this further in class), which will appear in a bibliography at the end of the paper (*100 pts*).

Grading

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

Exams	60%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%

Letter/Journal Project

20%

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

900-1000 =	A
800-899 =	B
700-799 =	C
600-699 =	D
599 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 and quizzes will not be accepted after the due date, unless the student provides written documentation of an excused absence.
- 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@tamu-commerce.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

Non-Discrimination

"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."

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). Laptops will be allowed on a tentative basis. If students are seen using laptops for any purpose other than taking notes, laptops will be banned from class. The instructor will let students know if this becomes an issue.

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
[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 8/31-9/4

Introduction
A New World

Make sure to rent/buy text book to start on Week 2.

Week 2 9/7-9/11

Chapter 1 Quiz
The Empires
Black Robe pt 1

Week 3 9/14-9/18

Chapter 2 Quiz
Black Robe pt 2
Early English America

Turn in Student Responsibility Sheets by Friday, 5:00pm

Week 4 9/21-9/25

Chapter 3 Quiz

Religion and Colonial Growth
Land of the Free, Home of the Slave

Week 5 9/28-10/2

Chapter 4 Quiz

A Changing Dynamic
Rival and Revival

Week 6 10/5/10/9

Exam 1

A Series of Unfortunate Acts

Week 7 10/12-10/16

Chapter 6 Quiz

The Road to Independence
American Liberty

Week 8 10/19-10/23

Chapter 7 Quiz

Founding a Nation
The First Years

Week 9 10/26-10/30

Chapter 8 Quiz

More Land, More War
The Market Revolution

Week 10 11/2-11/6

Chapter 9 Quiz

The Idea of Democracy

Week 11 11/9-11/13

The Age of Jackson

Exam 2

Week 12 11/16-11/20

Chapter 11 and 12 Quiz

The Progress of Slavery
The Progressives

Week 13 11/23-11/27

Chapter 13 and 14 Quiz

Preparing for War

The Final Battle?

Week 14 11/30-12/4

Reconstruction

No Class Thursday, November 26th

Week 15 12/7-12/11

Exam 3

Student Research Day

Week 16 12/14-12/18

Written Assignemnt DUE

Finals Week