

**HIST 1301**  
Credit Hours: 3  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

**Instructor:** Kollin Fields  
**Office/Classroom:** Sowders 304  
**Office Hours:** 8:40 a.m. – 10:16 a.m. (M-F)/other times arranged upon request  
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**Email Address:** kollin.fields@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Response Time:** By end of day

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials:** David Reynolds, *America, Empire of Liberty: A New History of the United States* (New York: Basic Books, 2009)

The text above, as well as all other readings, will be provided by the instructor in print or online.

**Software Required:** Access to the internet and a word processor outside of school is suggested for optimal expediency in completing assignments. Students who have difficulty procuring either of these may arrange a time with the instructor to utilize the school's resources.

**Course Description:**

HIST 1301 - History of the United States to Reconstruction

A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1865. Note: Assignments will focus on reading, writing, and analysis.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking** – Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.

**Communications** – In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

**Personal Responsibility** – Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

**Social Responsibility** – Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Applicable Technical Skills Needed:** Students should familiarize themselves with the University email system as well as eCollege, as each will be a consistent source of information such as announcements, assignments, feedback and grades. Students should have a working knowledge of an appropriate word processor, as well as an appropriate presentation software tool.

**Instructional Methods:** HIST 1301 & 1302 will rely on a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, the primary course text and supplemental readings, formal assessments (quizzes), and formal and informal student writings.

**Student Responsibilities:** Students should take responsibility for exploring the class syllabus, familiarizing themselves with the schedule of assignments and due dates, and frequently checking for class announcements or contact by the instructor.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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

### **Assignment Breakdown by Weight:**

- Student-Led Discussion – 15%
- Quizzes – 20%
- Article Reviews – 20%
- Research Paper – 20%
- Midterm & Final Exam – %25

### **Assessments:**

Student-Led Discussion – Students will be grouped by the instructor and will be responsible for leading the specified day's class discussion. Class discussions should mimic the example set by the instructor and should seek to reflect and further explore the current subject matter. Those students responsible for the day's discussion should be extremely familiar with the subject matter or specified reading and be able to ask thought-provoking and probing questions to the class. Additionally, these students should be able to engage in thoughtful dialogue with peers throughout the discussion. A portion of each student's final discussion grade will also be dependent on their engagement in class discussions when not leading.

Quizzes – Will consist of multiple choice questions which cover the subject material specified by the instructor. All class content (lectures, readings, discussions, etc.) within the specified subject matter is fair game for questions on quizzes.

Article Reviews – After reading a scholarly article of the instructor's choosing, the student should critically assess the effectiveness of the article in defending its thesis. Article reviews should discuss the author's credentials, his thesis, the evidence he/she uses in defending the thesis, and the student's analysis of the effectiveness of the author's overall argument. If possible, students may wish to also include commentary on existing scholarship/historiography of the topic. This is different than a "book report" in the sense that students are not simply summarizing the author's work, but rather analyzing it in terms of its effectiveness within the field of history.

Research Paper – While more information will be given by the instructor concerning the time frame of assignments pertaining to the research paper, this paper should represent a substantial gathering of research and analysis by each student. Additionally, the paper should reflect disciplinary guidelines generally held by the social sciences, as specified by the instructor (types of sources, paper format, thesis, etc.). Each student should reveal that he/she has learned how to effectively research an historical topic and write a paper that adheres to the norms of the social science discipline.

Midterm & Final Exam – Multiple choice exams which cover a specified range of content as set by the instructor. As with quizzes, all forms of information (lectures, readings, discussions, etc.) are fair game for questions on the midterm and final exam. Additionally, the midterm and final exam *may* include short essay questions which will cover subject material specified by the instructor.

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS & SUPPORT**

While on the Boles campus, students will have available access to Wi-Fi and computers, the latter including any necessary software for completing assignments. Students may wish to have access to an internet-enabled device outside the classroom in order to view or engage in videos, lectures, class discussions, writing assignments, and/or all other class components as set by the instructor. If a lack of technology outside the classroom is a hindrance to completing assignments, please contact the professor immediately in order to make alternative arrangements for completing assignments.

#### **Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information:**

This course will be facilitated (in part) using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu)

**Technical Support:**

Technical assistance is available 24/7.

If you experience Learning Studio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

**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 [myLeo.https://leo.tamuc.edu](https://leo.tamuc.edu)

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Late Work, Missed Quizzes/Exams, and Extra Credit:**

No late work\* will be accepted unless due to extenuating circumstances, in which case the instructor should be made aware at the earliest possible time and will then determine the merit of granting extended time. In all other cases, late work will result in a zero. Missed quizzes/exams will be made up the first possible class day upon the student's return, with the aforementioned caveat for extenuating circumstances in effect. Extra credit opportunities may be arranged at the request of the student, with approval by the instructor; factors such as attendance, extenuating circumstances, class behavior, and student conduct throughout the semester will be used to determine merit for extra credit opportunities.

\*Defined as not turned in by the time given by the instructor. E.g. if an assignment is due "when you come to class" on a particular day, and is not ready when class begins, it is late and will result in a zero.

**Student Conduct:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

**Academic Integrity:**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, consult the relevant policies outlined through the TAMUC website.

**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.

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.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement:**

Texas Senate Bill- 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to the Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce Campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE CALENDAR

The following is a tentative schedule of assignments and is subject to change.

*Quizzes* – Typically the day after a Unit has ended

*Article Reviews* – Due by date specified by instructor

*SLD* – Group to be specified by instructor

<b>Week (+ end date)</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>
1 (1/19)	1 – North American Colonization 1492-1763	Quiz; SLD
2 (1/26)	2 – The War for Independence (pp.45-58)	Article Review
3 (2/2)	2 – The War for Independence	Quiz; SLD
4 (2/9)	3 – Articles of Confederation & U.S. Constitution (pp.58-66)	
5 (2/16)	3 – Articles of Confederation & U.S. Constitution	Quiz
6 (2/23)	4 – A Grand Experiment: Washington-Monroe (pp.66-94)	Article Review
7 (3/2)	4 – A Grand Experiment: Washington-Monroe	Quiz; SLD
8 (3/9)	5 – Jacksonian Democracy & Manifest Destiny (pp.95-121)	<b>MIDTERM</b>
9 (3/23)	5 – Jacksonian Democracy & Manifest Destiny	Quiz; SLD
10 (3/29)	6 – Antebellum America (pp.123-145)	Quiz
13 (4/6)	7 – The War Between the States (pp.149-175)	Article Review
14 (4/13)	7 – The War Between the States	Quiz; SLD
15 (4/20)	8 – Reconstruction (pp.177-196)	
16 (4/27)	8 – Reconstruction	Quiz; SLD
17 (5/4)	Final Exam Review	<b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</b>
18 (5/11)	Exam Week	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>