



## **HIST 1301.01W, United States History to 1877**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring, 2018

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Derrick D. McKisick, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson #119

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 9:00 am – 10:30, 4:00-5:00pm:

Thursday 9:00-10:30 am or appointment

**Office Phone:** 903.886.5222

**Office Fax:** 903.468.3230

**University Email Address:** [derrick.mckisick@tamuc.edu](mailto:derrick.mckisick@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** within 24 hours, except Friday- Sunday

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

##### ***Textbook(s) Required***

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*, Seagull 5<sup>th</sup> ed, Volume 1.

Foner, Eric, ed. *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary Reader*, Seagull 5<sup>th</sup> ed, Volume 1.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of Slave Girl* (see D2L posting).

##### **Course Description**

This course is designed to help students examine the developments, events and issues involved in the creation of the United States of America through the Reconstruction Era. During the course, all students will be required to identify themes and ideas fundamental to U.S. History and evaluate critically explanations of historical events through brief writing assignments and class discussions. Critical thinking is essential for any understanding of American history; therefore, students will be asked to critically evaluate not just

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memorize the course materials. In this class, we will work together to develop the skills necessary for all students to be successful, but your participation and preparation is required. Last, enjoy the class!

### **Student Learning Outcomes** *(Should be measurable; observable)*

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. 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.
3. Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Students will demonstrate and understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

The minimal technical skills required for this course include: using the learning management system, university email, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

### **Instructional Methods**

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

The course requires a combination of writing assignments and discussion boards. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE submitted by 11:59 pm each Saturday of the semester (No Late Assignment will be accepted for full credit). The instructional week will from Sunday to Saturday. The late assignment will be assessed a five-point penalty for each day that it is late. Students are expected to read the required readings to participate fully in the discussion board discussions.

### **Participation**

The students are required to participate in class discussion and respond in a timely manner. Because this class is online, discussion is the primary way for students to discuss with their classmates the ideas, concepts, and conclusions they have reached in the study of United States history. Additionally, all correspondence and responses to discussion questions must be respectful and civil.

### **Discussion Board**

During the course of the semester, there will be weekly discussion board questions based on assigned readings from *Give Me Liberty!* and *Voices of Freedom*. All students must post an answer to the question and respond to

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the responses of two different classmates. There are three parts that count for twenty points. Your initial post counts for ten points and your responses to your classmates count for five points each if you receive full credit. To receive credit for the assignment, each student must respond to the discussion question with a 150-word post and respond to at least two classmate's questions with at least 100 word responses each that directly address their response. The first response counts for ten points and each response to questions from your classmates count for five points each for twenty total points. **If you do not participate in all parts of each discussion board thread, you will not receive full credit for your response.**

### **Discussion Board Post (Quantity)**

- You are required to post one original message for each topic.
- The post should be 150 words that directly address the discussion question, not merely describing the historical events or person in the discussion prompt. Each response should indicate awareness of historical context and importance.
- You must respond to at least two of your classmate's questions and your response must be at least 100 words each that directly address your classmate's response and question.

### **Discussion Board Post (Quality)**

- Your posts must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the topic being discussed.
- You must demonstrate connections between lecture materials, textbook content, and discussion.
- You should relate discussion responses to material covered earlier in the course to give your responses clarity and context.
- Your post should go beyond reciting facts, but it should examine the material at a critical level and include facts from Foner, ed., *Voices of Freedom*, not Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, that support your response.

### **Discussion Board (Timeliness)**

- You must provide at least three days for your classmates to respond, so it is incumbent on each student to post and respond as soon as possible to give each person an opportunity to participate. If you do not post a response with an ample amount of time for your classmates to respond, you will not receive credit for your discussion board post.
- You will be given one week to respond to each topic.

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### **Reception Report**

Each student will be required to complete a three to four-page reception essay based on Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs. In the paper, the student will respond to specific questions posted in a reception document outline posted in D2L. The paper must be in the form of an essay, not bullet points, only addressing the questions listed in the reception paper document. The outline document should be used as a guide to help you organize your paper. Remember, you will not receive credit for professional reviews from peer-reviewed journals published before 1970. Do not summarize the book! The due date is listed in the course outline.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

A successful student must read and review the course syllabus, check the course online, respond to discussion board questions in a timely manner, and submit assignments on time.

**Required Reading:** All students will be required to read and to discuss the assigned books. The books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore, internet websites (Amazon), and at a variety of regional retailers.

**TURNITIN.COM:** All typed assignments, exams, papers, and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate listing of the course's dropbox. Each assignment dropbox automatically uploads the work to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. This is a requirement for the course, and the students will not receive a zero if they have not completed this process.

### **Writing Assignments**

All writing assignments must be typed in 12 pt. New Times Roman font, doubled spaced, stapled and paginated with a 1" margin. Additionally, all assignments must include, on the first page, your name, assignment, my name, course number, and date. Students must submit an electronic copy to dropbox that turnitin.com can analyze. If the student does not, the assignment will not be graded and receive a zero.

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## GRADING

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

### **Grades**

A 400- 359 (100%-90.00%); B 358-319 (89.99%-80.00%); C 318-278 (79.99%-70.00%), D 276-238 (69.99-60.00), F 237 (59.99 – below)

Discussion Board 15x20	300 pts.
Reception Paper	40 pts.
Writing Assignment 30x 2	60 pts.

The grading criteria of all written work will be based on the following descriptions:

A = Superior mastery of content and reading material; clear organization and factual accuracy; innovative interpretation or argument that responds to the specific directions of the assignment, test, or essay; clearly written.

B = Excellent command of the content and reading material; factual accuracy; a generally solid thesis driven historical argument backed with specific relevant evidence.

C = Average command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to produce a specific thesis driven argument that may not be original and is not supported by the evidence.

D = Poor command of content and failure to follow directions; historical errors of fact; no real thesis or argument driving the essay.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

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YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

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).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection 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, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

The instructor will respond to emails within twenty-four hours except for weekends.

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

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## **University Specific Procedures**

### **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/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.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 see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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:

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## **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

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 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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

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## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1                      A New World (January 14-19)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, A New World (Chapter 1): Voices of Freedom (VOF), 1-22.

Weekly Discussion Board Question: According to Adam Smith, what was the potential impact of the discovery and colonization of the New World? Did the New World open any new possibilities for the economic development of Europe?

Week 2                      English America (January 20-26)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660 (Chapter 2): VOF, 23-42.

Weekly Discussion Board Question: John Winthrop distinguished between natural and moral liberty. What was the difference? How did moral liberty work and how did Puritans define liberty and freedom?

Week 3                      Colonial America (January 27- February 2)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Creating Anglo-America: VOF, 47-64.

Weekly Discussion Board Question: How did different groups attempt to define freedom in colonial English America?

Writing Assignment #1: William Penn called his colony a “holy experiment.” Why did William Penn believe his colony was different from the other English colonies? -- Please limit your responses to no less than two pages, not including title page, and use at least three primary sources from chapters 1-3 of Foner, ed., *Voices of Freedom* to answer the question.

Week 4                      Slavery and the English Colonies (February 3-9)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire (Chapter 4): VOF, 65-85:

**Writing Assignment #1 Due (February 9, 2018 @ 11:59 pm)**

Weekly Discussion Board Question: While slavery was expanding in British America, so too was freedom. Compare the simultaneous expansion of slavery freedom and slavery. How was the concept of race increasingly important in this process?

Week 5                      Revolution (February 10-16)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, The American Revolution (Chapter 5), VOF 86-105.

Weekly Discussion Board Question: Discuss the ways in which both supporters and opponents of independence used the concepts of “freedom” and “slavery” during the American Revolution. Be sure to consider the perspectives of Thomas Paine and Jonathan Boucher, the slaves who fought for both sides, and other whose ideas you consider significant.

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Week 6                      Aftermath of the American Revolution (February 17-23)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, The Revolution Within (Chapter 6), VOF 106-122:  
Jacobs, 1-25: Weekly Discussion Board Question: How did women react to the language  
of freedom and liberty? Be sure to include in your response Abigail Adams's opinions  
that appear in *Voices of Freedom*.

Week 7                      The Founding of the United States (February 24- March 2)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Founding of a Nation (Chapter 7), VOF, 123-140:  
Jacobs, 26-57: Weekly Discussion Board Question: How did the institution of slavery  
impact the life of Harriet Jacobs? In your response, please identify specific instances  
based your reading of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.

Week 8                      The Revolution of 1800 (March 3-9)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Securing the Republic (Chapter 8), VOF, 141-164:  
Jacobs, 58-81. Weekly Discussion Board Question: In what ways can Thomas  
Jefferson's presidency be considered a revolution? Did his presidency deliver an  
Empire of Liberty as he envisioned? Why or Why not?

Week 9                      The Market Revolution (March 10-16)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, The Market Revolution (Chapter 9) VOF, 166-187:  
188-206: Jacobs, 82- 116: Weekly Discussion Board Question: Explain the shift from  
artisan to factory worker. How did this change impact American society?

### **Spring Break March 18-22, 2019**

Week 10                     Democracy in America (March 24-30)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, Democracy in America (Chapter 10): VOF, 187-  
206: Weekly Discussion Board Question: What were the differences between the Whigs  
and Democrats? Did both political parties support the institution of slavery?

Week 11                     Antebellum Slavery (March 31- April 6)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, The Peculiar Institution (Chapter 11), VOF, 207-  
224: Jacobs, 117-172: Weekly Discussion Board Question: One historian has observed  
of southern slavery that "nothing escaped, nothing and no one." What do you think the  
historian meant by that statement? **Writing Assignment #2: How did religion,  
economic expansion, and reform change Antebellum America?: Please limit your  
response to at least three pages and six primary sources from chapters 9-15 of  
*Voices of Freedom*, assignment due April 13 @ 11:59 pm.**

Week 12                     A Benevolent Empire (April 7-13)  
Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, An Age of Reform (Chapter 12): VOF, 225-252.  
Weekly Discussion Board Question: How did the reform impulse of Antebellum America  
seek to redefine freedom and equality?  
**Writing Assignment due April 13 @ 11:59 pm.**

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Week 13 Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War (April 14-20)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, A House Divided (Chapter 13), VOF, 253-282:

Jacobs, 173-281: Weekly Discussion Board Question: John O'Sullivan declared that race was the key to the history of nation and the rise and fall of empires. How accurate do you think that was? Why?

Week 14 The Civil War (April 21-27)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, A New Birth of Freedom (Chapter 14): Jacobs, 282-303.

Weekly Discussion Board Question: (Yes or No) Was the Emancipation Proclamation an important development in the Civil War? Please support your answer.

Week 15 Reconstruction (April 28-May 4)

Assigned Reading: Give Me Liberty, (Chapter 15):

Weekly Discussion Board Question:(Yes or No) Was Reconstruction successful?

Please support your answer.

Reception Paper, Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (Due, May 4 @ 11:59 pm)