Hist 1301: United States History to 1865.

“Not to know what happened before one was born is always to be a child.” Cicero, ca. 80 B.C.

“If you know your history, then you would know where you're coming from. Then you wouldn’t have to ask me, ‘Who the hell do I think I am?’” Bob Marley’s “Buffalo Soldier” from Confrontation, 1983.

History 1301
Room: A 221
MTWRF: 8:00-9:45am
Classes meet from June 4-July 3rd.

Dr. Jason Pierce  
jason.pierce@angelo.edu  
Office: 942-2199  
Office A210C  
Office Hours: 10:00am or by appointment

Course Objectives
The discovery and settlement of the New World was one of the most important events in world history. In 1492 the entire continent of North America belonged solely to indigenous peoples, but gradually they lost control of their lands before the onslaught of European invasion. In their place a new nation was created, a nation founded on ideas of liberty and individual freedom. But freedom was only given to whites, and millions of African-Americans lived as slaves until the Civil War. Always there is a tension in America between its ideals and the sometimes unpleasant legacy of the past. While no survey can possibly include every aspect of U.S. history, this class will attempt to introduce students to the most important events in U.S. history, and it will provide some perspective on where we have been as a people and how we got where we are today. The class will be set up as primarily a lecture class. At the end of this syllabus you will find a tentative schedule. We may, or may not, actually stick to this, but it will give you an idea of what to expect.

Student Learning Outcomes: History 1301
This course will examine American history from the colonial era through the Civil War. We will study the ethnic, cultural, religious, racial, and class foundations of American society and politics. Students will demonstrate the Core competency requirement for Critical Thinking Skill. The Student Learning Outcomes for Critical Thinking Skills are explicated below. Assessment of Critical Thinking Skills-Student Learning Outcomes will be by a standardized pre- and (embedded) post-test, as well as by a writing rubric, included at the end of this syllabus.

• Students will be able to analyze cause and effect in the history of the United States to the Civil War.
• Students will be able to analyze the relationship among American economics, politics, demography, and social structure to 1865.

• Students will be able to construct an in-class essay which synthesizes assigned readings and lectures into a coherent, fact-based narrative that demonstrates critical thinking skills.

Assignments and Grades
Your final grade for this class will be based on two in-class exams, and one 3-5 page paper. The exams will be multiple choice and essay. The essay portion will be built around a question relating to the book. The tests will each be worth 200 points (100 for multiple choice and 100 for the essay).

Grading Scale:  
500-450 = A  
449-400 = B  
399-350 = C  
349-300 = D  
299 and below = F

Required Readings
Provided on Blackboard.

Inclement Weather Policy
Does this apply in Texas? Basically, if the university is closed, we won’t have class.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory and will be taken, but it will not affect your grade. Exams will be comprised of material from classes. I WILL NOT PROVIDE YOU WITH THE POWERPOINTS/NOTES. I will discuss the themes of classes you missed but I WILL NOT REDELIVER THE LECTURE TO YOU.

A Note on PowerPoint
The PowerPoint lectures DO NOT contain all the information that you will be required to know on the test. The PowerPoints are outlines to organize the lectures, but valuable information is in the lecture itself. If you only write down the PowerPoint slides you can expect to get a “D” of “C” on the tests.

Makeup of Exams
You must come to me within two class days to schedule a makeup exam or you will receive a zero.

Plagiarism
Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated, and cheaters will automatically fail this class and be reported to the administration.
The Learning Environment
Please be courteous to your classmates and refrain from talking during lectures. Also, turn cellphones off, and please don’t answer your phone in class. Please arrive on time, and if you are late, then quietly enter without causing a disturbance.

Please don’t take photographs of the slides. This is distracting for students and not beneficial to you: MUCH OF THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE TESTED IS NOT ON THE SLIDES, WHICH ARE INTENDED AS OUTLINES.

Please no photography of the slides—it’s much better to write them yourself. Also NO LAPTOP COMPUTERS IN CLASS PLEASE as they’ve proven to be a distraction to students. Try to stay off your cellphones—checking your phone will mean you’ll miss valuable material that will be on the exam.

ASU Student Handbook

Students with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their implementation. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Instructor reserves the right to change or alter the syllabus as necessary.

Questions?
Please feel free to contact me or stop by during my office hours.

Tentative Class Schedule.
Week 1
America before contact and Spanish Exploration
Cortez. Jamestown and English settlement

Week 2
New England colonies
Great War for Empire and Pontiac’s Rebellion
Midterm on Friday, June 15

Week 3
Growing Colonial Resentment and Intolerable Acts
The American Revolution
Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.
Paper due in class on Friday, June 22nd.

Week 4
Washington, Adams, Jefferson
Slavery and Western Expansion
The Civil War
Final Exam: July 3rd.