

History 1301 (020; 050; 090)—United States History I

Angelo State University, Fall 2009

(020) 8 – 8:50 a.m.; (050) 10 – 10:50 a.m.; (090) 11 – 11:50 MWF, all in Room A 225

Dr. David P. Dewar

Office: A 110G; Office Hours: MWF—9 – 10 a.m., 1 – 3:30 p.m.; TR—2:30 – 4, T&R

Phone: 942-2157; david.dewar@angelo.edu

Overview and Objectives

HIST 1301 is devoted to surveying American history from the Age of Exploration through the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War. The particular general education skills emphasized in this course are reading intelligently, writing effectively, and processing information through synthesis and analysis. You will be introduced to historical thinking which calls upon each of these three skills by its emphasis on interpreting the records of human experience. Through this course, you will become familiar with the ways in which others interpret those experiences. However, you, too, will have the opportunity to participate in historical interpretation. Learning to think historically, becoming acquainted with the basic information about the period, and finding a way to interpret that information is the art of “doing history.”

Course Materials

You are required to buy the following books.

- Boyer, et. al., *The Enduring Vision—A History of the American People*, Concise Sixth Edition, Vol.1: to1877 (Boston: Wadsworth, 2010).
- Louis P. Masur, ed., *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (New York: Bedford Books, 2003)
- David W. Blight, ed., *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (New York: Bedford Books, 2003)
- History Department Document Reader (available only at the ASU bookstore)

All are available at the ASU bookstore.

Course Construction

- Each week on Monday and Wednesday I will “lecture” on the topic to be covered during the week. Lectures will relate to your readings in *The Enduring Vision*, but will not follow the text’s framework exactly. The lectures give you an opportunity to expand your understanding of the broader themes covered in the text by providing additional perspectives on them.
- On Fridays we will hold a discussion. It will focus on the material in the history department document reader available only at the ASU bookstore. Discussion provides you with the opportunity to question the text authors’ interpretations, my presentations, your colleagues’ assumptions, or simply to enlighten the class with your intellectual prowess.
- Also on Fridays you will bring three “talking points” to class. These must be typewritten. They can be questions about the week’s material or comments about what you’ve found valuable or confusing. This way, you will come prepared for Friday’s discussion.
- Discussion is not limited to assigned moments. I encourage and expect each of you to interrupt my lecturing with questions or comments. But remember, **you must participate in class through questions and discussion. If you don’t, it is possible to receive zero points for participation.**

You will take three exams during the semester.

- **The first mid-term is scheduled for Friday, October 2 .** The in-class portion that day will consist of multiple-choice and identification questions. It will feature, also, a take-home essay component that will ask you to consider *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* in light of themes we discuss concerning the colonial period of American history.
- **The second mid-term is scheduled for Friday, November 6.** It will feature multiple choice, identification, and an in-class essay.
- **The 8 a.m. class’s final will be 8 -10 a.m.; the 10 a.m. class’s final will be 10:30 – 12:30, Monday, December 7; the 11 a.m. class’ final will be 10:30 – 12:30 Wednesday, December 9.** The final will have a comprehensive component. The in-class portion that day will consist of multiple-choice and identification questions that will include questions concerning the entire scope of the class. There will also be a take-home essay component that will ask you to consider *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* in light of the social and political themes important to America’s ante-bellum period.

Evaluation

Following are the scores attached to each component of the class. It is a system that allows you to keep track of your progress so you know where you stand as the semester progresses.

First Mid-Term Exam	100 points
Second Mid-Term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	200 points
Talking Points	40 points (3 pts. per week and 1 extra points for submitting all 13 sets)
Class participation	60 points (4 pts. per week and 8 extra points for participating in class all 13 discussion weeks. Remember, a zero is possible here. You must contribute to discussions)
Extra credit and the like	up to 10 points extra credit added to your total

Thus, at the end of the semester:

A = 451-500 points
B = 401-450 points
C = 351-400 points
D = 301-350 points
F = 300 points or fewer

Important Details

- Attendance is important to your grade because you must be in class to participate. If you do not speak, however, and you attend every class, you will earn no points for discussion.
- You can miss class four times. More than four absences lowers your grade by 10 points for each absence beginning with the fifth. So, save your absences for real illness or emergency.
- All assignments will be completed and submitted on schedule. Makeup work, except in the most extreme circumstances, is not acceptable. If such a circumstance can be anticipated, you **must** see me ahead of time. If it cannot, documentation will be required.
- The Writing Center can help you with construction of your essays. In addition, I will be happy to read drafts. The Writing Center (942-2093) is in the library (305C).
- **Plagiarism is the worst of academic crimes and will not be tolerated.** Plagiarism is representing someone else's work as your own. If you plagiarize, I will fail you for the course on the first offense. If you do not know what plagiarism is, please see me. ASU has implemented an honor code that binds students and faculty to academic integrity. Please read it in the Student Handbook, <http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf>, pp 30-34.
- I will provide you with Blue Books for exams.

Calendar, Class Schedule, and Assignments

Week 1—Introduction

Reading: Vision, 1-15. Document reader: "Navajo Creation Myth"

Monday, August 24	Introduction to course and course expectations
Wednesday, August 26	Lecture: Indians and America before European Contact
Friday, August 28	Discussion about the class and "Navajo Creation Myth"

Talking Points #1 due

Week 2—Europeans, Africans, and the Rise of the Atlantic World

Reading: Vision, 16-37. Document reader: Adam Smith "Of Colonies" and "Instructions for the Virginia Colony, 1606"

Monday, August 31	Lecture: Europeans Find a New World
Wednesday, September 2	Lecture: The English American Colonies, Part 1
Friday, September 4	Lecture and discussion: The Columbian Exchange

Talking Points #2 due

Week 3—English Colonization—A New World Under Construction

Reading: Vision, 38-64. Document reader: “The Mayflower Compact,” “William Bradford: Of Plymouth Plantation,” “Cotton Mather to John Cotton,” and “The Maryland Toleration Act.”

Monday, September 7

No class: Labor Day holiday

Wednesday, September 9

Lecture : The English American Colonies, Part 2

Friday, September 11

Discussion: Very different colonies

Talking Points #3 due

Week 4—Conflict in Empires—Blacks, Whites and Slavery; Indians, Whites, and War

Reading: Vision, 65-89. Document reader: “Robert Beverley on Bacon’s Rebellion, 1704” and “Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress.”

Monday, September 14

Lecture: Wars for Empire on Two Continents

Wednesday, September 16

Lecture: Slavery and the colonists’ world view it created

Friday, September 18

Discussion: What Did it Mean to be a Slave or an Indian?

Talking Points #4 due

Week 5—American Independence: Causes and Consequences

Reading: Vision, 90-117. Document Reader: “A Little Rebellion Now and Then,” “Abigail Adams to John Adams,” and “The Declaration of Independence,”

Monday, September 21

Lecture: Mercantilism, Abundance, and the Road to War

Wednesday, September 23

Lecture: A Changing Way of American Life

Friday, September 25

Discussion and **Distribution of First Mid-Term Essay**

Assignment

Talking Points #5 due

Week 6—New Nation, New Ways

Reading: Vision, 118-144. Document reader: “The Articles of Confederation.”

Monday, September 28

Lecture: The Revolution

Wednesday, September 30

Discussion: What kind of revolution was it in America?

Friday, October 2

First Mid-Term Exam; Franklin/Exam essay due

Week 7—The Articles of Confederation, The Constitution, and What They Meant

Reading: 145-169. Document Reader: “The Constitution of the United States,” “Federalist 10,” and “Federalist 51”.

Monday, October 5

Lecture: The New Nation and Its Intellectual Foundations

Wednesday, October 7

Lecture: State Constitutions, The Articles, The Constitution

Friday, October 9

Discussion: What do the founding documents found?

Talking Points #6 due

Week 8—American Society and Politics, 1788-1820

Reading: Vision, 170-192. Document reader: “Thomas Jefferson to James Madison” and

Monday, October 12

Lecture: Economics and an American Way of Life

Wednesday, October 14

Lecture: Jefferson and the Sectionalism of America

Friday, October 16

Discussion: Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Adams

Talking Points #7 due

Week 9—Good Feelings that Lead to a Sectionalized America

Reading: 193-213. Document reader: “Benjamin Rush to John Adams, 1811,” “A Colored Man’s Reminiscences.” “The Monroe Doctrine.”

Monday, October 19

Lecture: War, Patriotism, and the Second Great Awakening

Wednesday, October 21

Lecture: The Era of Good Feelings, North and South

Friday, October 23

Discussion: Why Feel Good?

Talking Points #8 due

Week 11— Andrew Jackson, Reform, and the Lowell Girls

Reading: *Vision*, 214-236. Document reader: “Margaret Bayard Smith to Mrs. Kirkpatrick” and “President Jackson’s Proclamation Regarding Nullification.”

Monday, October 25 Lecture: The Role of the West in the Lives of Easterners
Wednesday, October 28 Lecture: Money and Cities
Friday, October 30 Discussion: The Lowell Girls’ experience

Talking Points #9 due

Week 12— Western Expansion and the Market Economy

Reading: *Vision*, 237-254. Document reader: “Blacksmith Harry’s Letter,” and “Oregon Trail Diary of Mrs. Amelia Stewart Knight,”

Monday, November 2 Lecture: Politics and Customs in Need of Reform
Wednesday, November 4 Discussion: The experience on the Overland Trail
Friday, November 6 **Second Mid-Term Exam**

Week 13— Society and Culture in the Antebellum North and the Antebellum South

Reading: *Vision*, 255-300. Document reader: “Richard Toler, Ex-Slave.”

Monday, November 9 Lecture: Economic Prosperity and Abolitionism in the North
Wednesday, November 11 Lecture: Plantation Agriculture and the Culture it Created
Friday, November 13 Discussion: Religion, Abolitionism, and Social Experiments

Talking Points #10 due

Week 14— Sectional Crisis

Reading: *Vision*, 301-323. Document reader: “James K. Polk’s Inaugural Address.”

Monday, November 16 Lecture: Bad Presidents, Slavery, and Sectionalism
Wednesday, November 18 Lecture: The Mexican War and its Peace Treaty
Friday, November 20 Discussion:

Talking Points #11 due

Week 15— Political Compromise and the Civil War

Reading: *Vision*: 324-352. Document reader: “A Declaration of the Immediate Causes...,” “Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation” and “Gettysburg Address”

Monday, November 23 Lecture: Compromise and Catastrophe
Wednesday, November 25 Lecture: The Civil War
Distribution of Final Exam essay assignment

Talking Points #12 due

Friday, November 28 No Class—Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 16— Reconstruction

Reading: *Vision*: 353-378. Document reader: “Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address.”

Monday, November 30 Lecture: Reconstructing a Destroyed Nation
Wednesday, December 2 Lecture: The New South
Friday, December 4 Discussion: A New Beginning or an Old End?

Talking Points #13 due

Final Exam: (020) 8 – 10 a.m., Mon., December 7, 225 Academic Bldg.

(050) 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Mon., December 7, 225 Academic Bldg.

(090) 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Wed., December 9, 225 Academic Bldg.