Course Catalog Description: A general survey of American development through the period of the Civil War.

Course Introduction: The survey focuses on the major themes, ideas, attitudes, institutions, and elements that are part of the early American national development both before and after the American Revolution and through the American Civil War and Reconstruction. We will study the combustible mixing of three cultural groups–Indian, European, and African–in these early centuries and trace their influences on the formation of a single country that emerged in 1776. From there, we will explore the westward development of the nation, the influx of immigrants, and the debate over slavery, which eventually resulted in the bloody American Civil War and the period of Reconstruction.

A major goal of this course is to introduce you to historical thinking, which is evidence-based critical thinking. We will be doing this mostly through the analysis of primary sources (documents created at the time under study). The techniques you will learn will serve you well in any situation that requires you to think critically about a text or image.

Student Learning Outcomes: After this course, students will be able to…

● Develop a fundamental knowledge and understanding of early American and early U.S. history to 1865
● Identify the diverse groups of people that have contributed to U.S. history.
● Hone skills in writing, reading, oral communication, and critical thinking
● Develop historical skills of analyzing sources, contextualizing events, using evidence, and corroborating evidence

Required Reading: This is a no cost course, meaning you do not need to purchase books. We will be using a free, online textbook called American Yawp, which is available at www.americanyawp.com. If you prefer to read on paper, please print out chapters 1 to 15 (Before 1877).
Assignments & Grading:

- **Participation (20%)**: Each class when there is not an exam, we will be doing an activity or reviewing short homework assignments. You can only receive participation credit if you attend class and engage in the activity. Please see the attendance and participation policies and expectations below. 2 missed/lowest participation scores will be dropped for everyone.

- **Online Quizzes (20%)**: Most weeks there will be an online, timed quiz (60 minutes) consisting of a variety of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true/false questions. These quizzes will address content from the week’s class meetings and assigned readings. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will be available from Fridays at 2:50 pm to Sundays at 11:59 pm.

- **3 Exams (60%)**: Each exam is worth 20% each and will consist of 4-5 essay questions intended to test your grasp of cause and effect, comparison, and explanation of significant historical events. Exams will also test your ability to analyze primary sources. I will provide you with a study guide a week before each exam. You will also be allowed to handwrite notes on a 3” x 5” index card to use on each exam.

Extra Credit: This semester the History Department has developed a series of lectures for “Humanities Month” during October. If you attend any of these events, sign in with me, and email me a response of at least 5 sentences (due a week after each event), you will receive +2% toward your final grade. You may attend and respond to all four lectures for a total of +8%.

Responses might include questions you had about the talk, things you learned, and/or connections to things you already knew about history or current events.

- **Thursday, October 11 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall**: Prof. David Krugler will give a talk titled "Make way for Democracy! African American Veterans' Fight for Equality during and after the Great War"

- **Tuesday, October 16 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall**: Profs. Matthew Gritter ("We Were All Green, We're All Blue': War Stories, West Texas and Latinos") and Bill Taylor ("War Stories, Military Service, and American Society") will present their analyses based on War Stories material.

- **Tuesday, October 23 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), C. J. Davidson Center**: Prof. Kara Vuic will give a talk titled "Oh Boy, That’s the Girl!: Women and the Great War." (Co-sponsored by the Gender Studies Committee)

- **Tuesday, October 30 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall**: Profs. Musgrove ("Your Stone Came Today’: Vietnam War Veteran Poems of Glenn Allison”), Bonenfant (title forthcoming), and Lee (title forthcoming) will present their analyses based on War Stories material.
Course Policies & Expectations: More than anything else, I ask that you be proactive about your progress in this course.

- Pay attention to the due dates for quizzes.
- Complete the reading as due.
- Pay attention and participate during class meetings.
- If you are struggling, come to office hours for assistance and/or e-mail me.
- Study for exams. Form study groups if you like.

I know that you are all intelligent, capable people, and I want you to succeed in this course!

Attendance: My expectation is that you attend every class. I will keep track of your attendance through in-class activities. These activities may occur at any time during class, and there may be multiple activities.

Excused absences will not count against you, but can only be secured with a doctor’s note, or other proof of extenuating circumstances. **You may miss two class meetings for whatever reason without penalty.** Additional absences will impact your participation grade and will likely mean that your grasp of the material will not be sufficient to perform well in the course.

I expect you to be on time to class. Please let me know if there is something that will consistently cause you to be late to class.

Participation: I expect you to be actively engaged during class meetings. This means you should come prepared to class having done the reading. You should also be prepared to take notes and discuss readings, assignments, and lecture material with your classmates and instructor during in-class activities. There will often be a written component accompanying these in-class activities, so that I can give you credit for your work.

It should go without saying that your interactions with classmates, the instructor, and TA should be conducted in a respectful manner. Please be quiet during lecture. Participate in a focused manner during in-class group work.

Late Assignments: In this class you will take weekly online quizzes. These need to be taken on time to receive credit. Please contact me if you are having technical difficulties or if a documented illness or emergency is preventing you from submitting the quiz answers on time.

Grading Scale

90-100 = A  
80-89 = B  
70-79 = C  
60-69 = D  
59 & < = F
**Office Hours & Communication:** Office hours will be held in Academic Building, 210C at the times listed at the top of the syllabus and by appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me at laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu if you need to schedule a meeting outside regularly scheduled office hours. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to introduce yourself to me, to ask questions that you may have, to discuss current or future assignments, or to seek private instruction on specific problems with which you might be wrestling.

I also encourage *professional* communication through email. Please remember to sign your email with your name and include the class name and meeting time in your email. I will respond to your email within 24 to 36 hours.

**Technology:** Computers and tablets are allowed in class *only* for note taking, research, and writing purposes. Please be mindful not to distract your classmates (or yourself) with your technology usage. If you need to make a call or send a text urgently, please step outside to do so.

Do not video or audio record lecture without permission. Contact the instructor if you have any questions about the lecture or slides.

Lecture slides and handouts will be uploaded to the website at the end of each week.

**Student Disability Services:** ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

- **Ms. Dallas A. Swafford**
  - Director of Student Disability Services
  - 325-942-2047
  - dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
  - Houston Harte University Center

**Title IX Statement:** Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator:

- **Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D.**
  - Director of Title IX Compliance
  - Michelle.boone@angelo.edu
  - 325-486-6357
  - Mayer Administration Building 204
**Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days:** A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

**Student Conduct Policies:**

*Academic Integrity:* Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

- [Academic Integrity](#)

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).

**Copyright Policy:** Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**General Policies Related to This Course:** All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

**Department of History**
Learn more about the Department of History’s programs and opportunities by following us:

- Facebook
  ([https://www.facebook.com/Angelo-State-University-History-Department-161759577172284/](https://www.facebook.com/Angelo-State-University-History-Department-161759577172284/))
- Twitter: [@angelosuhist](https://twitter.com/angelosuhist) (Tweet using #angelohist)
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: The First Americans; European Exploration
Read: Syllabus + *American Yawp, “The New World”*

- August 28: Course Introduction + Overview+The First Americans
- August 30: European Exploration and Columbus
- **September 2: Online Quiz #1 due by 11:59 pm**

Week 2: Spanish Conquest and Spain’s Rivals
Read: *American Yawp, “The New World” & “Colliding Cultures”*

- September 4: Spanish Conquest
- September 6: Spain’s Rivals
- **September 9: Online Quiz #2 due by 11:59 pm**

Week 3: Early English Colonies
Read: *American Yawp, “Colliding Cultures” & “British North America”*

- September 11: English Colonization and Jamestown
- September 13: New England; Slavery and the Making of Race
- **September 16: Online Quiz #3 due by 11:59 pm**

Week 4: More English Colonies

- September 18: New Colonies
- September 20: Riot, Rebellion, Revolt
- **September 23: Online Quiz #4 due by 11:59 pm**

Week 5: The American Revolution

- September 25: The Origins and Causes of the American Revolution
  - Exam #1 Study Guide to be shared
- September 27: The War for Independence and the Consequences of the American Revolution
- **September 30: Online Quiz # 5 due by 11:59 pm**

Week 6: A New Nation
Read: *American Yawp, “A New Nation”*

- October 2: EXAM #1
- October 4: The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution
- **October 7: Online Quiz #6 due by 11:59 pm**
Week 7: The Early Republic
Read: *American Yawp, "The Early Republic"

- October 9: Free and Enslaved Black Americans and the Challenge to Slavery; Jefferson
- October 11: Native American Power and the United States; The War of 1812
  - Optional Extra Credit Event: Thursday, October 11 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall: Prof. David Krugler will give a talk titled "Make way for Democracy!" African American Veterans' Fight for Equality during and after the Great War
- October 14: Online Quiz #7 due by 11:59 pm

Week 8: The Market Revolution
Read: *American Yawp, "The Market Revolution"

- October 16: The Decline of Northern Slavery and the Rise of the Cotton Kingdom
  - Optional Extra Credit Event: Tuesday, October 16 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall: Profs. Matthew Gritter ("'We Were All Green, We're All Blue': War Stories, West Texas and Latinos") and Bill Taylor ("War Stories, Military Service, and American Society") will present their analyses based on War Stories material.
- October 18: The Market Revolution
- October 21: Online Quiz #8 due by 11:59 pm

Week 9: Democracy in America
Read: *American Yawp, "Democracy in America"

- October 23: Democracy in the Early Republic; Andrew Jackson
  - Optional Extra Credit Assignment: Tuesday, October 23 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), C. J. Davidson Center: Prof. Kara Vuic will give a talk titled "'Oh Boy, That's the Girl!': Women and the Great War." (Co-sponsored by the Gender Studies Committee)
- October 25: The Panic of 1837 and the Whigs
- October 28: Online Quiz #9 due by 11:59 pm

Week 10: Religion and Reform
Read: *American Yawp, "Religion and Reform"

- October 30: Religious Revival; Antislavery and Abolitionism
  - Exam #2 Study Guide to be shared
  - Optional Extra Credit Assignment: Tuesday, October 30 (7:00-8:30 P.M.), Eldon Black Recital Hall: Profs. Musgrove ("'Your Stone Came Today': Vietnam War Veteran Poems of Glenn Allison"), Bonenfant (title forthcoming), and Lee (title forthcoming) will present their analyses based on War Stories material.
- November 1: Women’s Rights in Antebellum America
- November 4: Online Quiz #10 due by 11:59 pm
Week 11: The Cotton Revolution
Read: American Yawp, “The Cotton Revolution”
- November 6: EXAM #2
- November 8: Cotton and Slavery; Southern Cultures
- November 11: Online Quiz #11 due by 11:59 pm

Week 12: Manifest Destiny
Read: American Yawp, “Manifest Destiny”
- November 13: Antebellum Western Migration and Indian Removal
- November 15: Texas, Mexico, and America; The Gold Rush; the Monroe Doctrine
- November 18: Online Quiz #12 due by 11:59 pm

Week 13: The Sectional Crisis
Read: American Yawp, “The Sectional Crisis”
- November 20: Sectionalism in the Early Republic; Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men
- November 22: THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASSES)
- No quiz. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 14: The Civil War
Read: American Yawp, “The Civil War”
- November 27: The Election of 1860 and Secession; A War for Union, 1861-1863
- November 29: A War for Emancipation, 1863-1865
- December 2: Online Quiz #13 due by 11:59 pm

Week 15: Reconstruction
Read: American Yawp, “Reconstruction”
- December 4: Reconstruction
  - Final Exam Study Guide to be shared
- December 6: Review Day
- December 9: Online Quiz #14 due by 11:59 pm

Final Exam
- Tuesday, December 11, 1:00-3:00 pm