

## **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, Sec 070  
Room: A 225  
MWF: 1:00-1:50pm

Dr. Jason Pierce  
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Office A210B  
Office Hours: MTWThF: 10:00am-11:00am  
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 three in-class exams, and one primary source journal (due twice in the semester for a total of 100 points). The exams will be multiple choice and essay. The first two tests will each be worth 100 points and the final worth 200 points

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

### **Required Readings**

Provided on Blackboard.

Optional Free Online Textbook: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>

### **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.

### **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.

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**

[http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf)

### **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.**

### **Helpful Links**

**Advising:** <https://www.angelo.edu/dept/advising/> Be sure to set up an advising appointment when advising for Spring begins.

**Counseling Services:** <https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/index.php>  
**Confidential Counseling is provided to all students free of charge.**

**Student Handbook:** <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/> Outlines the policies students need to know

**Title IX:** <https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/> The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

[www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022 michelle.boone@angelo.edu

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325- 942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942- 2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**Tutoring Center:** <https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php>

**Questions?**

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

**Tentative Class Schedule.**

**Weeks 1-2**

**America before contact and Spanish Exploration  
Cortez. Jamestown and English settlement  
No Class on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Labor Day**

**Weeks 3-5**

**New England colonies  
Great War for Empire and Pontiac's Rebellion  
Journals 1-15 due Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Test 1: Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Weeks 6-8**

**Growing Colonial Resentment and Intolerable Acts  
The American Revolution  
Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.  
Test 2: Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Weeks 9-12**

**Washington, Adams, Jefferson  
Slavery and Western Expansion**

**Weeks 13-15**

**Jacksonian America  
The Civil War  
No class: November 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Break  
Journal Due: Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**