

## HISTORY 1301 D30: United States History to 1865

Angelo State University  
 Course Syllabus, Fall 2021  
 Time: Asynchronous  
 Location: Blackboard

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Graham  
 Office Hours: MWF, 10:00-11:00 am,  
 and by appointment  
 Office: online on Blackboard  
 Collaborate Ultra, in person at A210C  
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*"A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read." —Mark Twain*

*"Things ain't what they used to be and never were." —Will Rogers*

**Course Objective:** To provide an introductory-level survey to the first half of American history from the pre-contact period to the end of the Civil War (1865). The course will examine the various political, social, cultural and economic themes that have contributed to the development of the United States as a nation, people, and society.

**Student Learning Objectives:**

- Students will be able to analyze cause and effect in the history of the United States up to the end of the Civil War.
- Students will be able to analyze the relationship among American economics, politics, demography, and social structure in the above-stated period.
- Students will be able to construct an essay which synthesizes assigned readings and lectures into a coherent, fact-based narrative that demonstrates critical thinking skills.

**Required Texts:**

P. Scott Corbett, et al., *OpenStax CNX U.S. History*, an online, open-source textbook by Rice University. Available at <https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>

**Course Grading Rubric:**

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Written Assignments (X3)	15%
Class Participation	20%

Grade	Percentage
A	90% or above
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

## Class Requirements

### *Orientation*

A course orientation video will be made available via a link in the Content folder of the Blackboard course page on the Tuesday of Week 1. The video addresses the requirements for the class, as well as the nuts of bolts of navigating the Blackboard page. Watching this video, therefore, is required.

### *Course Structure and Schedule*

This class is asynchronous, meaning that there are no scheduled meeting times. However, you will need to be aware of the general weekly schedule, and the corresponding deadlines:

- *Mondays*, recorded lectures released by 5pm
- *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays*, office hours, 10-11am
- *Thursdays*: weekly discussion board posts by 11:59pm, beginning in Week 2

In addition, **all tests and written assignments will have Friday deadlines**: See the end of the syllabus for the due dates for each assignment.

- Exams 1 and 2 will be available in the Content folder of Blackboard from 12:01am to 11:59pm on the Friday assigned.
- written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin via a link in the Content folder by 11:59pm on the Friday due dates listed in the course schedule as well.

There will also be live “study hall” sessions held on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra at times designated throughout the semester. These are optional, but a great opportunity to get to know the professor and the expectations for the exams; they may also be a source of extra credit.

### *Reading*

Students will read the assigned sections from the *OpenStax* online textbook, following the weekly schedule (see the end of this syllabus), in addition to online, open-source primary materials (see the section below on Written Assignments). Reading the materials *in advance* is critical, as they will prepare you for your written assignments, discussion board posts, and exams.

### *Lectures*

Along with your readings, watching the recorded lectures will be essential to success in the class. One lecture will be made available each week, a link to which will be placed in the Content folder of the Blackboard class page every Monday by 5pm.

### *Class Participation*

*Discussion boards* Class “attendance,” which comprises 20% of your final grade, will be assessed from your participation in the Blackboard discussion boards.

***Beginning in Week 2***, students will post to a discussion board, which can be found by following the link under the “Course Material” header on the toolbar on the left-hand side of the window on the Blackboard class home page. The boards will be opened on Tuesday morning, and close at the end of the night (11:59pm) on Thursday. While there is no single formula for composition, the successful post should:

- Be at least a full paragraph in length
- Use proper grammar and punctuation, and avoid fragment sentences and slang.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the reading and lecture for that week
- Highlight any points in the consulted materials that proved insightful or provoked curiosity

The discussion boards are designed to keep students on track with the readings and lectures, facilitate group learning and discussion, and sharpen formal writing skills. Full participation includes reading the posts of other students, and *replying* to any questions and comments made to their own posts and those of others. Your post(s), in other words, should be thought of as part of a class dialogue. As such, *makeup and late discussion board posts will not be accepted, except in cases of excused absences or extreme hardship, determined on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.*

*Written Assignments—Primary source essays.* Students will be required to read all of the open-source, primary documents assigned in the corresponding Content subfolder (Primary source assignment 1, for example), and write one double-spaced page on *each* document. Therefore, if three documents have been assigned, for example, your written assignment will be at least three double-spaced pages in length, with one page dedicated to each document. Links to the materials will be made available in the Content section of the class Blackboard page. Together, the primary source essays constitute 15% of your overall grade.

*Exams* There will be three exams in this class: two during the semester, and a final. The first two are equally weighted, each constituting 20% of your overall grade, while the final comprises 25%. Your exams, therefore, account for 65% of your final grade. Each will be administered on Blackboard. Exams 1 and 2 will be made available for 24 hours on the date indicated on the weekly schedule, which is found at the end of this syllabus. You will be notified by an announcement email when the exam is made available, and the link to the exam will disappear at the end of the 24-hour period. Students will be able to take the final any time between 12:01 am on December 6, and 5:00 pm sharp on December 9, when the exams must be *completed*.

To help students prepare, a review with key terms will be provided one week before the exam deadline.

**Late Work and Make-Up Exam Policy** In general, no late work is accepted, for full or partial credit, in this course. Discussion board posts will not be accepted after 12:01am on Fridays, nor will primary source assignments after 11:59pm on the due date. Makeup work and/or exams are allowed only if a student has an excused absence or an extreme unforeseen circumstance that they alert the instructor of in a timely manner. As stated above, Exams 1 and 2 will be available through a link on the Blackboard class page Content folder for a 24-hour period. After that time period has closed, students must have a documented reason for missing the exam in order to take a make-up test, which will differ significantly from that given to the rest of the class. Barring extreme circumstances, you will receive a zero for the exam if you do not notify me within two days of the scheduled time.

**Academic honesty** Simply put, do your own work. Not only does cheating blemish your character and integrity, you *will* be found out and disciplined accordingly, in compliance with the ASU Student Handbook's Academic Honor Code ([www.angelo.edu](http://www.angelo.edu)). Plagiarism or copying answers will result in a 0 grade for the assignment and class, as well as a report to the administration for disciplinary action. Plagiarism is a form of *intellectual theft* that ranges from using a phrase or sentence without attribution to the original author, to full-on copying and pasting of someone else's paper, article, or other work. Be forewarned that I am absolutely intolerant of a student passing off another person's thoughts and ideas as their own, and am equipped with an array of tools to detect it. Instructors know how to use Google; if you found a black-market essay to turn in, we can too. Fortunately, virtually all such essays and websites are documented in plagiarism databases available to us, and Blackboard immediately flags essays with phrases or sentences that are verbatim or even similar to other texts. Though the majority of students will never have to confront the dilemma and moral quandary of deciding whether or not to plagiarize, for those who are tempted, know that the risk is not worth the reward.

**Persons with disabilities.** Persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations must contact the Student Life Office located in the UC, room 112. You are encouraged to make this request as early as possible during the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

### **Attendance & class conduct**

*Excused and Unexcused Absences.* As this is an online class, attendance will be assessed through your participation in the discussion boards, as mentioned above. If there is a conflict preventing you from posting on time, let me know *in advance* so that accommodations can be made.

*Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day.* students may request an absence *in advance*, as per Texas Education Code, §51.911 , which states:

1. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.

2. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

3. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily

*Online etiquette* In discussions, students are expected to be respectful of the thoughts and opinions of all participants.

**Email and Office Hour Policy** I will be available for virtual “office hours” between 10 and 11 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and open for a meeting at most of the time during the week, between 8am and 5pm, when arranged in advance. As to email correspondence, I will respond to you as promptly as possible *between 8am and 5pm*. Emails received outside of that time (after 5pm or on the weekend) will be answered the following workday. To reach me virtually, follow the “Office hours” link in the course Content folder, or through the Collaborate Ultra link found in the left-hand toolbar.

**Title IX at Angelo State University:** Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, 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:

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

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

E-Mail: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto: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).

## Course Schedule

<b>Week 1</b> 8/23-8/27	Orientation; Native Americans before the European Advent <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 1
<b>Week 2</b> 8/30-9/3	European Expansionism in the Americas; Colonial lifeways <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 2
<b>Week 3</b> 9/6-9/10	New Spain's Northern Peripheries; English colonies, part 1 <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Sections 3 & 4.1-4.4
<b>Week 4</b> 9/13-9/17	English colonies, part 2; From the Seven Years' War to the Stamp Act <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Sections 4.5-5.3 <b>Written Assignment #1 due on Turnitin by 11:59pm on 9/17</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 9/20-9/24	The American Revolution <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Sections 5.4-6.2
<b>Week 6</b> 9/27-10/1	The American Revolution, part 2, and exam 1 <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Sections 6.3-6.4 <b>Exam 1: available Friday, 10/1, 12:01am-11:59pm</b>
<b>Week 7</b> 10/4-10/8	A New Republic: Federalists and Democratic Republicans <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 7
<b>Week 8</b> 10/11-10/15	Regularization of the two-party system; from the Louisiana Purchase to the War of 1812 <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 8 <b>Written Assignment #2 due on Turnitin by 11:59pm on 10/15</b>
<b>Week 9</b> 10/18-10/22	Republicanism: the War of 1812 to the rise of Jackson <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 9
<b>Week 10</b> 10/25-10/29	Expansion, Infrastructure, and Jacksonian Democracy <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 10
<b>Week 11</b> 11/1-11/5	The Evolution of Slave Society in the South, and Exam 2 <b>Read:</b> <i>OpenStax</i> , Section 12 <b>Exam 2: available Friday, 11/5, 12:01am-11:59pm</b>

- Week 12**      Utopians, Radicals, and a Dangerous Nation in the West  
11/8-11/12      **Read:** *OpenStax*, Section 13
- Week 13**      The Mexican-American War, Slavery, and the Collapse of the Whigs  
11/15-11/19      **Read:** *OpenStax*, Section 11
- Week 14**      Thanksgiving Week, no lecture  
11/22-11/26      ***Written Turnitin Assignment #3 due by 11:59pm on 11/24***  
***Last day to drop, Monday, 11/22***
- Week 15**      The Crisis of the Union: The Question of Slavery & Civil War  
11/29-12/3      **Read:** *OpenStax*, Sections 14 & 15
- Final Exam:**      Available on Blackboard, 12/6 at 12:01 am-12/9 at 5pm