

Syllabus



Course HIST 1301.004

Course Title United States History Survey to Civil War

Professor Dr. Kristin Bocchine

Term Fall 2025, August 25-December 16

Meetings Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:15 PM, JO 4.614

Census Day Wednesday, September 10, 2025

**Last Day to Drop a Class with a W
(Instructor approval required)** Monday, November 10, 2025

Professor's Contact Information

Office Location JO 5.109

Email Address Kristin.bocchine@utdalas.edu

Office Hours Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00 PM, In-Person
If you are unable to meet during these hours, please email Dr. Bocchine with three alternative days and times to arrange another meeting either virtually or in-person.

Other Information Please use your UT Dallas email account to contact Dr. Bocchine. Using a personal email address violates federal FERPA policy. Also, do not send messages through your E-Learning (Blackboard) since these are not always received in a timely manner.

General Core Area 060 American History

Description: Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas History for a portion of this component area. Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

- Objectives:**
- Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
 - Communication (COM)**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
 - Social Responsibility (SR)**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
 - Personal Responsibility (PR)**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

General Course Information

Course Description An introduction to the methods of historical inquiry focusing on the study of American history from the beginnings through the American Civil War

- Learning Outcomes**
- Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
 - Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
 - Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Required Texts & Materials The required textbook is an online textbook freely and easily available online through the website, American Yawp <https://www.americanyawp.com/>
There are no textbooks to purchase for the course.

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials All course material (readings, videos, etc.) are linked through E-Learning (Blackboard) through the course webpage.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

| Week/Date | Topic | Course Content to Complete | Assignments to Submit | Suggested Due Date |
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| Week #1 <i>August 25- August 29</i> | Introduction to the Course and What is History? | Read Syllabus Complete Week #1 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #1) | What is Plagiarism Quiz | All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due by Friday, August 29 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #2 <i>September 1- September 5</i> No Class on Monday, September 1 | What is America? Geography and Indigenous Cultures | Complete Week #2 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #2) | Primary Source Quiz #1 | All assignments are due by Friday, September 5 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #3 <i>September 8- September 12</i> | What is Europe? Background and Collision of Cultures | Complete Week #3 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #3) | | All assignments are due by Friday, September 12 by 11:00 PM. |

| Week/Date | Topic | Course Content to Complete | Assignments to Submit | Suggested Due Date |
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| Week #4 <i>September 15- September 19</i> | What is a Colony? The Creation of European Colonies and the Development of Slavery in America | Complete Week #4 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #4) | Primary Source Quiz #2 | All assignments are due by Friday, September 19 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #5 <i>September 22- September 26</i> | What Happened to the French, Pontiac and the Paxton Boys? Conflicts in the American Colonies | Complete Week #5 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #5) | Exam #1 | All assignments are due by Friday, September 26 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #6 <i>September 29- October 3</i> | What was the American Revolution? Causes, Effects, and the War In-Between | Complete Week #6 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #6) | Primary Source Quiz #3 | All assignments are due by Friday, October 3 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #7 <i>October 6- October 10</i> | What is American Government? Democracy, Republic, and Rights Who Were the First Presidents | Complete Week #7 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #7) | Essay Quiz #1 Primary Source Quiz #4 | All assignments are due by Friday, October 10 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #8 <i>October 13- October 17</i> | How did America Develop Political Parties? Early American Politics How Does America Interact with Other Countries? Relationships to Foreign Nations | Complete Week #8 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #8) | | All assignments are due by Friday, October 17 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #9 <i>October 20- October 24</i> | Era of Good Feelings What about the Women? Seneca Falls and Gender in Early America | Complete Week #9 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #9) | Exam #2 Primary Source Quiz #5 | All assignments are due by Friday, October 24 by 11:00 PM. |

| Week/Date | Topic | Course Content to Complete | Assignments to Submit | Suggested Due Date |
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| Week #10 <i>October 27- October 31</i> | Who has the Most Power in America? Andrew Jackson, the Supreme Court, and Indigenous Rights | Complete Week #10 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #10) | | All assignments are due by Friday, October 31 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #11 <i>November 3- November 7</i> | What was Slavery Like in America? The Cotton Revolution, Slavery, Reform, and Racism | Complete Week #11 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #11) | Primary Source Quiz #6 Essay Quiz #2 | All assignments are due by Friday, November 7 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #12 <i>November 10- November 14</i> | How Did Texas Become a State? Westward Expansion and the Mexican-American War | Complete Week #12 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #12) | Primary Source Quiz #7 | All assignments are due by Friday, November 14 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #13 <i>November 17- November 21</i> | What Happened in 1850? Sectional Tensions and the Problem of Slavery | Complete Week #13 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #13) | Primary Source Quiz #8 Essay Quiz #3 | All assignments are due by Friday, November 21 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #14 <i>November 24- November 28</i> No Class Thanksgiving Break | | | | |
| Week #15 <i>December 1- December 5</i> | What was the Civil War and Reconstruction? The War and Its Aftermath | Complete Week #15 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #15) | | All assignments are due by Friday, December 5 by 11:00 PM. |
| Week #16 <i>December 8</i> | How Do We Remember? The Problems of Remembering the Past | Complete Week #16 Activities (located under Course Content, Week #16) | | All course assignments, except Exam #3 (Final Exam) are due by Monday, December 8 by 11:00 PM. **There are no exceptions to this rule!** Regardless of the reason!!! |

| Week/Date | Topic | Course Content to Complete | Assignments to Submit | Suggested Due Date |
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| Week #17 <i>December 16</i> | | | Exam #3 (Final Exam) | Exam #3 (Final Exam) is due by Tuesday, December 16 by 11:00 PM. |

Course Policies

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| Class Materials | <p>The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> |
| Class Attendance | <p>The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.</p> <p>**Attendance is not taken after the required period for census verification, but there are in-class assignments (History Exit Tickets) which cannot be made up if missed.**</p> |

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| <p>Class Participation</p> | <p>Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and activities at public universities in Texas, does not in any way apply to academic course instruction. Students should not feel the need to self-censor or limit their participation in academic courses pertaining to topics of race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion, and related topics.</p> |
| <p>Class Recordings</p> | <p>Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>NOTE: if the instructor records any part of the course, then the instructor will need to add the following syllabus statement:</p> <p>The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law</p> |
| <p>Academic Honesty Policy</p> | <p>You are encouraged to become familiar with the University's Policy of Academic Dishonesty located in the Student Handbook. The content of the Handbook applies to this course. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor as soon as possible. All university policies for academic dishonesty are located at the following website: <https://www.utdallas.edu/conduct/dishonesty/>. In addition to policies of academic dishonesty, students need to be familiar with UTD's policies of Academic Integrity located at the following website: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/students/academic-integrity/>.</p> |

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| Plagiarism | <p>Any form of cheating or plagiarism is not permitted!</p> <p>What is Plagiarism? Plagiarism is the use of another's ideas, words, or images without proper credit. Essentially, it means using something that is not your own without citing it.</p> <p>The following list constitutes plagiarism:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copying and pasting something from a book, online, or a friend without acknowledging its contribution. 2. Copying material from a book, online or a friend and randomly changing words from it using synonym replacement programs like in Microsoft Word. (Known as Rogeting) 3. Using material (not a direct copy of the words but of the idea) from a book, online, or a friend without acknowledging its contribution. 4. Using an application which uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate any material for a writing assignment. <p>In this class, the above rules will be enforced, but in addition to them do not do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do not Google essay or exam material. Google does not have all the answers. Look in your online readings and course content in E-Learning (Backboard) to answer the questions. If you do not understand something, instead of googling it, email your instructor so they can explain further. -Do not write your essay in another language, and then use a translation application to translate it into English. These are not your words. They are a computer. Use your words even if you are worried they may not be quite right. Points are not subtracted for grammar or spelling issues, so you do not need to worry about writing perfectly. -Students can only use sources incorporated into the class by the professor or found only within the UTD library. Students are not allowed to use sources that they found in any other location regardless of the reason. -When sources are used, students must cite the source in a manner that includes the author/s, title, journal/publisher, date, and DOI number. Students are responsible for recording the correct information in their essays. -Students should not copy and paste assignments in order to work on them since this will interfere with plagiarism detectors. If a student does this, it is at their own risk for it alerting the plagiarism detector. -You can quote from sources sparingly, but as a general rule, try to NOT quote material. Points are taken off for overly quoting. <p>The copying of another's work is grounds for immediate failure. We use a program called Turnitin, which checks extensively for Plagiarism in your papers. If you are caught using someone else's work (cheating) you will fail the assignment and possibly this whole course. For more about plagiarism, go here: <http://www.plagiarism.org/></p> |
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| Grading (credit) Criteria | <p>Assignments for Course Credit: <u>What is Plagiarism Quiz</u> Before you are allowed to complete any assignments or access course material, you will be required to complete the What is Plagiarism Quiz. This is a short, multiple-choice quiz which reviews the basics of plagiarism and explains the resources you have available to help prevent plagiarism in the course. This is a required assignment and must be completed before you attempt any of the other course activities.</p> <p><u>Exams</u> The student will be evaluated on the required readings, online content (videos, activities, etc.), and in-person lectures by three examinations. These examinations will consist of fifty multiple choice questions and students will have 100 minutes (1 hour and 40 minutes) to complete the exam. Because the exams are completed online, the exams are open book. You can use the required reading to help you answer the questions and any notes you created while completing the activities. The exams consist of multiple-choice questions and will be administered online through Blackboard.</p> <p><u>Primary Source Quizzes</u> Throughout the semester, you are responsible for taking eight, multiple-choice quizzes on Blackboard. On each due date listed in the syllabus, the multiple-choice quiz is due by 11:00 P.M. Each quiz will be based on a primary source available on Blackboard (this is specifically noted in the assignment instructions). Along with the links, Blackboard also has a brief introduction to each reading assignment in order to help you understand the document a little better before you attempt the quiz. Quiz questions will be both from the introduction to the document on Blackboard and from the primary source itself. Make sure to read the assigned reading before you attempt the quiz since the quiz is timed. It is a good idea to read over the material a few times before you attempt the quiz since you are only allowed one attempt. Students will have ten minutes to complete ten multiple choice questions for the quizzes. Because you will be taking the quiz online, the quiz is open-book. You can use the required reading to help you answer the quiz questions.</p> <p><u>Essay Quizzes</u> Students are responsible for completing three, 600-word essays based on three different predetermined topics outlined in Blackboard. These must be submitted online on Blackboard. Students are expected to follow the plagiarism guidelines outlined in the syllabus and in the What is Plagiarism assignment.</p> <p><u>History Exit Tickets</u> Throughout the course, students will be evaluated on in-class lecture material by small written assignments called History Exit Tickets. These brief writing assignments must be completed in-person for a student to receive credit, and the assignments cannot be made-up at a later date. There are seven extra assignments so students can miss up to seven classes without it hurting their grade in the course. Students who complete all the History Exit Ticket assignments are able to earn up to 100 points extra credit in the course.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | Grade Calculations | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="344 1411 766 1453">Assignments</th> <th data-bbox="766 1411 1146 1453">Points</th> <th data-bbox="1146 1411 1529 1453">Totals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1453 766 1486">Exams</td> <td data-bbox="766 1453 1146 1486">3 @ 50 points each</td> <td data-bbox="1146 1453 1529 1486">150 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1486 766 1520">Primary Source Quizzes</td> <td data-bbox="766 1486 1146 1520">8 @ 30 points each</td> <td data-bbox="1146 1486 1529 1520">240 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1520 766 1554">Essay Quizzes</td> <td data-bbox="766 1520 1146 1554">3 @ 100 points each</td> <td data-bbox="1146 1520 1529 1554">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1554 766 1587">History Exit Tickets</td> <td data-bbox="766 1554 1146 1587">25 @ 14 points each</td> <td data-bbox="1146 1554 1529 1587">350</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1587 766 1627">What is Plagiarism Quiz</td> <td data-bbox="766 1587 1146 1627">1 @ 60 points</td> <td data-bbox="1146 1587 1529 1627">60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | Assignments | Points | Totals | Exams | 3 @ 50 points each | 150 points | Primary Source Quizzes | 8 @ 30 points each | 240 points | Essay Quizzes | 3 @ 100 points each | 300 | History Exit Tickets | 25 @ 14 points each | 350 | What is Plagiarism Quiz | 1 @ 60 points |
| Assignments | Points | Totals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exams | 3 @ 50 points each | 150 points | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Primary Source Quizzes | 8 @ 30 points each | 240 points | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Essay Quizzes | 3 @ 100 points each | 300 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| History Exit Tickets | 25 @ 14 points each | 350 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| What is Plagiarism Quiz | 1 @ 60 points | 60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grading System | <table> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1627 617 1661">900-1000 points</td> <td data-bbox="617 1627 1529 1661">A</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1661 617 1694">800-899 points</td> <td data-bbox="617 1661 1529 1694">B</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1694 617 1728">700-799 points</td> <td data-bbox="617 1694 1529 1728">C</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1728 617 1761">600-699 points</td> <td data-bbox="617 1728 1529 1761">D</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1761 617 1806">Less than 600 points</td> <td data-bbox="617 1761 1529 1806">F</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | 900-1000 points | A | 800-899 points | B | 700-799 points | C | 600-699 points | D | Less than 600 points | F | | | | | | | | |
| 900-1000 points | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 700-799 points | C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 600-699 points | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 600 points | F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Accessing Grades | Your grades will be available to you on E-Learning (Blackboard) as each assignment is graded during the semester. If you have any questions about your grades, please contact the instructor immediately. You are responsible for contacting the instructor if you notice any grade discrepancies or problems during the semester! |
| Make-up Exams | Once completed, students cannot redo any course assignments. |
| Extra Credit | One hundred extra points are included in the course activities. This is the only available extra credit in the course. |
| Late Work | Students are allowed to submit their primary source quizzes, essay quizzes, and Exams #1 and #2 late in the course without penalty, but these assignments must be submitted by the last day of in-person class, Monday, December 8. Exam #3 (Final Exam) will be available to complete during exam week and must be completed by the final day of course exams, Tuesday, December 16. The What is Plagiarism Quiz must be completed before students can begin course assignments. |
| Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback | My mission is to help you learn about United States history before the Civil War and, in doing so, to help you learn how to think on your own. If you have difficulty with any part of the course, please contact me as soon as possible. I will take action immediately to help you overcome the challenge that you face. If you identify a problem in the design of the course, please inform me so that I can solve it. There are several websites utilized throughout the course and inevitably some links may not work. Please inform me of any broken links, so I can fix the problem as soon as possible. My goal is to provide you with an informative, challenging and interesting course, delivered in a professional manner. At the end of the semester, you should know more about the United States than you did at the beginning. In addition, your reasoning skills and self-confidence should have improved. Finally, it should take approximately one week to return graded assignments back to you. It is your responsibility check your graded assignments in Blackboard. If you discover a problem with any grade, contact me immediately so the grade can be fixed. All of your grades will be available in Blackboard. You are encouraged to review all of the graded material and to seek help or advice from me about your grades if necessary. |
| Communicating with the Instructor | Students must use their UTD email account to communicate with the instructor. U.T. Dallas provides each student with a free email account that is to be used in ALL communication with university personnel. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the instructor can only accept email from a student that is sent from the student's UTD email address. Instructors typically respond to emails from students within 24 hours. However, over the weekend and holiday periods, responses may be delayed. |
| Comet Creed | This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do." |
| Accommodations for Students with Disabilities | Please review the section within the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures webpage. |
| Academic Support Resources | Please visit the Academic Support Resources page to view the University's academic support resources for all students. |
| UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures | Please visit the Syllabus Policies page to view the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class. |

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.