

## HIST 1301.061: United States History I (Online)

University of Texas at Tyler  
Summer I 2025 (June 2-July 5)

**Instructor:** Prof. Stith  
**Email:** [mstith@uttyler.edu](mailto:mstith@uttyler.edu)  
**Office:** CAS 127 (UT-Tyler)  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.” ~Albert Einstein

### Course Description:

We will explore American history from human origins in North America (~13,000 BCE) to the end of Reconstruction (1877). In doing so, we will examine social, political, environmental, cultural, diplomatic, and military history and how each together shaped the course of American history.

### Content Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a strong understanding of the development of the United States in both a domestic and global context.
2. Develop analytical skills through thinking deeply, reading actively, and writing carefully about American history.
3. Gain a strong sense of scholarly skepticism by balancing everything with hefty amounts of context and perspective; Embrace the certainty that little is certain and that everything is and ought to be open to (careful and thoughtful) interpretation.
4. Appreciate and understand that accurate interpretations can *only* rest on ample and sturdy evidence.

### Important Note:

I encourage you to meet with me regularly to discuss or clarify lecture, discussion, or reading—or to talk about American history in general. My job (and enjoyment) is as much to work with students on an individual basis as it is to lecture and facilitate discussion. Please keep this in mind throughout the semester.

### Another Important Note:

When you finish this course, my goal is for you to have a strong understanding of the major themes, characters, and connections in the story of early America, and I hope you will recognize how enormously impactful this period has been (and remains) in our world today—politically, militarily, environmentally, diplomatically, socially, culturally, and so on. To fully understand and appreciate any story, it is imperative that you know-well the characters and events *in* that story. So, you must commit to memory a lot of material (characters and events) for this class. What class/subject does not require that you remember things? This said, I recognize and appreciate that specific names, events, etc., fade in time. (They fade for me, too.) That’s okay. This stuff is the scaffolding. Like scaffolding for any structure, real or perceived, it is critically important early on, but it is not meant to stay forever—just long enough such that the finished product emerges in all its glory and remains for the ages. Simply put, the finished product for this course is your general understanding and appreciation for the early American past—an understanding and appreciation that I hope will remain long after the details fade.

**Required Reading:**

- Textbook:
  - o Joseph L. Locke and Ben Wright, eds., *The American Yawp*, Vol. 1 (Stanford University Press, 2019)
    - Free Open Education Resource—Full PDF Available in Canvas or at: [https://www.americanyawp.com/text/wp-content/uploads/Locke\\_American-Yawp\\_V1.pdf](https://www.americanyawp.com/text/wp-content/uploads/Locke_American-Yawp_V1.pdf)

**Quizzes:**

There will be FIVE short multiple choice/true-false quizzes worth 10 points each. There are ten questions on each quiz. You will have ten minutes to finish the quiz. Quizzes are designed to help familiarize you with at least some of the important material that will be on the exams. You will have TWO chances to take each quiz, and the highest score will be recorded. All quizzes will be posted by noon on Tuesdays and will be due by 11:59pm on Friday nights. See the below schedule for specific due dates.

**Exams:**

There will be TWO exams each consisting of 30 multiple-choice questions and one short essay question over the brief video lectures, textbook, and/or module notes for each module. Each one is worth 100 points.

**Historical Website Review:**

Please write a 1,300-word, double-spaced analytical review of the website <https://historicjamestowne.org/>. Here's what it should look like: Once you arrive at the site, explore (at minimum) the following tabs: "Archaeology," "Collections," and "History." If you're interested in teaching at any level in the future, please feel free to substitute "Education" for one of the above. Once you've perused all of the topics in each tab, do the following: 1) Identify and explain at least three topics that you found especially interesting—one from "Archaeology," one from "Collections," and one from "History." An example of a topic would be "History" > "The First Africans." 2) Identify and explain what you consider to be the site's best/most helpful section(s). 3) Generally speaking, what did you gain from the website that you didn't already know? 4) What were the site's weaknesses? 5) Would you recommend I use this website in future online courses? Why or why not?

**Point Breakdown:**

Quizzes (5 x 10 pts):	50 pts
Exams (2x100):	200 pts
<u>Website Review:</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
Total:	300 pts

**Grade Scale:**

270-300 = A
240-269 = B
210-239 = C
180-209 = D
000-179 = F

**Online Classroom Conduct/Decorum:**

Practice decorum and decency in all discussion posts and communication with fellow students and the instructor. More than one offense will result in possible dismissal from the class. For further reading on Internet decorum, I recommend that you take a look at UT-Tyler's ["Netiquette" Guide](#).

**Make-up Policy:**

I will work with you on an individual basis with regard to any missed exams, assignments, or other deadlines.

## Academic Honesty [\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*]

Cheating of *any* kind, including plagiarism, will result in immediate failure of the class and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler. Plagiarism, put simply, is using another's work as your own without proper citation or usage. This includes everything from copying and pasting from the Internet to failing to cite an idea from another source that you put in your own words. Please carefully read the university policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website: <http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php>

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this course. All work students submit for this course should be their own. Using ChatGPT or any other AI tools for any stage of the work process is expressly forbidden. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values and will lead to a failure of the class.

### Schedule/Topic Outline:

#### Unit 1: America, 15,000 BCE-1775 CE

- Week 1 (June 2-6)
  - o Locke and Wright, *American Yamp*, Chaps. 1-3; Unit 1 Notes; Lecture Video(s)
  - o **Quiz 1** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, June 6)

#### Unit 2: America, 1776-1840s

- Week 2 (June 9-13)
  - o Locke and Wright, *American Yamp*, Chaps. 4-6; Unit 2 Notes; Lecture Video(s)
  - o **Quiz 2** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, June 13)

#### Unit 3: America, 1840s-1877

- Week 3 (June 16-20)
  - o Locke and Wright, *American Yamp*, Chaps. 7-10; Unit 3 Notes; Lecture Video(s)
  - o **Quiz 3** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, June 20)
  - o **Exam I** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, June 22)

#### Unit 4: America, 1840s-1877

- Week 4 (June 23-27)
  - o Locke and Wright, *American Yamp*, Chaps. 11-13; Unit 4 Notes; Lecture Video(s)
  - o **Quiz 4** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, June 27)

#### Unit 5: America, 1840s-1877

- Week 5 (June 30-July 4)
  - o Locke and Wright, *American Yamp*, Chaps. 14-15; Unit 5 Notes; Lecture Video(s)
  - o **Quiz 5** (Due by 11:59pm, **Thursday**, July 3)
  - o **Exam II** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, July 6)
  - o **Historical Website Review** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, July 6)