

United States History I

History 1301- Spring 2026
Online Only
3 Credit Hours [No Prerequisites Required]

Instructor: Mrs. Jill “Nikki” Carter

Email: Jcarter@uttyler.edu [preferred contact]

- In your email, please note which class you are in (example Hist 1301.001)
- Expect a response within 24 hours M-F or 48 hours on the weekends
- I will only reply to email from an official UT-Tyler email account

Office Location Monday and Tuesday 1pm -2:30pm. Virtual Appointments available upon request with a 24-hour notice. Email is the quickest way to communicate, and I will make every effort to get back to you promptly. I encourage you to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or need any help as office hours are better thought of as student hours to help you to be more successful or get one on one time with your professors.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” ~ Nelson Mandela

Canvas:

This online class will be conducted through Canvas. If you experience any problems logging into Canvas or any technical problems with the system you should seek help from [Campus Computing](#). They can be reached via email at itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu. Please include your full name, student ID number and date of birth in any communications you send to them.

Course Description:

We will explore American history from human origins in North America (~13,000 BCE) to the Civil War (1865). 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. ^[L]_[SEP]
2. Develop analytical skills through thinking deeply, reading actively, and writing carefully about American history. ^[L]_[SEP]
3. Gain a strong sense of scholarly skepticism by balancing everything with hefty amounts of context and perspective; Or, in the spirit of Voltaire, embrace the certainty that nothing is certain and that everything is and ought to be open to (careful and thoughtful) interpretation. ^[L]_[SEP]
4. Appreciate and understand that accurate interpretations (see above) can *only* rest on ample and sturdy evidence. ^[L]_[SEP]

More Specifically, after completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate significant individuals, events, and eras in the history of the United States.
2. Recognize and analyze political, social, and economic changes in the history of the United States.

3. Identify and evaluate causes and effects of domestic and international issues and events in the history of the United States.
4. Apply relative chronology through the sequencing of significant individuals, events, and eras in the history of the United States.

Important Note:

I encourage you to meet or correspond with me regularly if you would like to discuss or clarify lecture material, videos, or readings, or simply to talk about government or history more broadly. Please keep this in mind as we move through the semester.

Some semesters, life circumstances intervene in ways none of us expect. If you encounter difficulties, I am more than willing to talk with you about your options and to connect you with appropriate resources. In some cases, the challenges may be significant enough that you need to consider withdrawing from one or more courses. Education is vitally important, but there are moments when other priorities must come first, and only you can make that decision.

While I will always try to support you, I cannot evaluate you on how you manage personal circumstances. Your grade reflects your academic performance in this course, not the difficulties you may be navigating outside of it. I hope we all have a semester where these issues do not arise, but please know that I am here to help if they do.

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.

Attendance and Late Work Policy

Regular attendance and engagement are essential to success in this course. You are expected to log into Canvas each week to work through the module content and complete the graded assignments. Simply logging in without engaging with course materials or completing assignments does not count as attendance, as it does not contribute meaningfully to your learning.

Each unit is organized by week, with all assignments due on a specified **weekly due date (Friday at 11:59pm)**. This structure offers flexibility in how you manage your time throughout the week, but it is not intended to encourage waiting until the last minute to complete everything. Consistent weekly engagement will help you stay on track, build effective time management skills, and reduce stress.

If unexpected circumstances arise—such as illness, travel, or emergencies—you may submit late work under the following conditions:

- Late assignments (not exams) will be accepted for up to **three days past the due date**.
- A **25% deduction** will be applied **for each day** the assignment is late.
- Assignments submitted **more than three days late will receive a grade of zero (0)**.
- ***Late exams are not accepted for a grade. There are no make-up exams or alternative assignments given once a test has been missed. There are 5 exams given over the semester and one of them is dropped. If you miss an exam, then that will be your dropped test grade.***

You may also work ahead within a unit if that schedule works best for you. Submitting work early does not violate the attendance policy and is strongly encouraged.

If you have a computer issue, internet issue, or any other issue on the date an assignment is due is not an excuse for not completing the assignment on time and no additional points will be granted for late work. If you do the work early and an issue presents itself, then there is time for us to work together and resolve it so that you can submit the work by the due date. Unfortunately, each semester I have students who put off everything until the due date and sometime comes up or they run out of time. This causes you stress and harms your grade, I strongly encourage you NOT to risk this, but if you do, then you must accept those consequences.

Also, there are no make-up exams or alternative assignments given once a test has been missed. There are 5 exams given over the semester and one of them is dropped. If you miss an exam, then that will be your dropped test grade. If you miss multiple exams that are open for an extended period because of an emergency situation then I encourage you to reach out to the CARE team on campus for that they can help you and determine the best course of action. No provisions are made in this course for missing more than one test in a semester. If you are going to miss an exam because of a school activity, you must take the exam prior to the day the exam will be given, as they are open the entire time the unit is.

Required Reading and Materials:

1. Textbook:

This semester the book is a free PDF textbook. The PDF file is provided for you in Canvas and you can download it from there. The website is also provided below.

Website: <https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>

Also, PowerPoints, outlines, notes, timelines, articles, videos, lectures, etc. uploaded onto Canvas

Course Structure:

This course will be conducted in four units and there will be one exam over the material in each unit.

There is also a comprehensive final exam. Each unit will be available for a limited period of time and late work is for full credit is not accepted once that deadline passed. Please see the attendance policy below for more details and check Canvas for due date for assignments.

Online Quizzes:

There will be 11 quizzes, each consisting of 20 multiple-choice and true/false over the lectures, textbook, and unit notes for each unit. Each quiz is worth 20 points. Quizzes are designed to help familiarize you with at least some of the important material that will be on the exams and to make sure you are reading. These quizzes are open book and open note. Module Quizzes are a total of 220 points for the semester.

Online Assignments:

Additionally, there will be 16 assignments over the course of the semester, and they will vary in nature. They will be worth 5 points each. These will count for a total of 80 points.

Exams:

There will be four-unit tests and a final exam, for a total of 5 exams. Each exam will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and true/false questions for a total of 100 points. There is a study guide posted for each exam. If you miss a test, there are no make-up exams given for individual exams. At the end of the semester, students who missed an exam will take the final exam as a grade replacement. Students who did not miss one have the option to take the final to replace another test grade and try to improve their score. Basically, no matter how you make it work, there are 5 exams and 4 count towards your final grade. See schedule below for due dates. Tests count for a total of 400 points.

An important note - Respondus lockdown browser software is required for exams (not quizzes) this semester. Exams are NOT open book or open note and outside resources, like Google, are not allowed. To ensure academic honesty, you must complete the quizzes for each module before taking the exam, or else you will be given a 0 on the test. The exams are timed and once you answer a question, you cannot go back to it and there is a time limit.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Usage Statement:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI Usage Policy for This Course

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools—such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Grammarly, and similar technologies—is permitted only on assignments where AI use is explicitly allowed in the instructions.

✔ Permitted Use

You may use AI tools only on assignments that clearly state AI assistance is allowed.

When AI use is permitted, you must follow all instructions regarding how to document your use (e.g., including the prompt, tool used, and how you used it).

✗ Prohibited Use

AI tools are not allowed on any assignments, quizzes, or exams that assess your individual understanding of course content and materials.

This includes—but is not limited to—essays, exams, and take-home assessments unless otherwise specified.

Grammar and writing assistants (e.g., Grammarly) are also considered AI tools and are subject to the same restrictions.

 Academic Integrity

Using AI tools on assignments where they are not permitted will be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy and may result in disciplinary action.

Calculating your grade

Points Breakdown:

Online Quizzes: 220 pts

Online Assignments: 80pts

Exams: 400pts

700 points

Final Grade Scale:

More than 89.5% of total points available = A

79.5% - 89.4% of pts = B

69.5% - 79.4% of pts = C

59.5% - 69.4% of pts = D

Below 59.5% of total points available = F

Schedule/Topic Outline: Check Canvas for all due dates and Test dates – the due date is the absolute last day to turn in that assignment. You can work ahead and finish early week and not waiting until it is due to start.

Getting Started Module and Syllabus Quiz – Week 1

Module 1 – The Americas, Europe, and Africa Before 1492 and Early Globalization: The Atlantic World, 1492–1650 – Week 2

Module 2 - Creating New Social Orders: Colonial Societies, 1500–1700 – Week 3

Module 3 Rule Britannia! The English Empire, 1660–1763 and Exam #1 – Week 4

Module 4 – Imperial Reforms and Colonial Protests, 1763–1774 – Week 5

Module 5 – America's War for Independence, 1775–1783 and Creating Republican Governments, 1776–1790, and Exam #2 – Weeks 6 and 7

Module 6 – Growing Pains: The New Republic, 1790–1820 and Industrial Transformation in the North, 1800–1850 – Week 8

Module 7- Jacksonian Democracy, 1820 – 1840- Week 9

Module 8- A Nation on the Move: Westward Expansion, 1800–1860 and Exam 3 – Week 10

Module 9 – Cotton is King :The Antebellum South, 1800–1860 and Antebellum Idealism and Reform Impulses, 1820–1860 – Two Due dates – Week 11 and 12

Module 10 – Troubled Times: the Tumultuous 1850s and The Civil War, 1860–1865, and exam 4 Week 13 and 14

Final exam – Week 15 - Required for students who missed another exam, optional for those who took all four Unit tests and want to try and replace another test. The final will not harm your grade!

Syllabus Notice:

The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus; however, students will be given ample warning to any possible changes.


Email Policy:

Per university request, I will only communicate with students via your Patriot email accounts. The university has had several problems reaching students with vital questions or information because they do not check their Patriot email, and they have asked faculty to require that students use their Patriot email accounts. All responses to student email will be sent only to your Patriot email account (even if you send the email from some other account). Email sent from any non-Patriot email account will not be answered.

Student Resources:

For a general overview of resources provided by The University of Texas at Tyler, please refer to this link: <http://lms-media.uttyler.edu/fileman/OID/Resource/>

Academic Honesty:

*****IMPORTANT*****  Cheating of *any* kind, including plagiarism or using outside resources on an exam, will result in a 0 on the assignment or exam, and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler up to failing the course. **Please carefully read the course policy found in Canvas and the university policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website:**

<http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php>