

## United States History since 1877 (HIST 1302)

**Term:** Spring 2026

**Course Dates:** January 12th - May 2nd, 2026

**Professor:** Emily Matel

**Course Times:** Asynchronous

**Email:** ematel@uttyler.edu

**Classroom:** UA 4, Room 105, UTTUA Tyler Campus

**Office Hours:** Monday 2:45-3:45 or by appointment  
(UTTUA Tyler Campus Only)

### Course Overview

History 1302 explores the social, political, economic, and cultural development of the United States from **Reconstruction (1877) to the present**, emphasizing critical thinking and historical analysis. Students will examine major themes including industrialization, westward expansion, immigration, urbanization, labor movements, reform efforts, U.S. foreign policy, wars, civil rights, and cultural transformations, while analyzing the experiences of diverse groups such as Native Americans, African Americans, women, immigrants, and laborers. The course combines lectures, discussions, primary source analysis, and writing assignments, helping students develop skills in evaluating evidence, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, and constructing evidence-based historical arguments. Assessment includes exams, essays, and discussions. Students will also develop historical thinking skills by learning how to analyze primary and secondary sources and understand how historians construct interpretations of the past.

### Student Learning Outcomes

- **Identify and explain major events, people, and developments** in U.S. history from Reconstruction to the Present
- **Analyze the political, economic, social, and cultural forces** that shaped early America, with attention to themes such as colonization, slavery, revolution, and westward expansion.
- **Evaluate the experiences and perspectives of diverse groups**, including Native Americans, Africans and African Americans, women, and others often excluded from traditional narratives.
- **Interpret and assess primary and secondary sources** to develop historical arguments and understand multiple perspectives on the past.
- **Communicate historical ideas and arguments clearly** through written and/or oral expression using evidence-based reasoning.

## Required Textbooks and Readings

### Primary Textbook:

- *U.S. History*, OpenStax, 2nd edition — available for free online: <https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>

### Additional Readings:

- Supplementary primary and secondary source readings will be assigned throughout the semester. These may include short articles, historical documents, essays, or book excerpts and will be made available through the Canvas.

**Note:** Students are responsible for keeping up with all assigned readings prior to class discussions. Reading quizzes, in-class activities, and writing assignments will be based on these materials.

## Course Structure

This is an **online, asynchronous** course designed to provide flexibility while maintaining a structured learning experience. The course is organized into **modules**, based on the course units.

Each module includes the following components:

- **Pre-recorded lectures** for flexible, on-demand viewing
- **Assigned readings and resources** to support lecture material
- **Discussion forums or activities** to encourage engagement and reflection
- **Quizzes, assignments, or projects** to assess understanding and application

Students are expected to complete all module components by the posted deadlines. Although there are no live sessions, regular participation and timely submissions are essential for success.

## Tips for Success in this Course

- **Participate.** I invite you to engage deeply, ask questions, and talk about the course content with your classmates. You can learn a great deal from discussing ideas and perspectives with your peers and professor. Participation can also help you articulate your thoughts and develop critical thinking skills.
- **Manage your time.** I get it—students usually juggle a lot, and I know you've got commitments beyond this class. Still, doing your best often means carving out enough dedicated time for coursework. Try scheduling specific blocks of time and ensure you have

enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any tech issues that might pop up.

- **Login regularly.** I recommend that you log in to Canvas several times a week to view announcements, discussion posts and replies to your posts.
- **Do not fall behind.** This class moves at a quick pace and each week builds on the previous class content. If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with the instructor as soon as possible so we can troubleshoot together. It will be hard to keep up with the course content if you fall behind in the pre-work or post-work.
- **Use Canvas notification settings.** Pro tip! Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. ([Canvas Notification Guide](#))
- **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me, your facilitator on campus, and/or your classmates for support.

## Graded Course Requirements Information

### Weekly Reading and Reading Quizzes

- One chapter from the textbook per week will be assigned for reading
- One quiz over the chapter reading will be required weekly

### Journal Entries

- Some modules will include a Journal Entry, which will be a short writing assignment

### Primary Source Readings

- Some modules will include primary source readings and questions

### Discussion

- There will be one discussion board assignment
- The Discussion must be completed in class, proctored by an instructor or facilitator

### Essay

- There will be one written essay
- The Essay must be completed in class, proctored by an instructor or facilitator

### Exams

- There will be 4 exams, each covering three chapters of material.
- Exams must be completed in class, proctored by an instructor or facilitator

### Final Exam

- There will be one comprehensive Final Exam over all content from the course
- The Final Exam must be completed in class, proctored by an instructor or facilitator

## Grading Structure

Assignment	Category Weight %	Points
<b>Quizzes</b> (14 quizzes at 10 points each)	<b>14%</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Primary Source Readings</b> (7 readings + questions at 10 points each)	<b>7%</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Journals</b> (4 Journals at 30 points each)	<b>12%</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Discussion</b> (1 Discussion worth 80 points)	<b>8%</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Essay</b> (1 Essay worth 90 points)	<b>9%</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Exams</b> (4 exams at 100 points each)	<b>40%</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Final Exam</b> (1 Final at 100 points)	<b>10%</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000</b>

*\*Note: Occasionally assignments or activities may be offered for “bonus” points*

## Grading Scale

- **A** - (90% or higher)
- **B** - (80 - 89%)
- **C** - (70 - 79%)
- **D** - (60 - 69%)
- **F** - (Below 60%)

## Late Work:

No late work will be accepted. This is because the assignment will be within an open module to plan and complete prior to the due date. Plan accordingly.

## Make-Up Policy:

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. You have ample time to complete each assignment, usually several weeks, and waiting until the last minute to do an assignment is not advised. 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 an assignment and no additional time will be granted. 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.

[\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*] There are no make-up exams or alternative assignments given once a test has been missed. If you are going to miss an exam because of a school activity, you must make arrangements to take the exam prior to the day the exam will be given, please contact me the week before the test to set up a date and time. In cases of emergency (i.e., a death in the family), however, students will be allowed to take the exam early at the discretion of the Instructor, and the student must provide documentation. Missing an exam does not ensure the student will be able to take the test early, such a decision is ultimately the professor's prerogative. Please contact me as soon as possible if you miss something for an emergency and we will work out the details.

## **Student Resources:**

### **Resources to assist you in the course**

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

### **Resources available to UT Tyler Students**

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

- [UT Tyler Student Business Services](#) (pay or set up payment plans, etc.)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

## **University Policies and Information**

### **Withdrawing from Class**

Students may [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email [enroll@uttyler.edu](mailto:enroll@uttyler.edu) to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career\*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

\* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

### **Artificial Intelligence 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 is

considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

## Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

## Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met*: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

## Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the

college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

## Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu), or call 903.566.7079."

## Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at [MVSC@uttyler.edu](mailto:MVSC@uttyler.edu) or via phone at 903.565.5972.

## Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

## Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).



## FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

## Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

## Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

## Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at [parents@uttyler.edu](mailto:parents@uttyler.edu) and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

## Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

## Course Outline (Please see calendar on Canvas for additional assignment dates)

Unit	Module	Date Open	Topic and Reading Assignment	Date Due
1	1	1/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Openstax Ch 17: Go West, Young Man!</li><li>• RQ Ch 17</li><li>• Primary Source Set A</li></ul>	1/16
	2	1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Openstax Ch 18: Industrialization and the Rise of Big Business, 1870-1900</li><li>• RQ Ch 18</li><li>• Primary Source Set B</li></ul>	1/23

	3	1/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 19: The Growing Pains of Urbanization, 1870-1900</li> <li>RQ Ch 19</li> <li>Journal A</li> </ul>	1/30
	Exam 1	*2/2, 2/3	<b>Unit 1 Exam</b>	*2/2, 2/3
2	4	1/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 21: Leading the Way: The Progressive Movement, 1890-1920</li> <li>RQ Ch 21</li> <li>Primary Source Set C</li> </ul>	2/6
	5	2/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 22: Age of Empire: American Foreign Policy, 1890-1914</li> <li>RQ Ch 22</li> <li>Primary Source Set D</li> </ul>	2/13
	6	2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 23: Americans and the Great War, 1914-1919</li> <li>RQ Ch 23</li> </ul>	2/20
	Discussion	*2/18, 2/19	<b>Discussion: Imperialism or Expansionism?</b>	*2/18, 2/19
	Exam 2	*2/23, 2/24	<b>Unit 2 Exam</b>	*2/23, 2/24
3	7	2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 24: The Jazz Age: Redefining the Nation, 1919-1929</li> <li>RQ Ch 24</li> <li>Journal B</li> </ul>	2/27
	8	2/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 25: Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? The Great Depression, 1929-1932</li> <li>RQ Ch 25</li> <li>Primary Source Set E</li> </ul>	3/6
	9	3/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 26: Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1941</li> <li>RQ Ch 26</li> </ul>	3/20
	Essay	*3/18, 3/19	<b>Essay: The New Deal</b>	*3/18, 3/19
	Exam 3	*3/23, 3/24	<b>Unit 3 Exam</b>	*3/23, 3/24
4	10	3/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Openstax Ch 27: Fighting the Good Fight in World War II, 1941-1945</li> <li>RQ Ch 27</li> <li>Journal C</li> </ul>	3/27

	11	3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openstax Ch 28: Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fears, 1945-1960:</li> <li>• RQ Ch 28</li> <li>• Primary Source Set F</li> </ul>	4/3
	12	4/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openstax Ch 29: Contesting Futures: America in the 1960s</li> <li>• Openstax Ch 30a: Political Storms at Home and Abroad: 1968-1980</li> <li>• RQ 29/30a</li> </ul>	4/10
	Exam 4	*4/13, 4/14	<b>Unit 4 Exam</b>	*4/13, 4/14
<b>5</b>	13	4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openstax Ch 30b: Political Storms at Home and Abroad: 1968-1980</li> <li>• Openstax Ch 31: From Cold War to Culture Wars, 1980-2000</li> <li>• RQ 30b/31</li> <li>• Journal D</li> </ul>	4/17
	14	4/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openstax Ch 32: The Challenges of the 21st Century</li> <li>• Primary Source Set G</li> </ul>	4/24
<b>Final</b>	Final Exam	*4/29, 4/30	<b>HIST 1302 Final Exam</b>	*4/29, 4/30

*\*Dates may vary depending on campus*

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current deadlines and updates. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.