History 1301: US History to 1865

Dr. Beth Robinson
Summer 2018, Term 1

Section WO1
Fully Online

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• Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.
• Please address emails to “Dr. Robinson.”
• Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 24 hours, but between the regular business hours of 9am-5pm. If you do not receive an email within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email inquiry.
• Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please also use professional language and include your full name, section number, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in nonresponse.
• Please keep copies of e-mails that are sent and received for records purposes.

NOTE: In a face-to-face course, much of the learning, motivation, and reminders result from regular attendance to lectures. Since this is an online course, students are expected to take on even more responsibility for their own success. Students should plan to spend the hours that they would be in class engaging with the readings, assignments, and online discussions. Additionally, please keep in mind that this is an accelerated course. We are condensing a full semester of U.S. History into less than five weeks, so we will be moving at a rapid pace.

Course Description
This course is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States from colonial settlement to the end of the Civil War. This course is not concerned with the memorization of dates, the names of (in) famous Presidents or even what to think about America’s past, but rather one that seeks to help you learn how to think about the past. We will try to understand what history means to citizens of the 21st century: how do we understand it, why does it matter, and can our understanding of our own past change the present and possibly our future?

The course will explore several themes within the history of the United States, but will center on the overarching idea of freedom. What is this idea of freedom and what is the story of its evolution? People have not always viewed freedom as a principal value for a society or a government to possess, but now we think of it as essential. What is the story of freedom? How have various peoples been involved in the struggle for freedom? How have they altered its meanings over time? In following the course of these struggles, we will examine how Americans chose to define this idea as well as how they left a difficult and mixed legacy that we must understand if we are to make sense of freedom in our own lives.

Several alternate themes will also emerge concerning America’s promise of freedom: the connection between national politics and everyday life; the intriguing and often perplexing relationship between slavery and freedom; freedom’s role in U.S. foreign relations as well as the conquest and settlement of “frontier” regions on the North American continent.

It is important for you to know that the story of U.S. history is not always an attractive one; additionally, it is rarely, if ever, a simple narrative. And yet, we live in the world that this story created. We should know how this story began.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course will:
• demonstrate critical thinking by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information, gathering and assessing information relevant to a question, and analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information;
• develop communication skills by interpreting and expressing ideas through writing, oral, or visual communication;
• demonstrate personal responsibility by evaluating historical choices and actions, and relating consequences to decision making;
• develop social responsibility by identifying intercultural competence and civic responsibility in past regional, national, and global communities.

Required Texts
3) Additional required texts will be posted on the course Blackboard page.

Course Format
Each week has a folder with response prompts, quizzes, films, and guided questions. I have deliberately kept the amount of assigned reading reasonable with the expectation that the reading is done thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Reading Quizzes
Each week you’ll complete multiple choice quizzes for each of the two or three chapters of *Give Me Liberty* covered that week. Those quizzes will be due by 11:59pm on Thursdays. While they are due at that point, you are free to work on them any time before that time.

Discussions
Each week, you are expected to contribute thoughtfully to discussions via the Blackboard message board. Most discussions are due by 11:59pm on Tuesdays. While they are due at that point, you are free to work on them any time before that time. Specific instructions are posted to Blackboard.

Essays
You will turn in one essay each week analyzing course materials. *These must be submitted as .doc/x or .pdf files.* Essays are due by 11:59pm on Saturdays. While they are due at that point, you are free to work on them any time before that time. Specific instructions are posted to Blackboard.

Assignment Breakdown:
Reading Quizzes (20%)
Discussions (20%)
Essays (60%)

Grading Scale: A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 D = 60 – 69 F = 59 and below

Additional Notes:
No extra credit options are available for this course. No exceptions. Please do not request extra credit from the instructor at any point in time, especially at the end of the semester.

Late Work
*I will not accept any late assignments*, though you are welcome to submit them early. Once their deadline passes, you cannot turn them in. However, if you need an extension due to an emergency, you may email me your request at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Extension will be granted at the discretion of the instructor or as mandated by law or university policy.

Academic Integrity
By enrolling in the university, students are automatically agreeing to abide by its policies, including those on academic misconduct. Academic integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the TAMUCC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are serious academic offenses. Penalties include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow citation practices. For more information, consult the Student Code of Conduct: [http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/handbook.html](http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/handbook.html)
Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

Disabilities Accommodation
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. June 15, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Schedule of Topics and Readings
The schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

*Voices of Freedom (VOF)*
Blackboard readings/film (Blackboard)
Week 1: May 29 // “A New World” READ:
*Give Me Liberty!, Ch. 1-3*

- VOF: Adam Smith, *The Results of Colonization*
- VOF, Gottlieb Mittelberger on the Trade in Indentured Servants
- VOF, Women in the Household Economy
- BB, de las Casas on Spanish Treatment of the Indians
  (film clip) BB, Excerpt from *We Shall Remain: After the Mayflower* (film clip)

DUE: Tuesday, May 29:
  - Discussion A
  - Thursday, May 31: Reading quizzes
  - Saturday, June 2: Essay 1

Week 2: June 3 // “The Revolution”

READ: *Give Me Liberty!, Ch. 4-6*

- VOF, Olaudah Equiano on Slavery
- VOF, Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*
- VOF, Association of the New York Son’s of Liberty
- BB, Martin “Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier” BB, Excerpt from *Slavery and the Making of America*
  (film clip)

DUE: Tuesday, June 5: Discussion B
  - Thursday, June 7: Reading quizzes
  - Saturday, June 9: Essay 2

Week 3: June 10 // “A New Nation”

READ: *Give Me Liberty!, Ch. 7-9*

- VOF, A July Fourth Oration
- VOF, Murray, “The the Equality of the Sexes”
- VOF, Grundy, *Battle Cry of the War Hawks*
- VOF, A Woman in the Westward Movement
- VOF, Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

DUE: Tuesday, June 12: Discussion C
  - Thursday, June 14: Reading quizzes
  - Saturday, June 16: Essay 3

Week 4: June 17 // “Conflict and Reform”

READ: *Give Me Liberty!, Ch. 10-12*

- VOF, Appeal of the Cherokee Nation
- VOF, Rise of the Cotton Kingdom
- VOF, Slavery and the Bible
- VOF, Declaration of Sentiments of the Seneca Falls Convention
- BB, Harriet Hanson Robinson’s speech (film clip)
- BB, Danny Glover reads Frederick Douglass
- BB, Andrew Jackson on Indian Removal

DUE: Tuesday, June 19: Discussion D
  - Thursday, June 21: Reading quizzes
  - Saturday, June 23: Essay 4
Week 5: June 24 // “The Inevitable Civil War”

READ: *Give Me Liberty!,* Ch. 13-14

- VOF, John L. O’Sullivan, *Manifest Destiny*
- VOF, William Henry Seward, “The Irrepressible Conflict”
- VOF, *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*
- VOF, Stephens, Cornerstone Speech
- VOF, *Frederick Douglass on Black Soldiers*
- BB, Accounts from Shiloh
- BB, Desertion Handbill

DUE: Tuesday, June 26: Discussion E

- Thursday, June 28: Reading quizzes
- Friday, June 29: Essay 5