

Austin Graduate School of Theology

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR HIST 1301

Semester Hours Credit: 3

United States History I

INSTRUCTOR: Robert C. Williams, PhD.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. History 1301 includes a study of English colonization, the Revolution, adoption of the Constitution, growth of nationalism, cotton and the slavery problem, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.**
- B. History 1301 is a part of the core curriculum mandated by the Texas Legislature for graduates of state institutions. This course is a requirement for all degrees at publicly supported institutions of higher learning in the state of Texas.**
- C. This is an academic course which is a degree requirement, but, in addition to that, assists students in understanding their nation's past.**
- D. Prerequisite: None.**

II INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

Instructional Materials for this course may be found at

- A. Textbook: David Edwin Harrell, Edwin S. Gaustad, et al. *Unto a Good Land: A History of the American People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005. ISBN: 978-0-8028-3718-9**
- B. Other material as assigned by the instructor.**

III. PURPOSE: Students are expected to enroll for mature reasons—because they sincerely desire to learn. Grades are secondary to this purpose. Students are expected to behave in manner consistent with this purpose. Each student should contribute to a positive learning atmosphere.

IV OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1. Explain the major trends and development that shaped the United States from the first Spanish settlements in what is now the United States to the end of Reconstruction in 1877.**

2. **Recognize and demonstrate familiarity with the major people, events and developments in the social, economic, religious and political life of the developing nation.**

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

Each student will read material as assigned by the instructor. All students will be expected to read and master the material in the textbook, of course. Student with poor reading skills/scores should take remedial courses before enrolling in History1301.

B. Projects

No projects are required in this course.

C. Class Performance:

Since the material on the exams will be drawn from both the textbook and the lecture, students are expected to be alert in class and take good notes. Your instructor may ask to see your notes. Students will need to organize material in order to master it.

D. Class Participation

Class discussion is an essential part of the learning process. Students who do not participate are not only damaging their own learning process, they are cheating their fellow students. Class participation may be used in the final grade determination.

VI. EXAMINATIONS

Students should develop their own study guide prior to each exam. No “cheat sheets” or study guides will be supplied. Your instructor will discuss/explain material in each chapter, but there will be no review of that material prior to examinations. Should students have questions, of course, these will be answered.

Pop Tests will be given at the beginning of many classes. These are designed to insure that the students have mastered the material assigned in the reading schedule. There will be no make-up for pop tests; however, the lowest grade will be dropped before averaging.

Scheduled examinations will be taken during the class period set aside for that purpose, but the instructor reserves the right to change exam dates. Students who are late to an exam will not get any “curve” on the test. Each test will consist of 40 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer essay questions.

Make-up examinations will be available—usually on the day of the final--at the instructor’s option for those with a valid reason for absence BUT MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS MAY BE ESSAY, at the instructor’s discretion. One make-up session will be scheduled with the instructor, and failure to take the make-up exam will result in a grade of 0 (zero).

Examinations are individual efforts, any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of 0 (zero).

There will be no open book examinations, all examinations will be closed-book and closed-notes.

VII. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATION

A. The semester grade computation shall use the following formula:

Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	25%
Exam #3	25%
Pop Tests (averaged)	25%

B. Grade Computation:

90 – 100 = A
80 -- 89 = B
70 -- 79 = C
60 -- 69 = D
0 -- 59 = F

C. There will be NO “extra credit” or “bonus work.” Study *every day* and pass the tests!

VIII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Course Withdrawal: It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw officially from a course if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class should contact the registrar. It is highly

recommended that the student discuss his or her intentions with the instructor before withdrawing.

- B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet attendance requirements.
- C. **Incomplete Grade:** The College catalog states, “An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the coursework but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements of the course....” Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of “IP” or Incomplete is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an “F” for the course.
- D. **Electronic Devices:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off and kept out of sight while students are in the classroom for this course. An audible or visible cell phone during testing will be grounds for a zero on that test, withdrawal from the course and/or disciplinary action. Text messaging during class is prohibited. Radios, music players and similar devices are prohibited. Laptops may be used to take notes or record the lecture, but other uses during class are prohibited. Recorders (or cell phones used as recorders) are permitted, but may not be played back during class.
- E. **America’s With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Students requiring accommodations for disabilities are responsible for notifying the instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be granted in full compliance with federal and state law.
- F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decisions in course requirements.
- G. **Civility:** Individuals are expected to be aware of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students are to act with civility in the classroom including:

- Not visiting with nearby students.
- Not sleeping,
- Not doing homework for another course,
- Not reading material other than pertains to this course,
- Not leaving class before the end of the class,

Not eating food or drinking a beverage unless permission is granted, and
Not using socially unacceptable language.

- H. **Tardiness:** Tardiness is rude. The instructor may post a sign on the door when class begins. Entry is not permitted after that sign is posted. Students will not leave class until class is dismissed.
- I. **Attendance:** students with excessive absences will be dropped from the class.
- J. **Plagiarism and citation of sources:** Plagiarism is the representation of another person's work as your own and is a form of theft. **This includes material composed by other students, purchased from an online paper service, or copied from published books and articles or from the Internet.** If in any assignment you employ material written by someone else, you must give the author proper credit, **documenting the source with an appropriate citation and marking any words directly quoted with quotation marks (or with indentation if four or more lines are quoted).** Failure to appropriately credit the sources you use will result in a reduction in your grade for the assignment in question and/or the requirement that you revise the assignment. **Intentionally representing another person's work as your own will be grounds for academic discipline, including your possible dismissal from the School.** For more information on how to acknowledge sources properly and avoid plagiarism, refer to the School's "Guide to Written Work" (http://www.austingrad.edu/images/Resources/student/guide_for_written_work.htm).

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as necessary.

Date	Assignment	Measurement
August 25, 2011	First Day of Class	
September 1, 2011	Study Prologue & Chapter 1 before class.	Possible Pop Test
September 8, 2011	Study Chapters 2 & 3 before class.	Possible Pop Test
September 15, 2011	Study Chapter 4 before class.	Possible Pop Test
September 22, 2011	Study Chapter 5 before class.	Possible Pop Test
September 29, 2011	Study Chapter 6 before class.	First Major Exam
October 6, 2011	Study Chapter 7 before class.	Possible Pop Test
October 13, 2011	Study Chapter 8 before class.	Possible Pop Test
October 20, 2011	Study Chapter 9 before class.	Possible Pop Test
October 27, 2011	Study Chapter 10 before class.	Possible Pop Test
November 3, 2011	Study Chapter 11 before class.	Second Major Exam
November 10, 2011	Study Chapter 12 before class.	Possible Pop Test
November 17, 2011	Study Chapter 13 before class.	Possible Pop Test
November 24, 2011	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Pop Test
December 1, 2011	Study Chapters 14 & 15 before class.	Possible Pop Test
December 8, 2011	Final Exams	Third Major Exam