

HIST 1311-702
8 Weeks (Online)
History of the United States to 1865
(Fall 2015)

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Faculty members in the History department do not have office phones. The fastest, most direct and preferred means of communication is via email. Expect a response to an email with 48 hours, longer on weekends and breaks. You may also email to set up a virtual meeting through Blackboard Collaborate. If you wish to talk directly with your instructor or coach, you will need to arrange a virtual meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT: An introduction to the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States to 1865. This course is designed to help students understand and evaluate their society, comprehend the historical experience, and further develop reading and writing competencies and critical thinking skills.

CLASS PREREQUISITES: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 1301

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Corbett, et al. *U.S. History*: This is a FREE Open Educational Resource. There will be more information on accessing this book in the course module. The book is in web view, epub, and pdf formats. Access the book by going to the Open Stax website: <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/us-history> and then following the instructions to download or access the text.

RECOMMENDED: We recommend that you have access to a physical copy or bookmark an online college dictionary. Be sure to look up any unfamiliar words.

REQUIRED COMPUTER SKILLS AND INTERNET CONNECTION: Online students will need to have basic computer skills to do well in this course. Basic computer skills include:

- Accessing and logging into Blackboard
- Sending and receiving email through your [Mavs student account](#)
- Attaching files and opening attachments
- Using Microsoft Office software like Word
- Following instructions (video or written) to learn how to use new web-based tools

You will also need regular access to a computer and reliable Internet service. You can connect your tablet or laptop to the campus Wi-Fi if you are in the DFW area. You can use the computers in the UTA library or computer labs if you have a set of headphones. If you do not come to campus this semester and are accessing this course from home, you should have a backup plan if your Internet connection fails. Be sure to have a list of alternate Internet access points. For example, is there a local public library

or community college? How about the Starbucks or McDonald's on the corner? They typically have free Wi-Fi. If you don't have a laptop or tablet and your Internet fails, can you go to a friend or relative's house?

If you do not have basic computer skills or access to a computer/tablet with a reliable Internet connection, you should rethink taking a fully online course.

HOW TO ACCESS THE COURSE MODULE: This course resides in Blackboard (elearn.uta.edu) and will be made available to students on *Sunday afternoon* before the course begins; your instructor will email the class when the module is available. *Note that you will not be able to see the class listed in Blackboard until it is opened it to students.*

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: You will upload documents in this course and will need appropriate software. If you do not already have it, Microsoft Office is available from the UTA Bookstore for a substantial discount and it will allow you to complete all assignments in this course. If you choose to use software other than Microsoft Office, I will not be able to support you and you may risk improper submissions. **Note* - You cannot use anything older than Microsoft Office 2007 (PC)/2008 (Mac) for Word Documents, but you may submit a pdf file. No other types of files are permitted unless otherwise stated in the course module.*

If you have not already done so, you should check to make sure that your system is configured correctly. Go to <http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/system-configuration.php> to see a list of requirements. If you are not at the most recent update, you may have issues opening some items in Blackboard.

A note about BROWSERS: The recommended browser for Blackboard is Firefox. However, I also require that you have another browser available on your computer (Chrome is a good second choice, but any other browser will do). Why? Well, sometimes there are updates to either the browser or to Blackboard. When this happens, some content might not display in a particular browser.

Always contact your instructor or coach first if you are having technical issues. We will often be able to quickly resolve your issue, but if not we will be able to help you craft the description of your problem and what issues we have ruled out so that the OIT Help Desk will be better able to pinpoint your problem. Before contacting us with a technical issue with course materials, always access the material in your back-up browser. If it displays properly, then it is an issue with a recent update of software for your primary browser. Use the backup browser for a day or two (this gives Blackboard a chance to adjust their settings). Also check the Technical Help FAQ, located under the "Important Information" tab in the course module menu, for troubleshooting information for common problems.

UTA CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES:

The state of Texas requires specific objectives for general education "core" courses. The state objectives for "general ed" courses require that students learn critical thinking and communication (written, oral, visual) skills; teamwork skills; quantitative reasoning; personal responsibility (ethics) and social responsibility (civics). This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences.

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. *Must be addressed in all core curriculum courses.*

- **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. *Must be addressed in all core curriculum courses.*
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
 - Mathematics
 - Life and Physical Sciences
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - Component Area Option of Mathematics and Logic
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
 - Life and Physical Sciences
 - Creative Arts
 - Communication
- **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
 - Communication
 - Language, Philosophy and Culture
 - American History
 - Government/Political Science
- **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
 - Language, Philosophy and Culture
 - Creative Arts
 - American History
 - Government/Political Science
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During this course, students will learn how to:

- identify key events, peoples, individuals, terms, periods, and chronology of the history of the United States; distinguish between historical fact and historical interpretation; and connect historical events in chronological chain(s) of cause and effect
- develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, using historical evidence to critique competing interpretations of the same historical events, explaining the nature of historical controversies
- synthesize diverse historical information and evidence related to broad themes of U.S. history and present this information in coherent, well-articulated, and well-substantiated analytical discussions and other written assignments
- develop the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making by examining the motivations and actions of key figures in U.S. history
- develop an understanding of civic and social responsibility by examining interactions within and between regional, national, and global communities in U.S. history

- demonstrate basic awareness of the historical geography of the United States
- instructor-specific learning outcomes

FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:

We expect that students will

- not cheat, plagiarize, collude or commit other acts of academic dishonesty
- participate fully by being prepared for discussions and other assignments. Being prepared means doing your reading, watching videos, perusing all links in this website and covering all materials presented
- do college-level work in all written assignments. You will receive specific and detailed instructions for all assessments within this course, follow them. Proofread for grammar and prose (turning in sloppy work with many grammatical errors is not college level - if you have problems with writing on a college level, utilize the services of the Writing Center)
- turn in work on time
- show respect to your instructor and your fellow students in all interactions
- ask for help when needed

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS:

At the end of the semester, grades will be awarded according to the following scale: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%).

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. You will find your grades in the course module.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS: Your knowledge of the course materials will be assessed through Assignments (60%); Unit Assessments (25%); and Reflections (15%)

- **Unit Assessments:** There is one introductory quiz (1%) and an assessment for each unit (6% x 4). You will have a choice of taking an exam or completing a project. The exam option will consist of multiple choice questions over the course content and fill-in-the blank questions over the associated historical geography. The project will give you flexibility in the type of submission, and you will turn in a project (individual or group) and reflect. The intro quiz will be multiple choice over the course basics.
- **Reflections:** There are 15 topics in this course. Each topic will have several reflections embedded in the course materials. The reflections required you to answer a survey question or provide a quick feedback (1-3 sentences). The reflections will be graded as a whole for each topic. There are 15 reflection grades worth 1% each.
- **Assignments:** There will be two assignments per unit. Each unit has one discussion where students will work together on learning a skill that will then be utilized in that unit's reaction assignment (which ranges in length from one paragraph to three pages). These assignments assess students' knowledge of the course content and the core objectives of critical thinking, communication, personal and social responsibilities (see module for more details). Discussions are worth up to 5% each and reactions are worth up to 10% each.

TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments and assessments will be uploaded or completed through the Blackboard course module and all submitted assignments will be run through SafeAssign checking

for plagiarism. No emailed submissions are accepted for grading. If you are having technical issues with completing or uploading an assignment in Blackboard, you must notify me via email *prior to the deadline for completion/submission*. If you are having problems uploading a completed assignment, you must attach your assignment file to your email notifying me of your technical issues as evidence you completed the assignment on time. Once your technical issue is resolved, you will be required to submit the same file through Blackboard for grading. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm Central Time.

LATE PAPER AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Students must provide university approved documented evidence to make up tests/quizzes or turn in late work. If you know there is going to be a conflict with meeting a due date or participating in a group assignment, contact me before the window of opportunity for that assignment/test closes and we will come up with an appropriate plan of action. We will not, however, extend due dates/open assignments early, to accommodate personal travel plans.

GRADE GREIVANCES: You will typically receive your grade and feedback on an assignment within one week. If, for some reason, there will be a delay in return of grades, I will post an announcement and send a class email with further details. I will also make an announcement when the grading of an assignment is complete and all grades are posted. Once a grade is posted, you will have ONE WEEK from my emailed announcement to contact me about any discrepancies or issues. After that time, the grade will be considered final and I will not revisit the grade later in the session. There will be a shorter turnaround period at the end of the semester. Items due the last two weeks of the semester will have a three day window for a grade grievance once the grade is posted.

Any appeal of a grade beyond the instructor in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

[see http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19]

EXPECTATIONS FOR TIME SPENT IN STUDY: In a traditional long semester face-to-face course, a general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 2-3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 6-9 hours of including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. beyond the time required to attend each class meeting. ***This online course is an accelerated version of the on-campus course. You are doing the same amount of work in half the time. Students should expect to spend at least 12-18 hours per week on course materials, reading, studying, and assignments.***

PARTICIPATION: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. Since this is an online course, attendance means regularly (at minimum weekly) accessing the course module and moving through the materials in a timely manner. There is no grade based upon simply accessing the module. Students are responsible for being aware of all windows of opportunity for completing assignments and tests. The full course calendar is available in the Blackboard course module and an overview is provided below.

DROP POLICY: contact your advisor for drop policies. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the

result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

A RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: It is the goal of the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts to create and maintain a respectful learning environment in online courses. The official policy concerning communications within this course is stated below:

When contacting your instructor via email, remember to construct your messages both respectfully and carefully (be as specific as possible with your questions). In this course, as with any other UTA course, your communication with students and faculty should be the utmost professional. When communicating with your peers and instructor, there will be NO discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status. Keep in mind that instructors reserve the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. All UTA students are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with UTA's Standard Code of Conduct. Students violating these codes will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. **Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.**

The History Department takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Copying or closely paraphrasing directly from the text or internet sites without proper citation as plagiarism. If in doubt, cite. **If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty on an assignment, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you are found guilty of cheating on a second assignment, you will receive an F (0) for the course.** We will refer all cases of suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

NOTICE: All assignments submitted to Blackboard will be run through SafeAssign to check for plagiarism.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to

students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

TITLE IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE: *The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

This course consists of **15 topics** divided into **4 units**. You will have windows of opportunity to complete the content materials and assignments associated with each unit. Units will open according to the overview calendar below. You may work through the course materials in a unit at your own pace, but be cognizant of any due dates associated with the unit assignments. A full and detailed schedule (including any interim due dates for assignments, projects and discussions) can be found in the master course calendar in the Blackboard course module.

Each topic will contain assigned readings from the texts as well as links to other materials, websites, lecture videos, etc. Work in order from top to bottom in both the Unit folder and each individual topic folder. Pay particular attention to the unit overview and the study guides for each individual topic.

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| COURSE INTRODUCTION Time Expectation: 2 hours | Course Basics |
| UNIT 1: THE CREATION OF AMERICA Time Expectation: 18-27 hours | TOPIC 1: Ancient America TOPIC 2: European Overseas Expansion TOPIC 3: English Colonization |
| UNIT 2: THE MATURE COLONIES Time Expectation: 24-36 hours | TOPIC 4: Competition and Instability TOPIC 5: Labor in the Colonies TOPIC 6: Culture and Society in the 18 th Century TOPIC 7: Challenges to Imperial Control |
| UNIT 3: THE EARLY REPUBLIC Time Expectation: 24-36 hours | TOPIC 8: Independence Declared and Won TOPIC 9: From the Articles to the Constitution TOPIC 10: The Virginia Dynasty TOPIC 11: Socioeconomic Upheavals |
| UNIT 4: THE ROAD TO DISUNION Time Expectation: 24-36 hours | TOPIC 12: The Age of Jackson TOPIC 13: North and South TOPIC 14: Expansion TOPIC 15: A House Divided |