Course Description:

A comprehensive survey of American history from early explorations through Reconstruction. Meets Texas state requirements for all graduates.

Course Materials:

Readings and primary sources for our course will be assigned and posted on Brightspace / D2L. Students will also be expected to read the material in the course modules and to watch the prerecorded Zoom talks.

As an optional resource, students may also consult OpenStax U.S. History, available free online, either streamed or downloaded, at https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history

Office Hours:

Office hours will be held on Zoom by appointment: whenever you would like to meet on Zoom, let me know and we will arrange a time. It’s important that you feel comfortable asking questions this semester. Please e-mail with questions to rballen@sfasu.edu or through D2L.

Course Requirements:

* Three exams, worth 90 points each = 270
* Five discussion post assignments, worth 10 points each = 50
* Five reading quizzes, worth 15 pts each = 75
* One primary source exercise, 105 pts = 105

500 points
The exams, consisting of short answer and multiple-choice questions, will be over the assigned modules, video talks, and readings. Discussion post assignments will require students to read primary sources and to answer prompt questions about those sources, while the reading quizzes will comprise multiple-choice questions over the assigned readings.

**Grading scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Semester average</th>
<th>Semester grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450 – 500</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 – 449</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 – 399</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 – 349</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 299</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late work is not accepted.

**D2L / Brightspace:**

This semester, students will take all of their exams and quizzes on D2L and will also submit their primary source exercise and discussion posts on D2L. Students should fulfill these assignments early enough to allow for technical difficulties. If you have difficulties, you can email SFA's D2L support team at d2l@sfasu.edu or call them at (936) 468-1919 (available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm).

It is your responsibility to check D2L frequently to keep up with announcements and assignments.

**Course Calendar:**

**Monday, July 3** Getting started

- Read the "Get Started" module, including the syllabus and the semester course calendar with assignments
- Make a post in the discussion thread, introducing yourself with some basic information: name, where you are from, what do you like to do

**Wednesday, July 5**  Unit 1, Module 1: Old and New Worlds  First discussion

- Read module content
- Read the discussion question and answer the prompt with a discussion post of at least 100 words. No reading is required for this discussion, and you do not need to respond to another student’s post. The discussion thread will close at 11 pm on July 5.
Thursday, July 6       Unit 1, Module 2: Colonial America
First quiz

- Read module content and watch the first video talk.
- Read chapter 2 of *American Realities* and take the first reading quiz, consisting of five multiple choice questions. The quiz will be available to you on July 6 from 8 am until 11 pm (start time). You will have fifteen minutes to take the quiz.

Friday, July 7       Unit 1, Module 3: The Politics of Empire

- Read module content

Monday, July 10      Second quiz

- Read chapter 4 of *American Realities* and take the second reading quiz, consisting of five multiple choice questions. The quiz will be available to you on July 10 from 8 am until 11 pm (start time). You will have fifteen minutes to take the quiz.

Tuesday, July 11     Unit 1, Module 4: Causes of the American Revolution

- Read module content and watch the second video talk.

Wednesday, July 12    First exam

- Take the first exam, available from 8 am until 11 pm (start time)

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Thursday, July 13     Unit 2, Module 1: War for Independence

- Read module content

Friday, July 14       Third quiz

- Read chapter 6 of *American Realities* and take the third reading quiz, consisting of five multiple choice questions. The quiz will be available to you on July 14 from 8 am until 11 pm (start time). You will have fifteen minutes to take the quiz.
Monday, July 17          Unit 2, Module 2: Confederation and Constitution

• Read module content and watch the third video talk.

Tuesday, July 18         Unit 2, Module 3: The Age of Federalism, 1789 – 1801
Second discussion

• Read module content
• Read the primary sources posted on D2L and answer the prompt with a discussion post of at least 150 words. You do not need to respond to another student’s post. The discussion thread will close at 11 pm on July 18.

Wednesday, July 19       Unit 2, Module 4: The Republican Era, 1801 – 1825

• Read module content.

Thursday, July 20         Third discussion

• Read chapter 7 of *American Realities* and answer the prompt with a discussion post of at least 150 words. You should also make one response to another student’s post: your response should be at least 50 words. The discussion thread will close at 11 pm on July 20.

Friday, July 21           Unit 2, Module 5: Jacksonian Democracy

• Read module content and watch the fourth video talk.

Monday, July 24           Fourth quiz

• Read the primary sources posted on D2L and take the fourth reading quiz, consisting of five multiple choice questions. The quiz will be available to you on July 24 from 8 am to 11 pm (start time). You will have fifteen minutes to take the quiz.

Tuesday, July 25           Second exam

• Take the second exam, available from 8 am until 11 pm (start time)

Wednesday, July 26        Unit 3, Module 1: Antebellum America

• Read module content and watch the fifth video talk.
Thursday, July 27  Unit 3, Module 2: National Expansion / Fifth quiz

• Read module content.
• Read chapter 10 of American Realities and take the fifth reading quiz, consisting of five multiple choice questions. The quiz will be available to you on July 27 from 8 am until 11 pm (start time). You will have fifteen minutes to take the quiz.

Friday, July 28  Fourth discussion

• Read chapter 11 of American Realities and answer the prompt with a discussion post of at least 150 words. You should also make one response to another student’s post: your response should be at least 50 words. The discussion thread will close at 11 pm on July 28.

Monday, July 31  Primary source paper due

• The primary source assignment should be at least 300 words and should be uploaded to the dropbox in D2L by 9 pm on Monday, July 31.

Tuesday, August 1  Unit 3, Module 3: The Impending Crisis

• Read module content and watch the sixth video talk.

Wednesday, August 2  Unit 3, Module 4: Civil War and Reconstruction

• Read module content
• Read chapter 15 of American Realities and answer the prompt with a discussion post of at least 150 words. You should also make one response to another student’s post: your response should be at least 50 words. The discussion thread will close at 11 pm on August 2.

Thursday, August 3  Third exam

• Take the third exam, available from 8 am until 11 pm (start time)
Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Withheld Grades:  (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with disabilities:

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Program Learning Outcomes:

This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

HIST 1301 includes instruction in the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.
In addition to learning the above, students in HIST 1301 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written and visual communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of how humans in the past have engaged effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical decisions.

Instruction in the Core Objectives (critical thinking, communication, personal and social responsibility) will be given throughout the semester.

Explanation of credit hours awarded for this course:

HIST 1301 (United States History I) meets for 2,250 minutes (37.5 hours), including examination times, during the course of a semester. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). Typical sections of the course require students to take 2-3 exams per semester, in addition to the final exam. Many also require students to take quizzes. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for quizzes/exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom. Online sections of the course contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold "electronic office hours" to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 2,250 minutes per term. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

General Education Core Curriculum:

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in HIST 1301, you are enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility requirements. The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course and the assignments that will be used to assess the objectives.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, and 3rd exams</td>
<td>7/12, 7/25, 8/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written communication.</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, and 3rd exams</td>
<td>7/12, 7/25, 8/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Primary source exercise</td>
<td>7/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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**Mental Health and Wellness:**

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services  
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
3rd floor, Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line:  
1 (800) 392-8343
Suicide prevention lifeline:  
1 (800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis text line:  
Text HELLO to 741-741