

Brazosport College
Syllabus for History 1301: United States History to 1877

Instructor: Carrie Pritchett, M.A.
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Office Hours: (held on Zoom)

MW: 9:30-10:30am

1:00-3:00pm

TR: 10:00-11:00pm

2:00-3:00pm

Tuesday: 4:00-5:45pm

And by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This course is a survey of American history from its beginnings to Civil War and Reconstruction. Beginning with Native American societies, topics will focus on European colonialism; Colonial America and the path to independence and nationhood; the rise of a representative government and a uniquely American way of life; slavery; early American culture and social movements; and the sectionalism that culminated in the Civil War and the struggle of Reconstruction.

In this course the student will develop critical thinking skills and improve written and verbal communication through a discussion of U.S. history. The course will increase knowledge and understanding of how and why the United States came to its current form. The ultimate goal of this course is to increase students' analytical and expressive abilities through the study of history. Historical events will also be viewed in light of the present state of the United States.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION

Textbook:

Shi, David Emory and George Brown Tindall. *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 11th ed., Volume 1. New York: W.W. Norton, 2019. ISBN #: 978-0-393-66896-4

Primary Source Documents:

Colbert, David. *Eyewitness to America*. New York: Vintage Books, 1998.
ISBN #: 978-0-679-76724-4

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Students will be evaluated using several methods in this course. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Three major exams
- *Eyewitness to America* assignments, research and response papers, and other evaluations of student success
- Participation and attendance (this is not a separate grade, but will be measured in every exam and assignment you complete)

All work, excluding exam essays, must be uploaded to the proper D2L drop box for credit to be given.

LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND WILL ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO A GRADE PENALTY.

<u>Grades</u>		<u>Grade Distribution</u>
Three major exams:	60 %	A: 100-90 B: 89-80
Written Assignments:	40 %	C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0

There will be no grade changes after the final grade is released to myBC unless there is an instructor error.

NOTE: Dual credit students will not receive high school credit for a grade below 70

TESTING

The three major exams include questions based on short answer, essay, multiple choice, true-false, and matching formats. Questions will come from lecture, readings, primary source documents, and other discussions or in-class assignments. Anything is fair game for testing! The exams will measure critical understanding of historical information and analytical writing skills. The exam taken during finals week will not be comprehensive. All exams will be taken via Zoom, using Respondus Lockdown Browser. You will need a webcam/camera for exam days.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Any make-up exams will be taken via Zoom at a time mutually agreed upon with the instructor. The following process must be followed:

1. Ask if a make-up exam is a possibility via BC e-mail,
2. If it is a possibility, make an appointment with the instructor to make up the exam.
3. Take the exam within one week of the original exam date.

Only one make-up exam will be allowed per semester. If more than one is needed, documentation will be required to prove that you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date. Warning: Make-up exams are the last exams to be graded. There is a possibility that grades may not be posted until the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Attendance and participation are crucial to success in this course, and will be graded appropriately. Students should contact the instructor immediately if an unavoidable absence should occur. No official attendance grade is given, but your attendance and participation are reflected in every assignment in this course (the more you show up and pay attention, the better your chances for a good grade). The instructor **WILL NOT** withdraw students from the course under any circumstances. Please consult with the instructor before you withdraw from the course. **The last day to withdraw from Fall courses is October 29.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY (STRICTLY ENFORCED IN THIS COURSE)

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Click on the CATALOGS AND SCHEDULES link under STUDENTS.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and **will, at a minimum, result in a zero in the particular assignment in which the offense was created.** Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

This class will be conducted in an academic setting, and students are expected to exhibit adult behavior that is conducive to a college course. In order to create an effective learning environment, students and the instructor must share respect for each other. Also, students must respect the right of other students to learn, and to respect differing views and opinions. You are expected to come to class alert, open-minded, and prepared for the day's material. Questions and opinions that are on the subject of the lecture are encouraged, but must not disturb the learning environment.

Unacceptable behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- Using a laptop or tablet for any purpose other than taking notes and accessing Zoom
- Disturbing another student's ability to learn by talking during lecture, using offensive/derogatory language, etc.
- Sleeping in class
- Using alcohol/tobacco products in the Zoom environment (class and school policy)
- Disrespecting the instructor or fellow students in any way

The instructor reserves the right to ask the student to leave the virtual classroom at any given time for inappropriate behavior not listed in the syllabus.

COVID-Specific Student Code of Conduct:

1. Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they "fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC." Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services. (This applies if you are on campus for any reason)

Campus Closure Statement:

Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postpone if such orders are given.

Zoom Usage and Etiquette:

The course will be delivered via Zoom at the time the class is scheduled. You are expected to:

1. Have access to a microphone and webcam (though you can use your phone to call into the Zoom session if you have no access to these materials).
2. Have your camera on most days (we all have “non-camera ready” days, and some days our wireless networks may not like that the camera is on). If your camera is not on, be prepared to show that you are paying attention via the “Reactions” feature on Zoom at the bottom of your screen.
3. If you choose, download a virtual background for Zoom. Google “Brazosport College Zoom Virtual Backgrounds” for free access to BC backgrounds. It gives you more privacy by using it.
4. Show up “presentable” for class. That simply means that you should be dressed. (Yes, I have to say that..). Do I mind if you decide to show up to class in pajamas? Not at all.
5. Sometimes pets, kids, spouses, etc. make accidental appearances on Zoom. My cat likes to make an appearance occasionally. That happens.
6. Technical difficulties? Get kicked out of class? Send me a Remind message and I can try to guide you the best I can.
7. What if your instructor has technical difficulties? I will send you a Remind message to keep you updated. Please wait at least fifteen minutes before leaving the class.
7. Zoom is meant to add to the education experience, and not to be a barrier to it. You use it as you feel comfortable. Bottom line? Join us. Not familiar with Zoom? That’s ok. I’m still learning all of the details as well. We will figure it out together.
8. Be kind to each other. In or out of the Zoom world, we all need more of that right now.

E-mail Usage and Etiquette: When contacting the instructor, polite and civil e-mails are required. You should state your name and your class day/time (or risk getting an answer only to your college e-mail name, which isn't very personal). The question or issue should be clearly stated, and the e-mail must be sent from the student (not a parent, significant other, relative, friend, or anyone else who is not you). I will respond in a civil manner as well. Rude, offensive, demanding, or threatening e-mails will be ignored or sent to the proper authorities.

Also, grade information can only be given to students who use their BC or D2L e-mail addresses. Grades cannot be discussed using personal e-mail addresses or the Remind app.

THE INSTRUCTOR'S ROLE IN THE COURSE

First and foremost, I am here to make sure that you receive a top-notch education, and that you gain critical thinking skills to aid you not only in the understanding of history, but to take these skills with you to other courses. I encourage you to ask thoughtful questions, utilize office hours to seek help to clarify unclear material, and to communicate any issues that may affect your performance in the class.

What I will NOT do for you is to take responsibility for your performance in the course. The grade you are assigned is the grade you earn. I only evaluate the material that is turned in.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

OTHER STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION

Information about the Library is available at www.brazosport.edu/~lib/Information.htm or by calling 979-230-3310. You will be using the library for research, so be sure to familiarize yourself with its collection, electronic databases, and other services.

WRITING CENTER:

Located within the Student Success Center (second floor of the main building above the counseling and registration office) is the Brazosport College Writing Center. The Writing Center provides virtual tutoring Monday – Thursday 8 am – 8 pm and Friday 8 am – noon. Online tutoring and other times are available by appointment. For questions, contact the Writing Center at 979-230-3460. Incentives will be offered for at least one visit to the Writing Center to work with a tutor on any writing assignment for this class.

Student Services provides assistance in the following:

Counseling and Advising	979-230-3040
Financial Aid	979-230-3294
Student Activities	979-230-3355

Information Technology:

To reach the Information Technology Department for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk at 979-230-3266. You will be receiving critical information from your instructor throughout the semester through D2L and e-mail. If you are having issues with these services it is crucial that you call the department to sort out the issue as soon as possible.

Title IX Statement:

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Library Services

The BC library will continue to provide all of the remote services it has been offering since the pandemic began, including workshops and events for students. In addition, the library will be open to students and faculty using a modified schedule: Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 7 PM. The library will be closed on Fridays. Services offered include:

- Computer access for students who lack the technology needed for their online courses. The library will have 22 computer work stations available, on a first come, first serve basis. An additional 12 computers are available in the adjacent Learning Services area.
- Printing access at no cost to the student (limited to small print jobs)
- Study space (6 study rooms and additional study tables with socially distant seating arrangements)
- Reserve Collection (textbook) access
- Book checkout
- Reference assistance
- Making Student/Faculty/Staff BC ID cards

Strict social distancing requirements will be enforced in the library. To facilitate distancing, several areas of the library will be closed to students, including access to the second floor and the reference stacks. Any materials needed by patrons from the second floor or from reference will be retrieved by a staff member.

Study Space/Technology Access on Campus

In addition to the library, Brazosport College will be providing students with study space in Gator Hall. Students have the opportunity to come and work in a safe, quiet space, with power and Wi-Fi available at each table. Students who need a computer should use available workstations in the library. Please note that computer labs on campus will not be unlocked and aren't available for student use outside of scheduled class time.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Usage in HIST 1301:

1. D2L is **critical** to this course. You will find power points for each lecture in the course (printing these out before each class is high recommended). You will also find copies of the syllabus, assignments, study guides, and important news items. Utilizing these aids will help in your success in this course.

2. All course assignments will be completed in, or turned in to, D2L . You will upload your written assignments into the appropriate Dropbox folder. When it is submitted to D2L, it will automatically be checked by turnitin.com for plagiarism. You should be able to view your originality report after your assignment is permitted. The percentage you will see is the percentage of UNORIGINAL material (i.e. if the percentage is high, reevaluate your paper!) Plagiarism is a serious offense not only in this course, but at BC.

3. All assignments submitted to D2L must be saved in one of four formats: .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf (rich text format). If you have any doubts regarding your paper's format, automatically save it as a .pdf file.

4. All submitted papers MUST have the student's name on the paper. Unidentifiable papers will automatically have 5 points deducted from the final grade.

5. Grades will be posted on the D2L grade book. Students will be able to view their grades online.

Final Exam Schedule:

MW 8am class: Monday, December 7 8:00-10:00am

MW 11am class: Wednesday, December 9 10:30am-12:30pm

TR 11am class: Thursday, December 10 10:30am-12:30pm

T 6pm class: Tuesday, December 8 6:00-8:00pm

Final grades are due to MyBC by Friday, December 11 at 10:00am

