

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

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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 exams, must be uploaded to its 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:	70 %	A: 100-90 B: 89-80
Written Assignments:	30 %	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. Note that leaving the class for any reason except a dire emergency while an exam is being given will result in an automatic F on the exam. Exams submitted with no name on either the objective or written portion will be subject to a five point penalty. The final exam schedule is provided for you in the syllabus. The exam taken during finals week will not be comprehensive.

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Any make-up exams will be taken in the Learning Services center. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. Ask if a make-up exam is a possibility via BC e-mail,
2. If it is a possibility, make an appointment with Learning Services at 230-3253 and
3. Take the exam within the one week period given.

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.

To take exams in Learning Services, students must show up promptly for appointment times with a current Brazosport College ID. No other identification is accepted. Current IDs can be obtained in the library.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Attendance and participation is 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 is 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 31.**

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 unapproved devices (cell phones, ear buds, headphones, smart watches, etc.)
- Using a laptop or tablet for any purpose other than taking notes
- Disturbing another student's ability to learn by talking during lecture, using offensive/derogatory language, etc.
- Sleeping in class
- Using tobacco products in class (class and school policy)
- Disrespecting the instructor or fellow students in any way
- Leaving the class during an exam

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

E-mail Usage and Etiquette: When contacting the instructor, polite and civil e-mails are required. 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 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 provide you with notes if you are absent. I suggest making contacts among your classmates and helping each other to compare lecture notes and to study together. I also will not take responsibility for your performance in the course. The grade you are given is the grade you earn.

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 drop-in 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

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 (except exams) will be turned into the D2L Dropbox. You will upload your 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.
6. **DO NOT** use the D2L e-mail function to contact your instructor. Please use carrie.pritchett@brazosport.edu to make sure that your correspondence is received and answered in a timely manner.

