

Brazosport College, Fall 2019
HIST 1301 – American History to 1877
Brazosport Campus

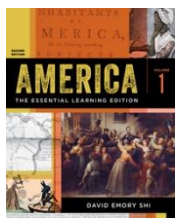
Dr. Chad Lower, Instructor

CONTACT INFORMATION



Office hours: Room B. 237. Mon./Wed. – 7:30-11:00, 1:00-3:00; Tues./Th. – 7:30-11:00
Phone: 979.230.3249
E-mail: chad.lower@brazosport.edu E-mails will be answered within 24 hours (weekends excluded).

REQUIRED MATERIALS



- *America: The Essential Learning Edition, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*, by David E. Shi. ISBN # 978-0-393-64300-8
- One standard composition notebook.
- Additional reading selections and handouts will be provided by the instructor.

Special note on purchasing books: 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 DESCRIPTION

What is independence, or liberty? What does prosperity look like? To whom did those ideas apply? This course examines these questions through the study of American history from the age of European discovery through the Civil War and Reconstruction. It is an introduction to the study of history as a discipline and to the political, economic, intellectual and social themes that have shaped our present society. The selected topics for this course will enable the student to better understand the complex diversity, situations, and circumstances of those who lived in America during its Formative Period. Seeking a balanced approach to understanding historical persons and circumstances, the class will examine both influential individuals as well as ordinary persons, including minority groups. This structure of this course is designed to help students build their critical thinking and analytical skills through accomplishing the following **learning objectives**:

- Developing historical literacy through the mastery of knowing and interpreting historical data;
- learning to distinguish between, and properly interpret, primary and secondary sources;
- articulating relationships between the past and the modern world;
- successfully interpreting the historical arguments of others and developing the skills to craft a historical argument for oneself.

Note on Virtual Campus (D2L) – Internet access is vital for success in this course. The course has a Virtual Campus page which contains essential information such as assignment instructions and course updates. Course material will also be posted on Virtual Campus throughout the semester. Students can access the course page by following the “Virtual Campus” tab at the bottom of the Brazosport homepage, www.brazosport.edu.



GENERAL GRADING

Brazosport College is committed to assessment (measurement) of student achievement of academic outcomes. This process address the issues of what you need to learn in your program of study and if you are learning what you need to learn. In class you are assessed and graded on your achievement of the outcomes for this course. You may also be required to participate in broader assessment activities.

The course grading scale is: 90-100% = A / 80-89% = B / 70-79% = C / 60-69% = D / 59% and below = F

Grade expectations: When determining the appropriate level of effort necessary to achieve success in the course, students should understand that the evaluation of assignments and exams is based on the student demonstrating comprehension, analysis, and thorough explanation of the course material. When evaluating submitted assignments, the instructor does not take away points from a student’s answer. Rather, the student builds points to a level of completion that satisfactorily provides a clear, insightful understanding and analysis of the course material.

In writing assignments, students build points by demonstrating understanding of historical subjects.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Specific instructions for all assignments will be distributed in class, and will also be available in Virtual Campus. The grading in this course is comprised of the following components:

- **Syllabus Quiz (Bonus points):** An online quiz based upon your understanding of this syllabus will need to be completed by the end of week two. Students will have unlimited opportunities to answer the five questions on the quiz correctly. Successfully completing the syllabus quiz will result in a 3% bonus on the first exam.
- **Exams:** Exams will incorporate essays and multiple-choice questions which will emphasize the student's knowledge of historical ideas and demonstration of clear critical analysis of the subject. Exams compose 50% of the course grade.
- **In-Class Quizzes:** Students will be periodically quizzed on their knowledge of textbook material. These in-class quizzes will sometimes be open-notes, sometimes closed-notes. Students should use the outlines available in Virtual Campus to help prepare for the quizzes. In-class quizzes are worth 10% of the course grade.
- **Activities:** Activities are based on the successful completion of various historical activities. In order to receive full credit, a student must be in class in order to discuss the results of the activity with others. Activities count for 25% of the course grade.
- **Composition books:** In-class writing and reflection activities are worth 15% of the course grade. Participation will be evaluated by the student's writing in their composition notebook. The notebooks will be collected 3 times at various points in the semester.

Special Notes on Assignments:

- Assignments are due at the start of class on their assigned due date, unless otherwise explicitly stated by the instructor.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions about assignments and seek assistance or clarification if needed.
- Extra credit assignments may be available throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

MAKE-UP/LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND ABSENCES

- Students are expected to complete each assignment on the scheduled due date.
- There is no obligation by the instructor to offer make up opportunities or accept late work. Make-up work or due date extensions, regardless of circumstance, will be at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Technical issues:** Students should take control of their academic careers and be proactive about contacting the instructor concerning technical issues.
- Students are responsible for any material covered during class time. If a student chooses to miss a scheduled meeting, it is up to them to obtain any relevant information covered in class on their own time.

UNEXPECTED CLASS CANCELCATION POLICY

- In the event of any unforeseen issue that may cause a class session to be cancelled, students should check Virtual Campus for any potential instructions, learning materials, and/or assignments that may be required in order to supplement the missed class time.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND EXPECTATIONS

For the respect of all students in classroom and to ensure an open, intellectual environment, note the following classroom policies:

- **Silence your cell phones, and keep them off.** Keep your phones on silent (not just vibrate) during class. Persistent failure to adhere to this policy may result in being asked to leave the classroom for the day, which will affect your participation grade. Additionally, **do not use your phone in class** or you may be asked to leave.
- Laptops and tablets are permitted so long as they are only used for taking notes or other appropriate classroom activity. Persistent failure to adhere to this policy may result in being asked to leave the classroom for the day. Other electronic devices (iPods, etc.) are not permitted to be used in class.
- Do not sleep in class. Sleeping is disrespectful to the class, and you will miss pertinent information.
- Discussion and participation are important components of class. While you do not have to agree with the opinions and ideas of others you must respect them. A hostile classroom environment will not be tolerated.
- Arrive **on time** to class. Late entry to the classroom disrupts everyone. Any student arriving to class after the first fifteen minutes, without having a valid excuse will be considered absent for the day. Students are expected to remain in class until the end of the scheduled class time.

ADD/WITHDRAWAL

- The instructor will NOT withdraw any student from the course. That is the responsibility of the student.
- Students will not be added to the course if the course is already at capacity.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty is **not** a game. There are **real** consequences for plagiarism.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the academic goals and objectives of this course, as well as the rights of other students. 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>.

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 may, at a minimum, result in a failure for the particular assignment that is in violation of the College's academic honesty policy. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

STUDENT DISABILITY POLICY

Please let the instructor know at the start of the semester if you need special accommodations due to a disability. 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. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

ADDITIONAL AID AND RESOURCES

Title IX: 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

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Office C-114; 979-230-3303; victoria.young@brazosport.edu

Learning Services: In the event a student is granted a make-up exam, the test will need to be administered at Learning Services at BC. After arranging the make-up with the instructor, student must make an appointment with Learning Services. Their phone number is 979-230-3253.

Library: Information about the Library is available at www.brazosport.edu, or by calling 979-230-3310. Information about study skills and tutoring for reading, writing, and other subjects is available in the Learning Assistance Center (LAC).

The Student Services provides assistance in the following:

Counseling and Advising 979-230-3040

Financial Aid 979-230-3294

Student Activities 979-230-3355

IT Helpdesk: 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 e-mail and/or a faculty website. 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.

Writing Center: The Brazosport College Writing Center (BC WC) can help you with any writing, speaking, or reading assignment for this class and others. The BC WC offers one-on-one sessions with a trained, professional writing consultant face-to-face and online. BC WC Consultants can help you understand your reading, brainstorm topics for an assignment, develop ideas, maintain your focus, establish a clear structure, and so much more. Walk-in and appointment hours are 8am-8pm MTWR and 8am-12pm on Friday. If you'd like to schedule an appointment, visit www.brazosport.edu/writingcenterschedule.



Get the information you need – when you need it. Go to <http://geni.us/BRAZO> to install **BC Connect** on your mobile device to receive reminders, explore careers, map your educational plan, be in the know about events, find out about scholarships, achieve your goals and much more.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY CHANGES WILL BE POSTED TO D2L)

CLASS SESSION	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
UNIT ONE: CREATING A NEW WORLD		
Week 1: August 26/28	1. Course Introduction: Learning Historical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get the textbook!
Week 2: September 2/4	<p>**NO CLASS 9/2**</p> <p>2: Forging the New World, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 1 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class
Week 3: September 9/11	<p>2. Forging the New World, pt. 2</p> <p>3. The English Colonies, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 1-2 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class
Week 4: September 16/18	<p>3. The English Colonies, pt. 2</p> <p>4. Colonial Ways of Life, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 2-3 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Activity #1 due MONDAY Composition Book work in class
Week 5: September 23/25	<p>4. Colonial Ways of Life, pt. 2</p> <p>5. Road to Revolution, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 3-4 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class
Week 6: Sept. 30/ Oct. 2	<p>5. Road to Revolution, pt. 2</p> <p>6. War of Independence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 4-5 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Activity #2 due MONDAY Composition Book work collected on WEDNESDAY
Week 7: October 7/9	<p>**EXAM 1**</p> <p>7. The American Experiment, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> InQuizitive bonus due by SUNDAY night Composition Book work in class Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 6
UNIT TWO: THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT		
Week 8: October 14/16	<p>7. The American Experiment, pt. 2</p> <p>8. Building an Empire of Liberty, pt.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 6-7 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class Activity #3 due WEDNESDAY
Week 9: October 21/23	<p>8. Building an Empire of Liberty, pt. 2</p> <p>9. The Reign of King Cotton, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 7-8 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class
Week 10: October 28/30	<p>9. The Reign of King Cotton, pt. 2</p> <p>10. Jacksonian America, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 9-10 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class Activity #4 due WEDNESDAY Composition Book work collected on TUESDAY
Week 11: November 4/6	<p>10. Jacksonian America, pt. 2</p> <p>**EXAM 2**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 10 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class InQuizitive bonus due by TUESDAY night
UNIT THREE: THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM		
Week 12: November 11/13	11. The Peculiar Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 11:: Prepare for potential Quiz InQuizitive bonus due by MONDAY night Composition Book work in class
Week 13: November 18/20	<p>12. Revival and Reform</p> <p>13. Westward Expansion, pt. 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 12-13 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Activity #5 due WEDNESDAY Composition Book work in class
Week 14: November 25	<p>13. Westward Expansion, pt. 2</p> <p>**NO CLASS 11/27**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 13 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class
Week 14: December 2/4	14. The Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 14 :: Prepare for potential Quiz Composition Book work in class Activity #6 due WEDNESDAY
Finals: December 11	Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11 10:30-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FINAL EXAM