

History 1301 – Online
U.S. History to 1877
Fall 2020 Syllabus – Online

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Office Hours: Please email or call and we can set up a call or virtual meeting!

Textbook

American Stories: A History of the United States Volume 1; 4th Edition; by H.W. Brands, T.H. Breen, Ariela J. Gross, & R. Hal Williams; Pearson Publishers. ISBN: 9780134739915.

* When you purchase this, it is a code for an ebook. When you enter the code online, it will ask if you would like a loose leaf copy of the book for \$19.99 in addition to the etext you have already purchased. You may choose to do this or not – it is up to you. Some people like having a text in hand. You may also be able to find a used copy online – just make sure that it is the correct edition and volume!

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

In History 1301 we will develop and hone critical thinking skills and improve written and verbal communication through a discussion of U.S. history. We will increase our knowledge and understanding of how and why the U.S. arrived at its current form.

Prerequisites – None, but student should have college level reading and writing skills.

Learning Outcomes

In this class the student will:

Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.

Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.

Comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the Constitution of the U.S., federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.

Identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

Major Topics

This course will, among other things, cover Native Cultures, Early Colonization, Empire Building, Colonial Development, The French and Indian War, The Revolutionary War, From Republic to Democracy, Jacksonian Democracy, Manifest Destiny, Prelude to War, Secession, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to fully participate in this course. The following criteria are intended to assist you in being successful in this course:

- a. understand the syllabus requirements
- b. use appropriate time management skills
- c. communicate with the instructor
- d. complete course work on time, and
- e. utilize online components (such as Desire2Learn and the Pearson textbook and quizzes).

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarizing *are not tolerated*. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in a **0** on the test or paper and submission for disciplinary action by Brazosport College. **Copying and pasting someone else's answer material word for word is considered cheating. Please put your information in your own words. Additionally, turning in any materials that you wrote for another class, or for this class if you previously took it, without specific approval by the instructor, is considered plagiarism. Reusing your own work IS considered plagiarism.**

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 will, *at a minimum*, result in a zero on the assignment in this course. Additionally, you will not be eligible to receive any of the benefits in this course (such as dropping the lowest quiz grades, use of extra credit, etc.). Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Attendance Policy

To learn, you must be mentally present, even online. Please be sure to check D2L and complete assignments daily and on time. It is easy to forget about a class that you don't actually attend, so I suggest setting alarms on your phone or other device to remind you to check in and get things done. If you are dual enrolled in both high school and college, I am required to turn in attendance for you to your high school. If you are not turning in assignments on time or at all, I will consider that you are absent.

Be aware that I **will not** withdraw you from this course should you choose to stop attending (attending in an online course is getting online and completing work that is assigned). **You** are responsible for making your withdrawal official; remember, if you do not drop the course yet fail to attend, you will be assigned a failing grade for the course.

For this semester, attendance/participation grades will be taken using the class voice overs. If you do your assigned voice over notes and take the quiz at the end of each assigned voice over by the due date, you will receive attendance credit. If you do not complete them during that week, it will be considered an absence. During the week of the exam there will not be an assigned voice over, so taking your exam on one of the days assigned will count as your attendance for that week (not the grade, just the attendance).

Students with Disabilities

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.

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

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303; mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

Other Student Services

Information about the Library is available at <http://www.brazosport.edu/library> or by calling 979.230.3310.

For assistance with online courses, an open computer lab, online and make-up testing, audio/visual services, and study skills, visit Learning Services next to the Library, call 979.230.3253, or visit <http://www.brazosport.edu/learningservices>.

For drop-in math tutoring, the writing center, supplemental instruction and other tutoring including e-tutoring, visit the Student Success Center, call 979.230.3527, or visit <http://www.brazosport.edu/studentsuccesscenter>.

To contact the Business & Social Sciences Department call 979-230-3226.

Student Services provides assistance in the following:

Counseling and Advising	979.230.3040
Financial Aid	979.230.3294
Student Life	979.230.3355

To reach the Information Technology Department for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk at 979.230.3266.

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

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. T
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.

If a student misses an exam, or has technical limitations that prevent testing remotely, they may test in Learning Services if arranged with their instructor. Learning services will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 8 PM. Available testing times will be at 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 3 PM or 6 PM. Students can schedule a testing time by calling Learning Services at 979-230-3253.

Grading

Exams 1, 2 & 3 (Average):

30%

Quiz Average:

15%

Primary Source Analysis

15%

Participation (voice over quizzes, other)

10%

Project

30%

Grade Scale:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D**

59-0 = F

**** NOTE:** If you are currently a high school student, you must have a 70 for the semester to be considered passing at the high school. If you make below a 70, you will not receive high school credit for the course.

Grade Notification

Due to privacy concerns, I cannot divulge your class grade to you over the phone or via e-mail unless it is your college email or through D2L. Semester grades are available on OASIS by calling (979) 230-3661 or by going online. Additionally, I am prohibited by law from discussing your progress or grades with anyone other than *you*. Your parents are free to talk with the counselor with regard to your grade. If you would like for me to speak with your parent or guardian, please schedule a conference with me. *You* must be in attendance, as I cannot discuss your grades without your permission.

TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS

Exams

There are **three** exams, **all of which will be taken online**. Normally my exams are proctored in Learning Services on campus, but with the Covid-19 Pandemic going on, everything will be online. Students who do not complete an exam within the allotted time will earn a 0 for that exam. **The times allotted to schedule each exam are on the Tentative Course Schedule. I try to give a 2 day period to account for everyone's scheduling.** Look over the schedule the first day of school and make certain you will be able to take time from your schedule for the exams. If there is a problem, I need to know **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Do not assume I will allow you to make it up, but do come to me with any conflicts you may have and I will try to work with you. Unpreparedness is not an excuse.

The final exam **will not** be cumulative. There are three *timed* exams, and each will consist of a number of multiple choice questions, several identifications and short answer questions, and long answer questions (essay).

Multiple Choice: There will be a number of multiple choice questions on the exam. Usually a little more than half come from terms found on the exam review. The rest can be from the textbook readings or voice over notes.

Identifications: The identifications are usually specific people or events upon which you are to elaborate. I give you the list of possible I.D.s on the exam review. Elaborating means to include a technical definition of the term, as well as the *significance* of that term, person, or event. In other words, *why* have I bothered to put it on the test?? What makes it/him/her so important? FYI: **Wikipedia is *not* a good source for definitions.** Your book or my lectures are the best sources for this information. Additionally, while the back of the book does have many of the definitions, you will need to know more than just that definition for the I.D., so it is suggested that you **actually read the text** so that you will be able to put the term in context.

Short Answer Questions (SAQs): These are questions that are designed to be explained in 2-5 sentences. They require some thought and they come from your notes on the voice overs **ONLY**, so be sure you are not skipping those. The answers that I want are the answers that I give you in the voice overs, not anywhere else.

Long Answer Questions (LAQs): These are questions that are designed to be explained in about 5-10 sentences. They are more like short essays. They require more explanation than just a few words. A nice, long paragraph or two is usually in order. Sometimes they are longer, sometimes a little shorter, but the more information you include the more likely you will have answered everything asked.

Quizzes

There will be short section quizzes given as you are reading through the ebook. Each chapter has a due date throughout the semester and these, averaged together, will make up your quiz grade. The quizzes will be taken online through Pearson Revel, and you have to have purchased the code to gain access to the quizzes and ebook. Each group of quizzes that cover the material leading up to the exam will be available online only through a specific date, so be sure to pace yourself. It is not recommended that you wait until the last minute to take the quizzes. *If you do not take them in the time allotted you will not be allowed to make them up.*

Primary Sources

Each student will choose 3 primary sources from American Stories, the ebook. Directions for the Primary Source assignments will be given in a separate handout. After completing each source assignment, you will upload it onto D2L on the day that it's due, or before that.

Please ensure that all primary source assignments are grammatically correct. This includes, but is not limited to capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure and spelling. Students should type all assignments on a computer/word processor and use spelling/grammar checks and proofreading before submitting. I will deduct points if grammar and/or spelling is an issue on your papers.

Voice-Over Assignments (Participation)

In my online courses, we have "voice over assignments." These voice overs are located in D2L under the Content section. Each chapter has several voice over lectures that go along with the readings. The voice overs are usually 15-30 minute lectures online that you need to listen to *and take notes on*. It is information that you need, and it is imperative that you listen to these lectures. Not doing so is the equivalent of not showing up for class until the exam. I explain a lot of terms in these power points, and I go over all of the long answer questions. All material in these online lectures is fair game for the exams.

Discussion Boards (Participation)

There will be a number of discussion boards throughout the semester. A handout will explain the assignments and how to do them.

Live Virtual Classes (Participation)

There will be occasional live classrooms where we will review material and discuss. You will need to attempt to attend these, but if you are unable to do so, you will need to be sure to access the recording of it later. In these I will emphasize important material and go over material for exams, etc.

Semester Project

Each student will be required to turn in a semester project. A handout will be given to you explaining how to complete the project. Generally, there will be several readings to complete, some research, a short paper, and some sort of visual (during an online class it will likely be a power point or something that is able to be turned in online). This is 30% of your semester grade and should not be overlooked.

Homework

In college, students are expected to spend 2-3 hours per week preparing for each semester hour during a regular semester. A three hour class such as this would warrant between 6 and 9 hours of reading and study time each week. Many people assume that online

classes are “easier.” This is often not the case at all. In fact, one must have good study habits and self-motivation to get things done. Please consider this when organizing your study time.

You will need to:

- A) read each chapter and take each section quiz;
- B) listen to and take notes on all voice over assignments, as well as complete the voice over quizzes at the end of each voice over.
- C) Complete each primary source by its due date
- D) Take each of 3 exams on the scheduled dates
- E) Complete any discussion board assignments
- F) Attend (or watch after the fact) any synchronous review meetings for class
- G) Complete the semester project assignment

Technical Difficulties

BC offers students use of numerous computers on campus in Learning Services and elsewhere which are properly configured to work with course software. Staff on duty in Learning Services can answer many questions about online courses. We cannot, however, ensure that the millions of possible individual variations on personal computers will work properly with this course. Although most students never encounter difficulty, if you run into problems:

- a. Read and follow instructions for compatible browsers found on the Log In screen for the class.
- b. Disable firewall or pop-up blockers. Many of these will clash with the security functions in the course software.
- c. Install and update virus protection on a regular basis.

When all else fails, you may contact the BC help desk at 979-230-3266 between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm. Please understand that we can only offer the most general advice for improving compatibility of home computers with the course because it is impossible for us to know all the details of your computer’s configuration. **You are responsible for knowing your computer or for completing assignments on campus. However, PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO LET ME KNOW OF YOUR DIFFICULTIES. Contacting me the day before an exam or at the end of the semester to let me know you haven’t been able to access something is not a good idea, as there is little I can do at this point.**

Please pay attention to this part! I *do not* give makeup exams. If you have a problem or emergency, contact me as soon as possible so that I am aware of the issue. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero. Makeup allowances are on a case by case basis, and if you miss it there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to make up the exam. If you know of a conflict beforehand, please let me know and we will discuss the issue further.

Study Tips

- Take careful notes of both the lectures and the reading. The etext actually has tools that allow you to highlight text and make margin notes that you can refer to if you are studying. If you get a paper copy of the text, I would recommend highlighting really important information and/or making notes for yourself in the margins.
- If you miss a live class, be sure to access the recording and listen to and takes notes.

- Do not skip the voice over lectures, as you will miss valuable material and terms that I often go over during those lectures. Take careful notes! Also, the quizzes at the end are part of your participation grade.
- Find a group of people to work with. This could be a formal study group, or a few people to whom you can turn to discuss confusing terms or questions. This reinforces learning and allows you to review together. You could schedule zoom meetings to meet and discuss!

To Prepare for Exams

- Don't wait! Define terms as you go over them in the voice overs or as you cover them in the readings. Type or write out your terms. If you have all of your notes and terms defined, you can copy and paste them from your typed paper to the exam paper when you get to the written part, so it helps your exam go faster. This is useful, as the exam is timed.
- Read carefully and take good notes on both the readings and lectures.
- Please email, or call me if you have questions about an essay or term. I'll be happy to help clarify anything!



Get the information you need – when you need it. Click <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.

Student Code of Conduct:

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.

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.