Knowing how to contact your professor in an online course is essential. The first rule that I have is “DO NOT PANIC.” If you need to contact me, :

- By Email: The preferred method of communication is via email. You can email me at Christopher.patke@hccs.edu. I check my email twice a day (on weekdays), once at 7:30 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. I do try to respond promptly, however in some cases I will not respond immediately, if I am investigating your problem, or the information you require is located in the syllabus.
- Canvas Email: The email inside the course directly connects to my email, however be aware that there is a slight delay.
- In Person: If you are in the area, you may try knocking on my door on the Alief Campus, office 417C.
- By Appointment – If you need to consult with me, outside of office hours, contact me and make arrangements to meet.
**Course Description**

This course is a survey course of United States History. As a survey, we will touch on numerous topics but with limited depth. This course is based on lectures, textbook and web readings. The class counts as three credits and will transfer to most U.S. colleges and universities.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

From the Course Catalog: HIST 1301– United States History before 1877. Credit:3 (3 Lecture Hours)

**Prerequisites:** Must be placed into college-level reading and college-level writing.

**Course Goals**

Social studies as taught at the college level require mastery of key cognitive skills that utilize a broad body of information and concepts. Simply memorizing facts and data is not sufficient to succeed in a college-level social studies course. These thinking processes are the method by which students develop a greater understanding of the historical, political, economic, geographical, social, and psychological forces that have shaped their lives and the world they live in. Students need to know how to read and examine information critically, to communicate conclusions effectively, and to gather cogent information that will help them understand problems they will encounter in a wide variety of disciplines and careers.

**Our Programs Learning Outcomes**

- Create an argument with the use of historical evidence
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on this period of United States history
- Develop an understanding of the periodization and chronological reasoning of United States history and explain the importance of continuity and change, or how earlier ideas and events shaped later events.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Discuss the Age of Exploration
2. Explain Colonization
3. Identify the Causes and effects of the American Revolution
4. Explain the origins and impact of Slavery
5. Analyze the formation of the Republic
6. Summarize the effects of Expansion and Innovation
7. Explain Nationalism and Sectionalism
8. Discuss the Civil War
9. Evaluate the effects of Reconstruction
**Readings**

*Reading is essential and imperative to success in this course.* You will need to obtain these books as soon as possible. I have listed the combined version which contains material for US History I and II.

Textbook: The Unfinished Nation, 8\textsuperscript{th} Edition

ISBN-10: 0073513334

Reference: A Student's Guide to History, Jules R. Benjamin  
ISBN-10: 1457621444

**Resources**

There are other resources available to assist in the successful completion of the course.

- The Textbook Publisher has an online companion to the book. However this does require an access code. I do not require the use of this code, but if you are having difficulty you can always consider purchasing the code to gain access to extra material, such as quizzes and outlines.
- Online Databases – You have access to numerous databases through the college library, all you need is your student ID. We will be working with these databases.
- The college also has a writing center on most campuses, so take advantage of their services if you need assistance with the writing or editing process.
- Librarians – Campus librarians can also assist you in learning how to work with databases and searching for valid research material.
- Tutoring and Tutoring Groups – I have scheduled tutoring hours every week. You are encouraged to seek out like-minded students to form your study group. If you need my assistance or an introduction to other students feel free to ask.
Course Calendar

You will be provided with a calendar which contains the due dates for all tests and assignment. This will be the official calendar for the course. Turnitin.com or Eagle Online may contain different dates to allow for late submission.

Course Quizzes and Assignments

Three Exams 100 points each for a total of 300 points
Major Paper 100 points
Ancillary Assignments – 100 points

Total Points - 500

Grade Scale
500-450 = A
450-400 = B
400-350= C
350 -300 = D
300- 0 = F

If you do not attend class and submit no assignments, you will receive an FX, which will affect your financial aid status. An FX will also be given if you complete less than 20% of the coursework, stop attending and do not withdraw. Attendance in an online course requires logging in to the course frequently.

There is no extra credit in this course.
Policies and Expectations

1.1 Attendance
- Attendance will be taken every class period
- You are allowed four absences without penalty. If you have more than four absences, I reserve the right to deduct 50 points from your final grade in the course.
- Please save your absences for legitimate emergencies. If you are absent, I assume that you have a good reason and you do not need to contact me or provide a doctor’s note.
- If a major emergency arises, please contact me.

1.2 Withdrawal
- You may withdraw from the course at any time before the “Last day of withdrawal.”
- If you simply stop attending, this does not remove you from the course; you must officially withdraw yourself.
- No one can withdraw you from the course after the “last day of withdrawal.”
- If you would like me to withdraw you from the course, you need to email me at least three days before the last day of withdrawal.

1.3 End of the Semester Information
- No work may be submitted after that last official day of instruction.
- To request an “I” or Incomplete in the course you must have completed 80% or more of the coursework and have a major life emergency.
- Students who stop attending and do not withdraw will receive an “F” in the course.
- Types of emails that will not be answered:
  - Can I do extra credit or do additional assignments to boost my grade? – NO
  - Submitting attached assignments after the last day of instruction.
  - What can I do to improve my grade? (I usually get a ton of these on the last week, I will answer it here.)
    - “Dear student, you can participate in the course from the beginning, be inquisitive, timely and diligent in your studies. Thanks. CP”

1.4 Expectations of Professional Behavior (This section is for on-campus classes)
- Students will treat their classroom obligations as they would treat any serious professional engagement. These obligations include:
  - Preparing for each class in accordance with the course calendar and instructors request
  - Adhere to deadlines and timetables established by the instructor
  - Participating fully and constructively in all course activities
  - Displaying appropriate courtesy to all involved in the class sessions
  - Performing constructive feedback to faculty members regarding their performances
- Unacceptable Behavior
  - Sleeping or daydreaming in the class.
  - Chronic tardiness.
- Reading or working on materials that are not for this course
- Chatting with classmates during the lecture
- Checking your cell phones, cell phones should be turned off or on silent during the class.
- Using technology in the class for reasons other than note-taking
- Eating in the classroom

1.5 Late Assignment and Make-up Policy
- All written work is due on the prescribed day listed on the calendar.
- You may NOT resubmit your assignment after you see your similarity report from Turnitin.com
- Late Work may be submitted up to SEVEN DAYS from the Due Date. Late work is subject to a 20% deduction.
- WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK AFTER SEVEN DAYS
- If you miss your exam, you have seven days to contact me and schedule a make-up exam. If you miss another exam, you will receive a zero.

1.6 Academic Integrity – Very Important
- I will follow the general discipline provisions (see your Student Handbook). Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating on tests, plagiarism, and collusion. Do not copy from websites or try to purchase your essays online; YOU WILL BE CAUGHT. Do your work and research. Cite your sources. Your first offense for cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 on the Test or Written Assignment. Your second offense will result in failing the course.
- Students who plagiarize will often attempt to plead with me for leniency; this will not work.
- Beware that this course uses tools to detect plagiarism such as turnitin.com
- All students are required to read and abide by HCC’s Policy for Academic Dishonesty.
  - Academic Dishonesty is defined as:
    - Claiming as your work a paper written by another student
    - Turning in a paper that is largely a restatement in your own words of a paper written by someone else, even if you give credit to that person for those ideas. The Thesis and organization principles of a paper must be your own.
    - Turning in a paper that contains paraphrases of someone’s ideas without giving proper credit through citations
    - Turning in a paper that uses the exact words of another author without using quotation marks, even if proper credit is given in parenthetical citation, or that changes the words slightly and claims them to be authentic.
    - Turning in the same paper, even in a different version, for two different courses without the permission of both professors involved.
1.7 HCC Policies and Statements

- Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual’s fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—including pregnancy and parental status—in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

  David Cross
  Director EEO/Compliance
  Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
  3100 Main
  Houston, TX 77266-7517
  (713) 718-8271
  Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

- HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/

- All students are responsible for reading and understanding the HCC Student Handbook, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. Access Student Services Policies on the following website: https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/FINAL-HCCStudentHandbook.pdf

Teaching Philosophy

My goal as your professor is to inspire my students to learn and to challenge them to reach their potential. To achieve these goals, I hold the following philosophy toward instruction:

- I believe the purpose of a professor goes beyond the teaching of history. I view it as
equally important to help students develop intellectually and professionally, to challenge their assumptions, make them think critically and expand their worldview.

- I believe in challenging my students to reach high standards of performance and in providing them with the necessary tools to do so.
- I take my role in the learning process very seriously. I want my students to know that I am personally invested in their success. I care about their education and our collective future as a society.
- I believe in structure. This is a very important element to success in education. Strict adherence to rules leads to fairness, professional behavior, and accurate evaluation.
- I believe that good instructors continuously improve their skills and content. This includes keeping material up-to-date with current findings in the academic literature, and finding new ways to deliver information to the student.