

# Southwest College

Houston Community College District

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## UNITED STATES HISTORY I

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

History 1301 is a survey of American history from Native American cultures to 1877. It will focus on the evolution of the economic, social/cultural and political institutions which define the development of the modern United States and its people.

**Course Number: 1301.**

**Course Section: 81805 & 81874.**

**Credit Hours: 3.**

**Prerequisites: college-level reading and college-level writing.**

**Semester and Year: Spring 2012.**

**Adjunct Instructor: Roy Quick, B.A., Georgia, History Major; M.A.T., Georgia State, History Major.**

**Class Days and Times: MW 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 12:00 -2:00 p.m. February 13-May 9, 2012.**

**Class Room Location: Hub 220 & Hub 324.**

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide students with a thorough grounding in problem-solving and analytical thinking, particularly as they relate to American history.
2. To provide a comprehensive introduction to the essential social/cultural, political, military and diplomatic elements of United States history before 1877.
3. To provide students with training in skills essential to success in a college/university and/or work environment.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Students will be able to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Students will be able to analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on this period of U.S. history.

### METHODOLOGY

The instructor will focus on the *truth*, the *reality* of what has happened to the people who have inhabited the area of the North American continent which we call the United States today in order that we may learn and further their accomplishments and, as well, avoid repetition of their errors.

The instructor will emphasize information about which you may be questioned in standardized tests in the future.

Because this is a survey course, the instructor will avoid prolonged digression into any particular event that may prevent full coverage of U.S. History to 1877, but, at the same time, help students to identify areas of U.S. history which they may want to study in advanced courses.

*The instructor will make every effort to prevent the subordination of the course to political party, ethnic, religious, or gender prejudices, while, at the same time, encouraging and protecting the student's formation and expression of personal opinion.*

The instructor will encourage students to question the instructor and sources of information used in the course, ruling the day that we cannot question.

If you do not understand something, ask! If you want to find out more about something, ask! The convention that a student should not ask questions is not the mark of a good college student and betrays a narrow, unthinking gang mentality. To be sure, the more we know, the more there is to know. The instructor does not profess to have mental telepathic abilities.

## **TEXTBOOK**

The textbook for the course is the fourth edition of American Passages, which is published by Wadsworth Cengage Learning and also available in texts covering U.S. history to 1877 and U.S. history from 1877. The text covering U.S. history to 1877, Volume I, is the text appropriate for this course. Tests and the final examination will be based on information provided in the instructor's presentations, not the textbook, which is recommended, nevertheless, as a back-up to what is being taught. The instructor's presentations will include information not found in the textbook.

## **REQUIRED READING**

1. 1776 by David McCullough, Simon & Schuster.
2. For Cause and Comrades by James M. McPherson, Oxford University Press.

1776 should be readily accessible in bookstores in paperback or hardcover. For Cause and Comrades may require book order, of which you have forewarning. You are expected to have read the book and written your paper by the due date for your paper posted in the schedule at the end of the syllabus.

## **EVALUATION**

The average of grades on four tests over *information covered in presentations given by the instructor* will count 40% of your final semester grade. The average of your grade on two papers will count 20% of your final semester grade. Your grade on the final examination will count 40% of your final semester grade.

$$.40 (\text{Tests 1-4 Average}) + .20 (\text{Average for Papers}) + .40 (\text{Final Exam}) = \text{Semester Grade}$$

The instructor uses self-created Power Point presentations to cover the course, which are designed to be interactive, inviting student inquiry, and to increase student scores, which the instructor has found to be the case, from past experience. Students are expected to take *their own notes in class* on the presentations, with which the instructor will help the students. The instructor's presentations contain information which may not be found in the textbook.

The four tests and the final examination will include information provided only *in the presentations*. The final examination will be comprehensive, covering from the beginning of the course to the end of the course. The final examination will *not* include questions over the two student papers. The four tests over the presentations and the final examination will be multiple-choice tests.

The *only* make-up test given will be for a test missed by an absence, for which a reasonable explanation has been given to the instructor.

After the tests have been scored, students will be shown their answer sheets and the tests. However, to protect the validity of the tests as well as the final examination, copying of the tests, the final examination, and test and final examination answer sheets will not be permitted, and the tests, the final examination, and test and final examination answer sheets will be kept by the instructor. **In this class, tests will be used solely to evaluate how well you are progressing, not as cheat sheets in lieu of knowledge retained from the presentations and your notes.**

If the instructor *observes* any cheating on a test or on the final examination, the test or the final examination of the individual or individuals on which the cheating has been observed will be given the score of zero.

Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam.

A zero will be given for not taking a test when scheduled or for not taking the final examination at its scheduled time without reasonable explanation, for example accident, injury, serious illness, or death in the family.

If you have a reasonable explanation for having missed a test, it is your responsibility to request a make-up test with the instructor *on the day of return from an absence*. Failure to take a make-up test will result in the missed test being given a score of zero. Failure to take the final examination will not only result in the final examination being given a score of zero, but also a letter grade of F being assigned for the semester grade, no exceptions. Incompletes will be granted only for extreme circumstances, *only by written contract*, and are subject to the approval of the department chair and division dean.

You alone are expected to write papers on 1776 and For Cause and Comrades. The papers are not to be written together in a group or in collaboration. You may call the paper a book report, book review, or an essay. The instructor does not want to quibble over titles. It is advised that, while reading each book, you jot down things that interest you, questions you may have, and your own impressions or comments. Put the page number in parenthesis, e.g. (25), at the end of whatever interests you, whatever you are questioning, or on whatever you are commenting.

Write your paper in standard essay form: introduction, body, and close. Please use no abbreviations and no ellipsis. What is ellipsis? It is using three dots at the end of something to indicate there is more to a sentence or quotation. Be sure to include any direct quotation from the book in quotation marks to avoid any appearance of plagiarism. Make sure that your paper shows that you have read the whole book and just not a section of it. You will be graded mainly on that point alone. *Support whatever you are writing by referring to the page or pages that it may be found in the book by placing the page number or numbers within parenthesis immediately after the period of whatever you are asserting, e.g. (2) or (4-5) for a reference that extends from one page to another.* You will be graded heavily on how well you have supported whatever you have written. Also avoid comparing whatever you have written with what another student has done to avoid collusion, which will be treated the same way as plagiarism. A zero will be given to any paper for which there is evidence of plagiarism or collusion.

Plagiarism means passing off as personal ideas or writings the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently.

The papers may be typed, printed, or handwritten. If handwritten, use exclusively black or blue ballpoint or ink on 8½" X 11" lined white paper. If handwritten, do not block print, use legible cursive, if possible, and distinguish between upper and lower case. Keep one inch right and left margins and a bottom margin of two empty lines on

lined paper and of one inch on typed or printed papers. Double space only in typed or printed papers. Do not use a font smaller than 10 and larger than 12 in typed or printed papers. Length will vary due to thoroughness, but a zero may be expected for a paper less than five pages in length. Spelling, grammar, and failure to follow verbal or written directions will count. Please do not attach any title page, any cover, any drawing, any photo, or any graphic illustration to your paper.

## LETTER GRADE

On the four multiple-choice tests, final examination, and final semester grades, grades will not be curved. On the four multiple-choice tests and final examination grades will represent solely the percentage of correct answers.

Final letter grades will be assigned after computing individual final averages in percent as follows:

Final Average in Percent	Letter Grade
89.5–100%	A
79.5–89.4 %	B
69.5–79.4%	C
59.5–69.4%	D
0–59.4%	F

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is the student's responsibility to attend class to take notes on the instructor's presentations, *in which information not found in the textbook will be presented* and for which there will be no substitute for attendance during the time that it will be presented. Just think of it—that is why the instructor is there at that time. Instruction will not be a mere repetition of textbook content, but based on the presentations. You will be expected to take your own notes. The instructor will help you on that point.

The instructor will check the roll at the beginning of each class. If you enter class after the roll has been checked, please do not interrupt the class, and simply leave the instructor a note in your handwriting that you were present before leaving class.

If you have been present less than half of the time scheduled for the class on any certain day, you may not be marked present in class for that day. However, the door will be always open. It is better to be late than never in this class.

Written explanations explaining the reason for an absence will be expected for an absence during a test or due date for a paper and will be expected *on the day of return from that absence*.

If you need to contact the instructor expeditiously outside of the classroom for any reason that cannot be addressed before, during, or after class, the instructor may be reached at the telephone number 281-856-0474. If the instructor does not answer immediately, leave a message on the answering machine. Please remember that the instructor is a part-time instructor, adjunct. As a second recourse you may send an email to the instructor's campus email address, roy.quick@hccs.edu.

Although a student may be administratively dropped for missing more than 6 hours of class, this instructor prefers to let the final responsibility be the student's and, therefore, will not drop a student because of attendance. **If for whatever reason, you choose to stop attending class, it is your responsibility to withdraw no later than the last time and date for administrative withdrawal, which is by 4:30 p.m., April 9, 2012. Failure to do so will**

probably result in failure of the course.

### CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

To promote a serious learning environment please do not bring food and drink into the classroom, which may be distractions, and please keep all electronic communication and listening devices turned off during class and completely out of sight during tests. Laptops, notebooks, or netbooks may be used *only* for taking notes for this particular class. If the instructor finds their use for any other purpose, the misuser will not be allowed to continue using the device in class.

If any disruptive behavior continues after the instructor has asked that it stop, the person responsible for the disruption will be asked to leave the classroom. If the problem persists afterward, the instructor will request withdrawal of the student.

### DISABILITIES

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, any student who needs support services for a disability should contact the Disability Support Service Counselor at the very beginning of the course. The telephone number is (713) 718-7909. The instructor will honor only requests made first through the office of counseling services and honor them according to that office's written prescriptions for the student.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

TEST	DATE	DESCRIPTION	TEXTBOOK CORRELATION†
1	Class after Boston Massacre	Prehistoric America to the Boston Massacre	Pages 1-121
	3/21/12	Paper on <u>1776</u> by David McCullough	
2	Class after <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	Boston Tea Party to <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	Pages 121-210
3	Class after Gadsden Purchase	Louisiana Purchase to the Gadsden Purchase.	Pages 211-322
	5/4/12	Paper on <u>For Cause and Comrades</u> by James M. McPherson	
4	Class after Hayes' election	Bleeding Kansas to the Election of President Hayes	Pages 322-430
EXAM	10 a.m. & 12 p.m. 5/11/12	Prehistoric America to the Election of President Hayes	Pages 1-430

† The textbook does not follow a strict chronological order of events but the instructor's presentations do.