



RANGER COLLEGE
Online

COURSE SYLLABUS

U S History I

HIST 1301

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR:

Rick Justice

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EMAIL: rjustice@rangercollege.edu
PHONE: 325.647.7099
Office HOURS: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00-10:00

I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

II. Course Description

This is a course in United States history stressing the planning and development of the English Colonies in America, the struggle for independence and the establishment of the Constitution, national territorial expansion, the rise of Jacksonian Democracy, the slavery controversy, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Credit 3 semester hours. Requirements.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

There are no prerequisites for this course, but a strong commitment to read and a desire to learn about American History.

IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Brands, H. W.; T. H. Breen, R. Hal Williams Ariela J. Gross. *American Stories: A History of the United States*, 4th. Pearson: 2019. ISBN-10: 0135233143

V. Course Purpose

The student in this course will analyze specific people, places, events, and ideas with a goal of understanding the holistic perspective of American History.

VI. Learning Outcomes

- Read, analyze, and critique primary and secondary historical texts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of people, places, events and ideas of American History.
- Trace the historical developments and intellectual developments of American History.
- Articulate key conceptual distinctions in American History.
- Communicate understanding of American History, orally or in writing.
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VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

VIII. Methods of Instruction

This is a multimedia class, and as such it may include lectures, assigned readings, discussions, group projects, videos, electronic documents, PowerPoints, Discussion Boards, and more.

IX. Methods of Assessment

- **Class participation (10 percent of total grade) (PR, COM)** – This includes regular attendance and participation in class through Blackboard, including required posts uploaded to the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Strong class participation does not mean simply turning in all your assignments, but it means participating in an informed way about the readings, synthesizing the comments of others, and listening with respect and attention to the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of your peers. You will receive a class participation grade at the midpoint of the semester and again at the end, based on your attendance and active participation, as well as your completion of, or failure to complete, any given assignments.
- **Chapter Tests (10 percent) (CT, PR, SR)** – Careful examination of assigned readings is essential for this reading-and-discussion-based course, so you will be held accountable for completion of the reading assignments. Chapter Tests will assess your knowledge and understanding of what you have read, focusing especially on the technical terminology of American History. **NOTE:** You are responsible for knowing the information in all of the readings even if they are not directly covered in classroom PowerPoints and discussions. These will be averaged for one grade.

- **Unit Exams (40 percent) (CT, COM, SR)** – The course is divided into four units roughly consisting of four chapters each. At the end of each unit, an exam will be given so the student can demonstrate proficiency in the concepts, people and events that occur within the unit. These unit exams will be 15 percent of the final grade for **each exam**. The total for these exams is 60 percent. The Final Exam is considered one of the Unit Exams although it will also cover some material that is comprehensive to the semester.
- **Discussion Boards (30 percent) (CT, COM, PR)** -- Each of the four units will also have a discussion board topic or topics that will cover the content of the entire unit. Each student will post to the original Discussion Board prompt and each student will respond to another student's discussion board post. These will be averaged for one grade.
- **Essay (10 percent) (CT, COM)** -- Each student will write an essay on an assigned topic during the first half of the semester. The essay will be 500 words in length, and it will be appropriately documented using MLA, 7th Edition.

Grading scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

X. Course Policies

The following rules and guidelines about classroom behavior are to be memorized, internalized, and strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will negatively impact your experience of this class, not to mention your grade.

1. Attendance/Tardiness

Class attendance is a requirement, if you anticipate more than three unexcused absences during the course you should wait for a later date to take this course.

Regular and punctual attendance in all class meetings is considered essential to the success of this course. If the student has three absences in a course in which he/she is currently enrolled; the instructor may drop the student with a grade of "F".

Absences are counted from the first day of class August 24, 2015 as listed in the College Calendar, regardless of the date of the student's registration. All work and/or assignments missed must be completed within one week of the absence.

For this online class, attendance will be measured each week by the student's participation in the course content for the week. **Attendance means more than logging on to Blackboard.** For a student to be counted "present", meaningful participation in the course is necessary each week. Meaningful participation can include: taking a quiz, writing an essay, completing the weekly reading report, accessing the PowerPoint for the week or other activities that show participation.

2. Class Participation

Class participation will include daily work and other assignments as required.

3. Missed Major Exams/Assignment Makeup

Make-up work will only be granted in extreme circumstances such as illness, bereavement, etc., and only if the student makes prior contact with the instructor with an

explanation as to why the exam/assignment will be missed. Make-up work must be turned in within one week of returning to class. The student may take make-up exams only by appointment. A grade of zero will be given for any missed exam that is not excused.

It is the sole responsibility of the student to acquire the lecture notes and any other class material covered during their absence.

A maximum grade of seventy will be given on all makeup work not completed within one week after the student returns to class.

Make-up exams will be administered by appointment.

4. Academic Dishonesty

Any assignment reflecting cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero. A second instance will result in automatic failure of the class and a report being filed with Ranger College's Vice President of Instruction. The consequences of this report can be quite severe for your academic future. For more details, see the section of the Ranger College Catalog (available at www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf), titled "Student Misconduct," subsection "Academic Dishonesty."

5. Student Behavior

When any activity of an individual in the class impedes the learning process of any other individual in the class, the individual causing the disruption is subject to immediate dismissal from class and may be dismissed from the course. Discussion boards will be conducted in a collegial, professional, and courteous manner. No negative and demeaning language will be tolerated in discussion to or about another individual.

6. **Email:** I am happy to communicate with you by email and will do my best to respond within 48 hours during the week. Messages sent over the weekend will be read on Mondays. In the subject line of any email that you send me, please indicate the content of the email. Then begin your message in the following manner:

Dear Mr. Justice,

My name is _____ and I am in your US History I class.

Ranger College provides an email address for every student (including Dual Credit students). I will normally respond to emails through Blackboard, but I will occasionally respond directly through the email system of Ranger College. You must check your Ranger College email address regularly, or setup the RC email address to forward to the email you normally check. I have experienced difficulty communicating with students in the past simply because they do not use the RC email address. It is your responsibility to check this address regularly.

XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Reading assignments and the dates of exams and written assignments are subject to revision as needed. I will announce all revisions in class, post them on Blackboard, and do my best to make sure that everyone knows about the changes. If you miss class, you are still responsible for submitting assignments according to any revisions that we make to the schedule.

Date	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction/Policies/Chapter 1 / Quiz; Chapter Test
Week 2	Chapters 2 Reading; Chapter Test; Key Concepts
Week 3	Chapter 3 Reading, Chapter Test; Discussion Board – Unit One
Week 4	Chapter 4 Reading, Chapter Test, Exam One over Chapter 1-4
Week 5	Chapter 5 Reading, Chapter Test
Week 6	Chapter 6 Reading, Chapter Test; Essay 1
Week 7	Chapter 7 Reading, Chapter Test; Unit Two Discussion Board
Week 8	Reading Chapter 8, Chapter Test; Exam Two over Chapters 5-8
Week 9	Chapter 9 Reading, Chapter Test
Week 10	Chapter 10 Reading, Chapter Test; Unit Three Discussion Board
Week 11	Chapter 11 & 12 Reading, Chapter Tests
Week 12	Exam Three; Chapter 13 Reading, Chapter Test; Essay 2
Week 13	Chapter 14 Reading, Chapter Test
Week 14	Chapter 15 Reading, Chapter Test; Review for Final; Unit Four Discussion Board
Week 15	Chapter 16 Reading, Chapter Test
Week 16	Exam Four – Final Exam Final Exams

XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XIII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.