

Lamar University
College of Arts & Sciences
History Department

History 1301
U.S. History I, 1763-1877
Section 08

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2013

INSTRUCTOR: DR. MARK A. MENGERINK

OFFICE:	Archer 204A
OFFICE HOURS:	M & T 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment
OFFICE PHONE:	409-880-7618 (when leaving a message, please speak clearly and loudly, identifying who you are and what class section you are in)
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Blackboard message system will be used (http://luonline.blackboard.com)
CLASS HOURS:	MWF 12:40-1:35pm
CLASS ROOM:	Archer 206

COURSE THEME:

“Misunderstanding of the present is the inevitable consequence of ignorance of the past. But a man can wear himself out just as fruitlessly in seeking to understand the past if he is totally ignorant of the present.” (Marc Bloch, *The Historian's Craft*, p. 43)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course involves the careful examination of United States history from 1763-1877. Emphasis will be on examining the major political, economic, and social trends of this time period. As an introductory course, this class will provide students with a basic knowledge of not only what happened in United States history during this period, but also the skills to critically examine why historical events happen and why they are important. It is also the belief of the department, and your instructor, that imparting a knowledge and understanding of the past “improve[s] the quality of life of individuals and contribute[s] to the welfare of our society.” (p. 66, <http://www.lamar.edu/pdfs/ArtsAndSciences.pdf>)

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This is a lecture-discussion course. Every student is expected to participate in class discussion. As a result, students must make a point to get involved in the class discussions early in the semester to ensure success.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, students will:

- develop a basic, factual understanding of major events, themes and issues in United States history from 1763-1877.
- be able to differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.

- be able to analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on American history from 1763-1877.
- develop an understanding of the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
- develop critical thinking skills through analyzing and applying historical information.
- develop an understanding of the usefulness and relevancy of historical knowledge to current events.
- develop their ability to communicate clearly and persuasively, both orally and in writing.

REQUIRED TEXT

“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.” – Joseph Brodsky

Your reading will lay the foundation of your learning in this course. You will be able to discuss issues intelligently if you complete the readings. Have the reading completed on the day listed in the class schedule. These books are available in the university bookstore. If you choose to buy them elsewhere, please purchase the correct edition.

- Michael Schaller, et. al., *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context, Volume I, To 1877* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013); ISBN 978-0-19-974015-4
- James C. Curtis, *Andrew Jackson and the Search for Vindication* (HarperCollins Publishers, 1976); ISBN 0-673-39334-8

TEXTBOOK COMPANION WEBSITE

Our textbook publisher has created a companion website:

<http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199740154/student/?view=usa>

Each chapter contains note taking guides, flashcards, and practice quizzes. Please use this resource to improve your understanding of the material.

BLACKBOARD SYSTEM

We will use the Blackboard system for this class. Go to <http://luonline.blackboard.com> to logon. I will post student grades, important handouts, etc. on Blackboard. We will also use it to communicate with one another through email. When corresponding through email with me, please only use Blackboard.

Blackboard Technical Support

Office: John Gray Center, Building B, Room 125

Phone: (409) 880-2222; 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Monday-Friday

Email: cde@lamar.edu

Website: <http://dept.lamar.edu/cde/>

Tutoring: SMARTHINKING connects students to E-structor® Certified tutors anytime, from any Internet connection. <http://smarthinking.com> Your SMARTHINKING login is your my Lamar email address. Your password is identical to your Blackboard password.

After Hours and Weekend Support for Blackboard

Blackboard support for students is available after hours (5 P.M.-8 A.M.), on weekends, and on Holidays. Please call toll free 1-866-321-7170 for assistance during this time. An online chat support and knowledge base are also available at <http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8089>

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with special needs must notify the instructor as soon as possible to accommodate those needs. If you have a disability that may require a classroom accommodation, you need to register with the Services for Students with Disabilities office, Communication Building 105 (behind the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center), if you have not already done so. The phone number is 409-880-8347 TTY / Voice. Information shared with this office will be kept confidential to the extent consistent with State and Federal law. Please note: **No** accommodations will be made with the student unless he or she is registered with this office and has appropriate documentation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

My job is to make this class enjoyable and informative. Your job is to come to class prepared to learn, having read and thought about the readings and with any assignments completed according to the directions. Attendance will be taken during every class period and will be crucial in determining your success in this class. In the event of absences, students are responsible for obtaining class notes from a classmate and arranging for make-up quizzes and exams. The instructor will not make lecture notes available. An excessive number of absences will require students to submit appropriate documentation. No make-ups will be given without documentation.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to actively participate in class. You must participate on a regular basis. Participation includes asking questions when material is not clear, adding to points made by your professor or classmates, completing various in-class writing assignments according to directions and in a thoughtful manner, contributing to your group's work during in-class group activities, etc. Actively engaged students not only perform better on assignments and exams, but they also learn course material more thoroughly. Please be more than merely an oxygen thief...

GRADING PLAN

This is how your instructor will determine the grade you earned for this course. Please note: students will earn their grades this semester. Your instructor does not arbitrarily assign grades to students.

Syllabus Quiz – A quiz during the first week of class over the information contained in this syllabus, including but not limited to, course policies, important dates (due dates for assignments, midterms, etc.), and instructor/student responsibilities. Please note: this quiz will be taken online through Blackboard. See Tentative Schedule for due date.

Plagiarism Quiz – A quiz during the first week of class over what constitutes plagiarism. Please note: this quiz will be taken online. The directions for accessing this quiz are located on Blackboard. See Tentative Schedule for due date.

Essays – Two separate essays of 3-4 pages allowing you to illustrate your understanding of key themes. The questions ask you to develop an interpretation of a particular event/time period and support your interpretation with evidence and a solid argument. The directions for the essays and the rubrics used to assess your essays are located on Blackboard. See Tentative Schedule for due dates.

Book Exam – An in-class essay exam covering your understanding of James C. Curtis', *Andrew Jackson and the Search for Vindication*. Potential questions are posted on Blackboard. See Tentative Schedule for date.

Midterm and Final Exams – Objective-type questions (multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank) testing your knowledge and understanding of the reading material from the textbooks, the primary sources posted on Blackboard, the lecture and discussion material, any videos we viewed in class, and other materials as noted by the instructor. Both the midterm and final exams will have individual portions and group portions. The midterm exam will be spread over two class periods. On the first day, students will take the exam as individuals. The next class period, students will complete the same exam as part of a group. During the group portion of the exam, students will be able to consult with their group members to determine the correct answer for each question. Each group submits one exam sheet and all members in that group present the day of the group portion earn the same grade. Both portions of the final exam will be taken on the same day (the regularly schedule exam period), but the process is similar. The first hour of the final exam period is for the individual portion. The second hour will be devoted to the group portion. The final exam is not cumulative. See Tentative Schedule for dates.

Bonus Points – Students have the opportunity to earn bonus points for the midterm and final exams. Details are located on Blackboard.

POINT DISTRIBUTION

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Syllabus Quiz	20
Plagiarism Quiz	20
Essays (2 @ 50pts each)	100
Book Exam	100
Individual Midterm Exam	100
Group Midterm Exam	50
Individual Final Exam	100
Group Final Exam	50
Total Points	540

GRADING SCALE

<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>
475.2-540	88-100	A
405-475.19	75-87.9	B
334.8-404.99	62-74.9	C
270-334.79	50-61.9	D
0-269.99	0-49	F

THESE POLICIES ARE BY POPULAR DEMAND FROM STUDENTS WHO SUBMIT THEIR ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME.

Late Syllabus Quizzes: If you miss the window the quiz is considered late (see Tentative Schedule for the date the window opens and closes). You must contact me through Blackboard to re-open the quiz window in order to take the quiz. I will not re-open the quiz unless you contact me through Blackboard. 10 percent deduction per day for late syllabus quizzes, no matter the excuse. All make-ups for the quizzes must be completed within 10 days of the window closing. After 10 days, the professor will enter a grade of 0 points earned.

Late Plagiarism Quizzes: 10 percent deduction per weekday for late plagiarism quizzes, no matter the excuse. The plagiarism quiz is due by the beginning of the class period on the day it is due (see Tentative Schedule for due date). You may submit the plagiarism quiz results early. Submitting it after class starts on the due date means it is considered late. Do not slide plagiarism quizzes under my office door. Do not email the results to me. I will not accept them if submitted in these ways. Give them directly to me. All make-ups for the plagiarism quiz must be completed and submitted within 10 days of the due date. After 10 days, the professor will enter a grade of 0 points earned. Please note: students must submit both the “pre-test” and “post-test” to earn a grade for the plagiarism quiz.

Late Essays: The essays will not be accepted late for any reason. You can submit them early or on the due date. (See Tentative Schedule for due date) When you submit them through Blackboard, your professor will contact you confirming receipt of the essay.

Late Book Exam: One letter grade deduction for students not taking the book exam during the regularly scheduled class period unless student provides medical, legal, or university documentation. All make-up book exams must be completed with 5 weekdays of the originally scheduled exam, unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor. After 5 days, the professor will enter a grade of 0 points.

Make-up Individual Midterm Exams: One letter grade deduction for late individual midterm exams unless students provide medical, legal, or university documentation. All make-up exams are essay exams and must be completed

within 5 week days of the originally scheduled exam, unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor. After 5 week days, the professor will enter a grade of 0 points.

Make-up Individual Final Exam: The professor does not give make-up individual final exams.

Make-up Group Midterm and Final Exams: The professor does not give make-up group midterm or group final exams. Instead, your course grade will be determined by an adjusted total points available.

Late Bonus Point Opportunity: The professor does not accept late bonus point assignments for any reason. (See Tentative Schedule for due dates)

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

- Respect yourself and other people. We all have a right to be treated with respect. A respectful atmosphere is conducive to learning. Disruptive behaviors are not acceptable and may affect a student's final grade, or in severe cases, result in a student being removed from class.
- Do you hate waiting for people? I do, too. Do not be rude. Be on time. On time does not mean you are walking into the class room at 12:40pm. On time means you are here before 12:40pm and ready to start. If this becomes a problem, I will lock the door at 12:40pm. If you are late then you miss that day of class, quizzes, exams, and any other assignments included.
- Texting and cell phone use is not acceptable during class. Use of other electronic devices is also prohibited. Use of cell phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, or other electronic devices during exams and quizzes will be considered cheating. Sleeping, talking with classmates (except during group work), reading the newspaper or other materials not related to History 1301, will not be tolerated during this class period. If this becomes a problem, you will be asked to leave the room for the day if engaging in any of these behaviors. **If you think your time is better spent doing these things, please do them someplace other than this class. I give you my full attention when we meet; I deserve the same from you. More importantly, these things disrupt the learning experience of your classmates.**
- It is extremely rude to leave class early without notifying the instructor with a valid reason prior to the start of class.
- Students are not allowed to use electronic recording devices, laptops, netbooks, tablets, etc. to record any lectures or discussions or take notes this semester, unless it is to accommodate a documented disability.
- For your safety and the comfort of your classmates, proper footwear is required in the classroom at all times. No bare feet are allowed for any reason.
- Our course is scheduled for 12:40-1:35pm every MWF of Spring Semester 2013 (January 17, 2013-May 14, 2013), except for official university holidays and other days noted on the syllabus.
- The instructor reserves the right to alter this tentative schedule at any time during the semester. The instructor will attempt to notify the class at least one week prior to the class period affected by the change.
- Please note: Our final exam is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2013, from 11:00am-1:30pm. Make your plans accordingly now, as no students will be allowed to take the final exam early for any reason.
- Students are encouraged to monitor their grades throughout the semester by checking the Blackboard system. Please note: To maintain confidentiality, I will not discuss grades through e-mail or over the phone. I am available in my office to discuss matters related to grades.
- Students must keep all copies of graded and ungraded work until course grades have been submitted at the end of the semester. This is good practice in case you wish to dispute a grade. When you receive graded assignments/papers/tests back from the professor, take time to examine the comments made on them. This will help you not only learn the material, but also make sure such errors do not occur in the future.
- Students that are more than 10 minutes late to a private meeting in my office will have to reschedule the meeting for a different time. Please be prompt.

DR. MENGERINK'S PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

I expect students to assume a large responsibility in preparing for class and take ownership over the course. Students learn more when they are empowered in the class. I will not "spoon feed" material to students. I will lecture at times to provide basic factual background, but our discussions in class will require students to think for themselves and wrestle with important questions related to United States history. This does not mean, however, that you cannot

approach me for assistance when needed. I'll be glad to help you understand the course material and concepts, but learning at the college level depends just as much on the student's efforts as it does on the professor's.

Students are free to present any question and raise any concern with the instructor. Please use my office hours to raise questions or concerns in a confidential atmosphere. I will attempt to grade materials and return them to you in a timely manner, always doing my best to evaluate your work fairly. Discussion time is an opportunity for open, honest, and critical evaluation of ideas in a respectful atmosphere.

The syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. It explains how I will administer the course, what I require from you, how I will evaluate your work, and when / how I am available to meet with you. Barring illness or other emergency, I will follow what is stated on the syllabus.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As a student in this course, you have certain responsibilities and obligations to meet:

- Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for all assignments.
- Students are responsible for knowing important university deadlines, like deadlines for dropping courses.
- By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree to attend class faithfully and keep up with course work to the best of your ability.
- During class discussions, you are expected to participate.
- You are expected to complete all required assignments within the guidelines specified. Any assignment submitted must be legible. For example, do not submit any assignment that has lines through it indicating your printer is running out of ink. Your professor reserves the right to not accept any assignment that does not meet basic professional appearance.
- If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting class notes from a classmate and any handouts you may have missed from the professor (or from our Blackboard site). The professor will not make his lecture notes available to students.
- You must remain academically honest in completing all coursework. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. See the Student Handbook for a definition of academic dishonesty and the History Department Academic Dishonesty Policy at the end of this syllabus. Ask if you do not understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.
- You will treat fellow students and the instructor with respect and abide by the "Classroom Rules of Conduct."
- If unable to fulfill the course requirements, you will notify Dr. Mengerink and formally withdraw from the course prior to the withdraw deadline.

Please note: Your educational reward (and your grade) in this class will almost assuredly equal your effort. You earn your grade in this course.

YOUR IDEAS, EVALUATIONS, ETC.

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, etc. are welcome. Your discretion in these matters is expected. No part of your grade will be based on anything other than your performance on quizzes, assignments, papers, examinations, class participation, or other graded materials.

You are encouraged to take advantage of instructor office hours for help with coursework or anything else connected with the course and your progress. I am enthusiastic about helping students, but I cannot help if you do not ask. I will assume you understand the material and are happy with your performance unless you indicate otherwise.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Please note: no "magic bullet" for learning history exists. Learning history, like other disciplines, requires hard work and an investment in time. There are no short cuts. A college-level history course will always involve lots of reading, so get over it and do it. Heck, you might just learn something or find the books interesting!

As a rule of thumb, you should devote at least two hours of outside study and preparation time for every hour you are in the classroom per week. Because this is a 3 credit hour course, you should devote an average (minimum) of 6

hours per week to your history course. Some weeks will be higher, some lower depending on the workload for that week.

Other tips for success:

1. Come to class and arrive early so you are ready to start on time.
2. Complete and understand all assigned readings.
3. Take notes while reading, noting questions that may arise as you read or things that seem unclear. Raise those questions during class or during office hours.
4. Take notes during class.
5. Ask a question in class when something is not clear. No one is expecting you to know it all. Remember, I have a Ph.D. and sometimes I have questions about history! So, of course, you will as well!
6. Take advantage of your instructor's office hours.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 21, 2013 – MLK Day – no class.
- January 17-February 1, 2013 – Syllabus quiz window open.
- February 1, 2013 – Plagiarism quiz results due at beginning of class.
- February 4, 2013 – 12th class day.
- February 14, 2013 – 20th class day.
- February 19, 2013 – Last day to drop or withdraw without academic penalty.
- February 24, 2013 – Essay #1 due by 11pm.
- March 1, 2013 – Midterm bonus point assignment due.
- March 4, 2013 – Individual midterm exam.
- March 6, 2013 – Group midterm exam.
- March 11-15, 2013 – Spring break – no class.
- March 29, 2013 – Good Friday – no class.
- April 1, 2013 – Book exam.
- April 2, 2013 – Last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty. No drops after this date without valid reason approved by professor and Dean of college.
- April 21, 2013 – Essay #2 due by 11pm.
- May 6, 2013 – Final exam bonus point assignment due.
- May 10, 2013 – Final exam, from 11:00am-1:30pm.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week of January 17: Orientation

- Administrative Duties and Course Introduction
- **Syllabus Quiz open on Blackboard (Quiz taken through the Blackboard system.)**
- **Plagiarism Quiz available online (See quiz directions posted on Blackboard.)**

Week of January 21: North America in the Atlantic World

Read: Schaller, Chapter 1.

- From Hunter-Gatherers to Indian Urban Centers
- Western Europe in the 15th Century
- First Contact

Week of January 28: At the Margins of Empire, 1565-1640

Read: Schaller, Chapter 2.

- **Friday, February 1, 2013 – Syllabus Quiz window closes at 11pm. Quiz taken through the Blackboard system.**
- **Friday, February 1, 2013 – Plagiarism Quiz results due at beginning of class. See quiz directions posted on Blackboard.**
- Conquest and Expansion of Trade
- Religion and Conflict

Week of February 4: On the Road to Unity? The 1640-1690s

Read: Schaller Chapter 3.

- English Civil War
- Development of Slavery
- Beginning of the Hundred Years' War for North America

Week of February 11: Convergence and Conflict, 1690-1730

Read: Schaller, Chapter 4.

- Europeans and Natives on the Frontier
- Migration and the Expansion of Empire
- Commercial and Communications Revolutions

Week of February 18: The Battle for North America, 1730-1763

Read: Schaller, Chapter 5.

- Enlightenment and Evangelicalism
- First World War for Empire, 1754-1763

Week of February 25: Imperial Breakdown and Colonial Resistance, 1763-1776

Read: Schaller, Chapter 6.

- **Essay #1 by 11pm Sunday, February 24, 2013 (Directions posted on Blackboard.)**
- **Friday, March 1, 2013 – Midterm Bonus Point Opportunity due at beginning of class. (Directions posted on Blackboard.)**
- Imperial Reorganization
- Mobilizing against Imperial Authority
- Resistance or Revolution?

Week of March 4: Midterm Week

- **Individual Midterm – Monday, March 4, 2013**
- **Group Midterm – Wednesday, March 6, 2013**

Week of March 11: Spring Break – No class.

Week of March 18: A Revolutionary Nation, 1776-1789

Read: Schaller, Chapter 7.

- Organizing for War, Securing Independence
- Restructuring Political and Social Authority
- Debating the Constitution

Week of March 25: The United States in a Revolutionary World, 1789-1815

Read: Schaller, Chapter 8.

- The French Revolution and Development of Political Parties
- The Revolutions of 1800 and 1804
- The Second War for Independence: The War of 1812

Week of April 1: A Nation in Transition, 1789-1832

Read: Schaller, Chapters 9 and 10.

- **Book Exam – Monday, April 1, 2013 (Potential questions posted on Blackboard.)**
- Pushing Westward
- The Market Revolution and Democracy

Week of April 8: Industrialization, 1820-1856

Read: Schaller, Chapter 11

- Labor and Gender Roles
- Industrialization and Its Discontents

Week of April 15: Religion and Reform, 1820-1856

Read: Schaller, Chapter 12.

- Second Great Awakening
- Women and Reform

Week of April 22: Sectional Crisis, 1844-1860

Read: Schaller, Chapter 13.

- **Essay #2 Due by 11pm, Sunday, April 21, 2013 (Directions posted on Blackboard.)**
- Expansion, Immigration, and Slavery
- Antebellum Life in North and South
- Rise of the Republican Party

Week of April 29: The Civil War, 1860-1865

Read: Schaller, Chapter 14.

- Secession
- Turning Points and Emancipation
- Victory and Defeat

Week of May 6: Reconstructing America, 1865-1877

Read: Schaller, Chapter 15.

- **Monday, May 6, 2013 – Final Exam Bonus Point Opportunity due at beginning of class. (Directions posted on Blackboard.)**
- Freedom? Hope and Disappointment
- The Political Battle over Reconstruction
- End of Reconstruction

Final Examination Friday, May 10, 2013, from 11:00am-1:30pm

History Department Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy

The Lamar University history department considers academic dishonesty, including cheating, collusion, and plagiarism, as defined in the student handbook, a serious academic offense. Students guilty of such misbehavior will be subject to the following penalties:

First offense: Student will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment [a zero], with no possibility for make-up. If the offense is flagrant, the student may receive an F in the course. The student's name and documented offense will be placed on file in the history department.

Second offense: Student will receive an F in the course with no possibility for make-up. The student's name and documented offense will be forwarded to the proper university officials.

All accused students shall be entitled to a written notice of the offense and the penalty assessed, and notified of his or her right to appeal to the department chair/advisory committee.

If you have any questions about academic dishonesty, and what actions constitute such an offense, please contact the instructor.