

SULROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2025

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HIST 1301 Sec EP

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HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES to 18 77

Course Description: HIST 1301 is a general introductory survey of American history covering from the beginnings of human settlement in the Americas circa 15-20,000 years ago to the end of the post-civil war era in 1877. It will examine events of American past, from settlement, to colonization, Revolution, creating nation, early Republic thru the Civil War within a global context and from diverse perspectives.

The founding centuries of the United States are not ones of “discovery,” but of encounters between diverse peoples who interacted and struggled establish relationships. Through our class we will explore the often paradoxical relationship of freedom and power; learning how different peoples, classes, and genders created an evolving nation.

Textbook: U.S. History. P. Scott Corbett, et al., (Houston, TX: OpenStax | Rice University, 2021.)
Textbook available in paperback or online through OpenStax
(<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>)

Assignments:

Examinations (3)	Reading Questions (12)	Primary Source Article (1)
Content Notebooks (3)	Attendance & Participation	

Student Learning

Outcomes:

- Students who complete HIST 1301 with a grade of “C” or higher will:
1. Develop an informed, critical and articulate approach to the study of history.
Marketable Skills: Critical Thinking: Absorption, comprehension, data synthesis
Ibid: Development of pattern recognition and causal skills.
Global Fluency: Ability to place the United States in a global context
 2. The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History
Marketable Skills: Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.
Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.
Students can manage the absorption of data.
 3. Demonstrate knowledge of historical events, movements, major turning points and personalities of the past.
Marketable Skills: Professionalism: Knowledge and understanding of the civic roles and responsibilities of a United States citizen.
Critical Thinking/Professionalism: Ability to relate the importance of the historical past when considering public policy decisions.
 4. The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in

historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable Skills: Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

5. The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content

Marketable skills: Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences

SLO's will be assessed as follows:

Examinations (3) will assess SLOs 1-5

Reading Questions (12) will assess SLOs 1-3

Constitutional Convention Primary Source Article (1) will assess SLOs 1-5

Content Notebooks (3) will assess SLOs 1-5.

Course Learning
Objectives:

Students who complete HIST 1301 with a grade of "C" or higher will:

1. Be able to trace the historical development of the United States politically, economically, socially and culturally from the Pre-Columbian era to the post-civil war 19th century.
2. Be able to chart long-term historical and political trends in the United
3. States in the 16th thru 19th centuries.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of key historical events, movements and personalities in the History of the United States to 1877.
Understand the role that historical interpretation plays in accessing the past and be able to identify and critique various and differing interpretations of the past.
5. The development of critical thinking and writing skills through reading questions, concise historical notebooks, and a primary source based newspaper article.

TExES Standards: Students seeking teacher certification in the Core Subjects EC-6 or 4-8, History 7-12, and Social Studies 7-12 areas will cover materials relating to the following standards in this course.

- Core Subjects EC-6 - Social Studies Standard IV, V, VI, VII & IX
- Core Subjects 4-8 - Social Studies Standard IV, V, VI, VII & IX
- History 7-12 - Standards IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX & X
- Social Studies 7-12: Standards IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX & X

Course Requirements: Academic Honesty - Per the University's policy on academic honesty the in the Student Handbook - University's Policy and Procedures section students are expected to use the highest standards in their academic pursuits and behave in a manner that is beyond reproach. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Any student caught cheating on a quiz will receive an "F" for the quiz and will not be allowed to retake it. Any student caught cheating on exam will receive an "F" for the exam, may fail the course and may face additional

disciplinary action by the Dean of Students.

A. D. A. Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is the students responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact:
Mary Schwartze: Counselling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall
112. Mailing Address: P. O. Box C-171; Alpine, TX 79832 Phone: (432) 837-8203

If you have an accessibility letter, it is your responsibility to ensure that the instructor has received a copy of it so your specific accommodations can be met.

Appealing the Final Grade: Students wishing to appeal a course grade should first start with the instructor and if not satisfied follow the Behavioural & Social Sciences chain of command: Instructor, Chair, Dean of Arts & Sciences, Vice President of Academic Affairs, President.

Attendance - Yes, you are expected to attend class. Per SRSU requirements attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students with more than six unexplained absences can be dropped from the course with a grade of "F". If you come into class late it is your responsibility to ensure that the instructor has counted you here. Students more than 25 minutes late will be counted absent.

Classroom Conduct: Per the Student Handbook "students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's function as an educational institution." Students should treat their classmates with courtesy and respect. Students talking over others, using persistent profane or vulgar language or otherwise disrupting the class may be dismissed from the class.

Cell Phone Policy: TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Use of electronic devices during the class is strictly prohibited and anyone who uses an electronic device may be asked to leave the class. As per Texas HB 1481

Contacting the Instructor: My office telephone number and e-mail are included for emergency situations. E-mail is the preferred method of communication. Please use the following format for any e-mail communications: YOUR NAME:
HIST1301: Subject of E-mail.

Late Assignments: Assignments turned in late will lose 10% off their maximum grade each day the assignment is late.

Make Up Exam Policy: Make exams will only be given because of documented emergency situations such as severe/extreme medical conditions for yourself or a dependent, or in the case of a death in the immediate family. Students who have this type of problem must either contact the instructor by e-mail or phone prior to the date of the exam OR bring in a validated excuse upon their first day back in the course. Please note that make up exams will not be the same as the ones given in class.

On Writing Well: The members of the history faculty believe that it is important that students be encouraged to write well in classes other than English. To that end each examination will contain essay questions and a term research paper will be required. Points may be deducted from your grade for the overall quality of the essay, reflection or paper, including spelling and grammatical errors. (Use Spelling & Grammar Check).

Writing Tutoring: Students needing assistance with writing are urged to use the services of the Writing Lab, part of the Tutoring and Learning Centre, located in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library first floor. Please check with the Tutoring & Learning Centre for hours of operation. Please note that while the writing tutors can help you with grammar, structure, formatting and citations they will not write assignments for you nor are they editors.

Student

Responsibilities:

You are responsible for attending all lectures, taking notes and completing the readings. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. You are responsible for being in class to take quizzes and exams. You are responsible for verifying your enrolment in or withdrawal from the course. If you quit the class, but your name still appears on the Banner grade sheet at the end of the semester you will receive an "F" for the course.

Instructor

Responsibilities:

The instructor will know the course content; explain relevant concepts and principles; facilitate class participation; hold office hours; treat students fairly and with respect; and create a positive learning environment.
The instructor will field any question on the course content
The instructor will return assignments in a reasonable amount of time.
The instructor will hold office hours and answer student e-mails on the course.

Course Assignments:

Exams: There will be three examinations total for HIST 1301, based on readings, lectures and class discussion. These exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions. EXAMINATIONS ARE NOT CUMULATIVE.

Reading Questions: With each of the assigned readings you will answer 3-5 critical short answer questions. These questions are based on the assigned readings for that week. (See Appendix I for complete details.)

Constitutional Convention Reporting - Primary Source Article: Students will read primary source documents from the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Each student will then complete a newspaper article answering specific questions to be turned in via Blackboard. (See Appendix II for details.)

Concise Historical Content Notebooks: For each unit (Beginnings to 1770, 1770-1840, and 1840-1877) you will compile a study notebook comprised of the

following: key dates, key vocabulary terms, key historical figures, key geographic features, key historical events. (*See Appendix III for Complete Details.*)

Attendance & Participation: You are expected to attend, pay attention and actively participate in the course. This means completing the assigned readings, assignments, asking questions and participating in discussions.

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities arise during the semester they will be noted by the instructor. Students may receive a maximum of 30 points extra credit.

Grading Breakdown:

Assignment	Number	Points Ea.	Assignment Total Points
Examinations	3	100pts	300pts
Reading Questions	12	25pts	300pts
Constitutional Convention Article	1	100pts	100pts
Concise Historical Notebooks	3	75pts	225pts
Attendance & Participation		75pts	75pts
			1000 Total Points Possible

Grade System:

A = 1000 - 900
B = 899 - 800
C = 799 - 700

D = 699 - 600
F = 599 - 0 points

PLEASE NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLETE OR TURN IN THE CONCISE HISTORICAL NOTEBOOKS MEANS A LOSS OF 225 POINTS. THIS IS POTENTIALLY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THREE LETTER GRADES. (I. E. AN A OR C, B OR D, C OR F)

Schedule of Lectures & Readings

Week I (Beginning 26 August)

Lecture: Syllabus, Introduction to course, Ancient Americas and European Developments pre-1492.
Textbook: US History, Ch. 1 – pg. 7-27.
Assignments: Syllabus Assignment
Introductions
Reading Questions #1

Week II (2 September)

Lecture: Spain, Portugal, and the Reshaping of the Americas
Textbook: US History: Ch. 2, pg. 31-52 & Ch. 3, pg. 57-60.
Assignments: Reading Questions #2

Week III (9 September)

Lecture: The 17th Century – Dutch, French, and English North America.
Textbook: US History: Ch. 3, pg. 60-81 & Ch. 4, pg. 85-94.
Assignments: Reading Questions #3

Week IV (16 September)

Lecture: British North America to 1770
Textbook: US History: Ch. 4, pg. 95-106 & Ch. 5, pg. 111-127.
Assignments: Reading Questions #4
Concise Historical Notebook #1

Week V (23 September)

Lecture: The Path to Independence.
Textbook: US History: Ch. 5, pg. 128-133 & Ch. 6, pg. 139-160.
Assignments: Reading Questions #5
Examination #1

Week VI (30 September)

Lecture: The Beginnings of the United States to 1801.
Textbook: US History: Ch. 7, pg. 165-187 & Ch. 8, pg. 139-160.
Assignments: Reading Questions #6

Week VII (7 October)

Lecture: Jeffersonian America, 1801-1821
Textbook: US History: Ch. 8, pg. 198-214 & Ch. 9, pg. 217-225 & Ch. 11, pg. 270-275.
Assignments: Reading Questions #7

Week VIII (14 October)

Lecture: From the 'Era of Good Feelings' to the 'Age of Jackson.'
Textbook: US History: Ch. 9, pg. 226-235 & Ch. 10, pg. 243-249 & Ch. 11, pg. 275-276.
Assignments: Reading Questions #8

Week IX (21 October)

Lecture: The Age of Jackson and Antebellum Change

Textbook: US History: Ch. 9, pg. 235-239 & Ch. 10, pg. 250-261 & Ch. 12, pg. 297-309.

Assignments: Reading Questions #9

Week X (28 October)

Lecture: Culture & Society in Early America.

Textbook: US History: Ch. 10, pg. 256-264 & Ch. 12, pg. 310-312 & Ch. 13, pg. 325-339.

Assignments: Reading Questions #10

Concise Historical Notebook #2

Week XI (4 November)

Lecture: Manifest Destiny – Visions of Westward Expansion

Textbook: US History: Ch. 11, pg. 278-292 & Ch. 13, pg. 340-347

Assignments: Reading Questions #11

Examination #2

Week XII (11 November)

Lecture: A Fracturing America, 1850-1861

Textbook: US History: Ch. 14, pg. 353-374

Assignments: Reading Questions #12

Week XIII (18 November)

Lecture: Rebellion & Civil War, 1860-1865

Textbook: US History: Ch. 15, pg. 379-403.

Assignments: Concise Historical Notebook #3

Constitutional Convention Newspaper Article (Begin Project)

Week XIV (25 November)

Lecture: Thanksgiving Week – No Classes or Assignments

Textbook:

Assignments:

Week XV (2 December)

Lecture: Reconstruction & Post-War United States

Textbook: US History: Ch. 16, pg. 407-430.

Assignments: Constitutional Convention Newspaper Article

Week XVI (6, 9-11 December)

Final Exam - Time TBA

Note: Schedule is tentative and may be changed by the Instructor.

Schedule of Assignments & Exams

Week 1	Assignment	Due Date	Completed
	Syllabus Quiz	Monday 2 September by 11:59pm	
	Introductions		
	Reading Questions #1		
Week 2	Reading Questions #2	Monday 9 September by 11:59pm	
Week 3	Reading Questions #3	Monday 16 September by 11:59pm	
Week 4	Reading Questions #4	Monday 23 September by 11:59pm	
	Concise Historical Notebook #1	Monday 23 September by 11:59pm	
Week 5	Examination #1	Friday 27 September by 11:59pm	
	Reading Questions #5	Monday 30 September by 11:59pm	
Week 6	Reading Questions #6	Monday 7 October by 11:59pm	
Week 7	Reading Questions #7	Monday 14 October by 11:59pm	
Week 8	Reading Questions #8	Monday 21 October by 11:59pm	
Week 9	Reading Questions #9	Monday 28 October by 11:59pm	
Week 10	Reading Questions #10	Monday 4 November by 11:59pm	
	Concise Historical Notebook #2	Monday 4 November by 11:59pm	
Week 11	Examination #2	Friday 8 November by 11:59pm	
	Reading Questions #11	Monday 11 November by 11:59pm	
Week 12	Reading Questions #12	Monday 18 November by 11:59pm	
Week 13	Concise Historical Notebook #3	Monday 2 December by 11:59pm	
Week 14	Thanksgiving Week – No Class		
Week 15	Constitutional Convention Article	Wednesday 4 December by 11:59pm	
Week 16	Final Examination	TBA (3 or 6-8 May)	

Appendix I: Reading Questions

I: Learning Objective

The reading questions are designed to build knowledge and skills related to the study of history including but not limited to: reading comprehension, interpretation and synthesis, critical thinking, time management and writing in Standard English.

II. Directions

Out of the assigned readings for each week there will be three chapters will be chosen. After reading the assigned chapter answer the two critical thinking questions provided in clear concise paragraph of 200 words per question.

III. Format

Assignments need to be completed in Microsoft Word. All pages to be double-spaced and using 12pt Times New Roman or Cambria font.

- a. Your Name, Date, HIST 1301 and the assignment number need to be in the upper right-hand corner of the page.
- b. Chapter Title on next line, centred
- c. Label each answer with the question number.
- d. NO QUOTES FROM THE READINGS IN THE ANSWER

IV. Reading Synthesis Grade Sheet

Assignment Grade Topics	Distinguished	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing
Evidence of Reading	7.5	5	3.5	2
Recognizes and Discusses Primary Themes of Reading	5	3.75	2.5	1.25
Recognizes and discusses impact of major historical figures	5	3.75	2.5	1.25
Evidence of Synthesis and Interpretation	5	3.75	2.5	1.25
Formatting	2.5	1.875	1.25	.625
	25pts	18.125pts	12.25pts	6.375pts

Appendix II: Reporting from the Constitutional Convention of 1787 - Primary Source Readings & Article

I: Learning Objective

Primary Source readings from the Constitutional Convention of 1787 are designed to expose students to the development of the American Constitution, highlight the socio-political differences between state delegates, the different approaches to the development of a new United States Constitution, and promote critical thinking. The newspaper article is designed to build knowledge and skills related to the study of history including but not limited to: historical interpretation and synthesis, reading comprehension, critical thinking, time management and writing in standard English.

II. Directions

- "Congratulations!

As president of the convention, General George Washington (the tall gentleman over there) has decided that our Constitutional Convention really needs a reporter following the proceedings. As we debate and devise a new constitution it is important that, when we are finished, all American citizens and their families should know the main ideas of the convention and how we arrived at the new constitution.

I am most please to say that you (Yes, you!) have been chosen to be that reporter. However, because the convention has already started, you'll need to use someone else's notes to record what the two big plans proposed have been. Lucky for you James Madison said you could use his notes. He has included a private letter he sent to a number of the delegates that outlines the major problems with our current government, the Articles of Confederation, to help give you an idea of the problems. We have a desk for you over here with lots of paper, ink, and sharpened quills for you to write with. Better hurry, the delegates lunch break is almost over!

Best wishes – Benjamin Franklin

- Read the four attached primary sources carefully. They include the following:
 - o #1 – James Madison on the Vices of the Political System of the United States, 1787;
 - o #2 – Edmund Randolph Presents the Virginia Plan, 1787;
 - o #3 – William Patterson Proposes the New Jersey Plan, 1787;
 - o #4 – Congress Debates the New Jersey and Virginia Plans, 1787)

Using these four sources you will be writing a newspaper article (the 18th century version of the podcast) that answers the following questions.

1. Why are the delegates meeting, what are there problems with our existing government – the Articles of Confederation?
2. What does the first plan submitted to the Convention, the Virginia Plan, propose for the government and how is it different from the Articles?
3. What does the second plan submitted to the Convention, the New Jersey Plan, propose for the government and how is it different from the articles?
4. How are the Virginia and New Jersey Plans different from each other? What type of state is going to support which one?
5. Using Madison's notes on the debate on these two plans, summarize the differences and reasoning of the delegates debating. What are the pros and cons for both plans, according to the delegates?

Remember!! A newspaper article is not a bullet pointed list answering questions. It is a narrative writing. Your newspaper article needs to be a minimum of 4 pages long. You must have an introduction and a conclusion to your newspaper article.

III. Format

- Newspaper Article must be a minimum of 4 pages long, not including your title page.
- Font = 12pt Times New Roman or Cambria
- Margins = Normal (1")
- Page numbers in upper right corner
- Title Page includes the following centered on the middle of the page
 - Original Title
 - Name
 - Date
- Main Text includes your introduction, your article paragraphs (there should be at least five for each question), and your conclusion. Your conclusion must begin with "In Conclusion." No exceptions.
- No Block Quotations – this article is to be in your own words. Not James Madison's, not Edmund Randolph, Thomas Patterson, or anyone else. YOURS.

IV. Easy Ways to Fail the Newspaper Article

- Turn in another student or students' paper as your own = F
- Writing your newspaper article as a group = F
- Taking work off the internet and turning it in as your own (plagiarism or stealing) = F

V. Primary Source Discussion Board Grade Sheet

Assignment Grade Topics		Distinguished	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing
Introduction	20pts				
• Clear thesis statement, what the writer will be discussing in their article.		15	10	5	2.5
• Details main topics clearly.		5	4	3	2
Body of Article	50pts				
• Develops thesis statement throughout article.		10	8	7	6
• Answers each question regarding the primary source, in their own words.		10	8	7	6
• Answers are factually correct, based on the primary sources.		20	16	14	12
• Shows ability offer synthesis of historical primary source materials.		10	8	7	6
Conclusion	15pts				
• Begins with "In		5	4	3	2

conclusion” to signal wrap up of article.					
• Effective restatement of thesis argument.		10	4	3	2
Formatting	15pts				
• Title Page with Original title, name, and date		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
• 12pt Times New Roman or Cambria font used		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
“Normal” 1 inch margins used throughout paper.		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
Page numbers are included in the upper-right corner of the page		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
• Article has introduction, main body paragraphs, and conclusion.		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
• Article has been proofread, no excessive spelling or grammar errors.		2.5	2	1.75	1.5
		100pts	80pts	70pts	60pts

Appendix III: Concise Historical Content Notebooks

I. Learning Objective

Historical content notebooks are designed to build knowledge and skills related to the study of history including, but not limited to: building historical knowledge, research skills, critical thinking, test preparation, time management and writing in standard English. For students on the History 7-12 or Social Studies 7-12 teacher certification track, these notebooks serve as test preparation for the World History portion of the TExES content exam. For students on the Core EC-6 teacher certification track, these notebooks serve as test preparation for the Social Studies portion of the TExES content exam.

II. Directions

For each unit (Ancient, Classical, Late Antique, and Mediaeval/Byzantine) you will create a concise content study notebook for that historical period.

☒ For each unit you will be asked to identify the following:

- 5 Key Dates,
- 5 Historical Figures,
- 5 Main Events,
- 5 Historical States (Tribes, Kingdoms, Confederacies, Empires)
- 5 Geographical Features.

☒ After identifying these you will need to define the terms, or identify the dates, events, figures, or features **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Next, you will be required to defend each choice and explain why you chose that particular date, event, figure, or feature, and how they are important in that historical period.

☒ Finally, for each historical figure, event, and geographical feature, find a picture.

III. Format

Assignments need to be completed in Microsoft Word.

o Setting up the Document

☒ Go to the LAYOUT tab and set your orientation to Landscape

☒ Got to the INSERT tab and click on Insert Header ☒ Blank

- Type in Your Name, HIST 2301, Concise Historical Notebook, and the unit
- Double-click in the main section of the document to close the Header

☒ Got to the INSERT tab and click on Add a Table.

- Select 2x8 cells for your table and click to create the table.
- You will need to add more cells as you work on the notebook. When you have the table selected two additional tabs will appear on the control ribbon under TABLE TOOLS – Design and Layout.
- Click on Layout ☒ Insert Below to add rows to the table as needed.

o Building the Notebook

☒ In the left-hand column will go your Key Date, Term, Historical Figure, Main Events, Historical States, and Geographic Features.

- Hit *enter* and underneath write your identification or definition of the date, event, figure, or feature. Remember this **MUST** be in your own words.

☒ In the right-hand column will go your defence and explanation of why you chose that particular date, event, figure, or feature.

- Again hit *enter* and underneath explain why they are important in that

- particular historical period.
- If an event, historical figure, or geographic feature you will need to find a picture or map and insert it below

IV. Submission Instructions

- Once you have completed the notebook for the unit save the notebook in the following format [Last Name_HIST1301_Unit_Notebook]
- In Blackboard you will go to the Concise Historical Notebook assignment in the unit (Ancient, Classical, Late Antique, Mediaeval/Byzantine) and submit your notebook for grading.
- Notebooks will be submitted through SafeAssign to guard against plagiarism.

V. Due Dates

VI. Concise Historical Content Notebook Grade Sheet

Assignment Grade Topics	Distinguished	Accomplished	Proficient	Developing
Completion	10	8	7.25	6.5
Input Identification with basic definition/explanation.	25	20	17.5	15
Output Detailed Explanation/Defense	25	20	17.5	15
Illustration	10	8	7.25	6.5
Formatting – Follows all directions	5	4	3	2
	75pts	60pts	52.5pts	45pts