



# HIST 1301 033 FE – UNITED STATES HISTORY I

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am class

*"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."*

**Instructor: John Russo**

**Office:** H 124

**Phone:** 903-946-1459

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
		12:30 -2pm		12:30 - 2pm		

***This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.***

*Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

**Course Description:** 3 credit hours.

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of class each week.

A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I includes the study of the pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

**Prerequisite(s):** none

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence. (SLO1 – assessed by research paper)
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources. (SLO2 – assessed by participation activities)
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history. (SLO3 – assessed by exams)

## **Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

The instructor posts attendance, acknowledgement form, exam and paper scores on Blackboard. Students should check Blackboard regularly to make sure all their points have been posted.

**Total Semester Points: 700**

Exams at 100 points each = 200 points

Research Paper = 100 points

A --- 90-100 points

B --- 80-89 points

C --- 70-79 points

D --- 60-69 points

F --- 0-59 points

Syllabus Agreement: 20 points

Attendance: 20 points times session 15 sessions = 300 points

Course Evaluation: 80 points

**Required Instructional Materials:**

Experience History: Interpreting America's Past (Complete); 9th edition; Copyright 2019

James West Davidson, Brian DeLay, Christine Leigh Heyrman, Mark Lytle, Michael Stoff

**Publisher:** McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

**ISBN Number: 978-1-259-54180-0**

**Optional Instructional Materials:** none

**Minimum Technology Requirements:**

You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need Office 2003 or higher, and you will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. You can check your word processing program by going to Start and clicking on All Programs. You will find your Office program there. If you do not have access to a computer with the minimum computer requirements, I strongly suggest that you reconsider taking this online course.

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** Ability to use Blackboard as well as Microsoft Office. Microsoft Office programs, including Word, are provided free to all enrolled students.

**Course Structure and Overview:**

***MidTerm Exam:***

MidTerm examination will cover material covered in the first half of the course. (SLO3)

***Final Exam:***

The final exam will focus on material covered in the second half of the course, but will include some questions that are comprehensive in nature. (SLO3)

***History Research Paper:***

Students will write a paper on a topic approved the instructor related to the course. Specific details and requirements can be found in the "History Essay" link in Blackboard. (SLO1)

***Attendance and Participation:***

Read textbook chapters and participate in class discussions. (SLO2)

**Communications:** The instructor will answer emails within 24 hours. NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.

**Institutional/Course Policy:****Syllabus Acknowledgement Form:**

Students must complete the Syllabus acknowledgement form on Blackboard. It will appear in the form of a quiz and the student will receive a score in Blackboard. This instructor will use that form to verify rolls at the 12<sup>th</sup> day census for attendance. If the form has not been completed by the due date you will not be verified as having attended. *It is very important that you complete the Syllabus form.*

**Other Course Policies:**

Turn off cell phones, alarms, and other devices that unnecessarily cause distractions. Texting in class is not acceptable. If you have an emergency call, step outside the classroom to answer it so as not to be a distraction.

**Assignments:****Research Assignment:**

Each student will complete and submit a 6-7 page research paper. The paper will have one inch left/right, top/bottom margins and double spaced 12-point font. Utilize Spell and Grammar Check tools in your word processor to correct errors. Research a historic event or important person. Analyze and explain the event or person's historical significance and impact on America's political system, economy, societal institutions or cultural groups. Contact your instructor to gain approval for the research topic. **You will earn 0 credit if the instructor did not approve your topic prior to submission.**

The course textbook is a primary source. Failure to use the textbook will result in a reduction of 15 points. You must gain instructor approval to write about a topic not discussed in the course textbook. Use the course text and other books or academic databases from the NTCC Learning Commons. Do not use the internet. If you use the internet as a source, you will earn 0 credit on your paper. Quotes from book reviews and article abstracts are not valid source references. The college requires all students adherence to strict academic integrity standards. Do not plagiarize. If you plagiarize, you will earn 0 credit for your paper. Plagiarism occurs when you quote any published source without a reference in a bibliography or works cited page. Place "quotation" marks before and after any word, phrase or sentence you quote in the paper from any source(s). Write the author's last name and page number in (parentheses) immediately after the quoted words. In the bibliography or works cited page, provide the author's last name, first name or initial, middle name or initial, (if available), full book title, publisher and copyright date, in that order in MLA format. The reference page should list two or more sources. Papers without bibliographies will earn 0 credit.

Please save the following login credentials to access the Library's databases off-campus. Your login to use the Library Databases ([www.ntcc.edu/library-databases](http://www.ntcc.edu/library-databases)) if you're off campus will be the same login used to access MyEagle Portal, Blackboard, and other college systems. For example, your username is your first initial, last name, and last 3 of your social security number, i.e. jsmith123. Your password is your date of birth, listed as MMDDYYYY, i.e. 01011980 (unless you've gone into the system and changed your password). No login is required on campus.

Upload the completed paper to a link in your student Blackboard account. The link forwards the paper to: turnitin.com, which checks for plagiarism. If turnitin.com discovers any quotations that lack a bibliographical reference, you risk an F for the assignment or course. **Submit the paper no later than the due date.**

### **Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

1. Multiple absences without notification to the Admissions Office or instructor may result in an F for the course.
2. Treat the course like employment. You earn money for work. The employer deducts pay if you are absent, tardy or leave early. In this course, regular attendance is vital. You earn 20 points for attendance and lose 5 for tardiness or leaving early. Do not schedule appointments with other instructors or advisors during class time. Complete all communications and correspondences with outside contacts before or after class. If you miss a session for legitimate reasons, ask a classmate for notes or other course adjustments and updates.
3. Each student may use up to three full credit excusable absences. Alert the instructor via email on, or prior to absences for full credit. Students, who miss four or more consecutive classes, without contacting the instructor, may fail or be withdrawn from the course.
4. The course calendar lists exam dates. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to arrange an exam makeup with the instructor. **Makeup exams are essay questions and from the textbook, *not* lecture. You must attend the last session and complete the final exam - failure to do so will result in an F for the course.**
5. Please review the NTCC Student Handbook's behavioral standards online. The college promotes and maintains a professional, dignified environment for faculty and students. Please treat all in a professional manner. **Arrive punctually for each session.** Listen attentively to lectures, participate in group discussions and eliminate distractions such as talking to fellow students, texting or viewing Internet sites, on cell phones, iPads, tablets and laptops, unrelated to United States History I.
6. You committed to all course requirements at enrollment, therefore, adhere to the syllabus guidelines. Please attend the sessions, complete required forms, read the textbook chapters, complete the research paper and take all exams listed in the calendar. No extra credit work is available beyond the requirements listed in the syllabus.
7. Communicate with the instructor for HIST 1301 through: [jrusso@ntcc.edu](mailto:jrusso@ntcc.edu) for all correspondences. Check your personal Blackboard account for attendance, exam and assignment scores.
8. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course for illness, job transfer or other unforeseen reasons. If you withdraw, notify Admissions and the instructor to avoid an F for the course. Please report changes in contact information, such as residential and email addresses or phone numbers to the Admissions Office.

### **Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

### **NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:**

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

### **ADA Statement:**

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.