



# HIST 1301. 782 United States History I

Course Syllabus: Spring 2022 Hybrid

**NORTHEAST TEXAS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

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Office	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
Hours	2-5 PM	2-4:30 PM	2-5 PM	2-4:30 PM	9-11:30 AM	Email or Call for Facetime

*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.*

**Part 1: NTCC Syllabus in Expected Format p. 1.**

**Part 2: Schedule and Student Success Manual p.8.**

**Course Description:** 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 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

**Required Textbooks Online in Blackboard:**

Davidson et. al, *Experience History*. Publisher: McGraw Hill. Let me know asap if this textbook is not accessible from the Landing Page of our Blackboard site for you.

Yox, *The Promise of Student Scholarship*, (I will distribute free hard copies to each of you as well).

**Required Consultation of Sources:**

Plan to consult six books, articles, and other sources written or produced by experts (Secondary Sources). Use at least two of these extensively. Utilize at least two Primary Sources such as old photographs (on Google Images); YouTube documentaries; newspaper articles such as those available

through the online *Portal to Texas History*; interviews with older people including possibly your grandmother, or father; autobiographies or compilations of eyewitness accounts often available very cheaply for purchase online, or through <Google Books>.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence. (SLO1 – assessed by essay)
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 exam)

**Required Instructional Materials:** Davidson, et al. *Experience History: Interpreting America's Past*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition, with CONNECT

**Publisher:** McGraw-Hill

**ISBN Number:** 978-1-259-54180-3

**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.

**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.

**Use of Syllabus, Course Map, List of Key Specifics, and my “Promise of Student Scholarship” booklet in this Course:**

The first part of the **Syllabus** here contains all the standard parts of an NTCC syllabus in their correct order. This includes a statement about the grading system used in this course, and college guidelines. The second half contains a schedule, rubrics, and other information to enhance your success.

Please consult the **Course Map** for week-by-week activities, assignments, and assessments. You know you are keeping up when you are completing the weekly assignments on this document. The **Course Map** provides check marks--√--before all statements relating to course objectives, and squares--□--before each activity. I encourage you to check these blank squares off after performing the activities, so you can better “keep score” of your own commitment to class activities. Obviously, if most of the squares are going unchecked, there is a problem—perhaps with your scheduling. Also the **Course Map** will be very helpful when working on word documents on your computer. The **Course Map** supplies all the homework questions that are asked, so you will not have to toggle between questions

and answers on your screen. The instructor will provide you with a paper copy of the **Course Map**, and this too, in weekly allotments, will appear exactly as it does in the handout, on *Blackboard*.

The assigned booklet, **The Promise of Student Scholarship**, explains the rationale for the emphasis on the research paper in this course. For students facing taut schedules, pp. 15, 18, 26-39 will be most helpful in providing examples of weekly homework relating to the 1,100 word or more research paper, and in providing a look at how a superior essay is formed, and what it looks like. This booklet also concludes with a vocabulary chart that should help to clarify definitions and opportunities.

The **List of Key Specifics**, a fourth handout, is meant to help you study for the tests. It should also help to increase your fluency, combining the “terms of the course with words of your own.”

### **Important Topics and Questions:**

Unit I. 10,000 BC to 1763 AD. Chapters 1-5 in Text.

Why Look at Early American History? Does History Matter?

What were the assets and limitations of America’s first Indian societies? How might we best characterize America’s founding settlers? What explains the birth both of America’s secular society, and its powerful Protestant Evangelical culture? How did the American colonies develop apart from British expectations and become ‘Americanized’?

Part II. 1763-1824. Chapters 6-9 in Text.

What triggered the American Revolution? How did America’s Founding Fathers implement the Constitution in 1789, the longest living written Constitution in the world? Who were the Federalists and what did they bequeath to American life? What was the importance of Thomas Jefferson? How did the United States become a one-party system by 1824?

Part III. 1824-1865. Chapters 10-16 in Text.

How was the industrialization process and economic changes of the eighteenth century more far-reaching than any other economic revolution in the history of the world? How did Andrew Jackson revolutionize American politics? What religious groups became dominant in American society? How can we explain the rise of the Old South with its justification of slavery? How did the United States acquire Texas and other Western states? How and why did the United States experience a political disintegration in the 1850s? How did the North win the Civil War?

### **Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Four Major Grades contribute equally (25 percent each) to the Final Grade:

1. Class Grade. Includes online participation, and attendance.
2. Early Tests Grade. Includes Unit Tests One and Two. First half of course. Chapters 1-9.
3. Final Exam. Includes last half of course. Chapters 10-16.

4. Final Research Essay (at least 1,100 words on a topic in American History up to 1865).

Sections I and II above are determined by a compilation of Minor Grades:

- A. Section I is determined by the average of the following ten minor scores:  
Your homework scores (six grades for the six weeks of normal homework), your rough draft (one grade) and attendance (counting for three grades). Attendance is the percentage of the Thursday night experience attended. Roll will be taken twice each Thursday night, at the beginning and end.
- B. Section II is determined by the average of the first two test scores

If you do not email me at ayox@ntcc.edu about the reason for your absence before a given class begins with a test or quiz, or an assignment is due, you can lose points at a rate of one per day until assignments are made up. Missed tests can always be taken at the Testing Center at the NTCC main campus.

### **Tests/Exams:**

First Test over Unit I. *Origins: The Colonial Age*. Chapters 1-5 in Text.

Second Test over Unit II. *Revolution and Crystallization of the United States*. Chapters 6-9.

Final over Part III. *The Threat of Disunion and Civil War Realized*. Chapters 10-16 in Text.

### **Assignments:**

Part I.

Chapters 1-5 in *Experience History*

Part II.

Chapters 6-9 in *Experience History*

Part III.

Chapters 10-16 in *Experience History*

### **Other Course Requirements:**

A 1,100-word Research Paper must concern a topic in modern United States history from 10,000 BC to 1865. We will work in class, and in one-on-one mentoring sessions to help make your paper conceptually alive, and interesting. The purpose of our rough draft will be to show exactly what a student needs to do to get a high-A. Please note that in this endeavor, reflections of old stories, already in circulation, are not needed. Anyone concerned with doing something right, new, useful, and better will want to be original. The paper, at the very least, needs to be in your own words. We will work on this! Avoid large quotations, and indeed quotations of any kind unless you are willing to set a quote on a pedestal, and talk about it in words of your own at least as long as the quote itself. (Quotes are not counted as part of the needed 1,100 words). Studies have indicated that most students will not only quote and cite (which is legal) but also lift material from other sources, without using quotation marks,

implying that the lifted work is their own. This latter practice is stealing, a crime in public life known as plagiarism. In fact, handing the same paper in for two different courses is also plagiarism! To diminish current levels of plagiarism, we have Turnitin.com, a site that will provide us feedback at the time of your trial draft. Be sure you comply with this function at some point, and upload your paper to Turnitin.com. This will identify, and help you to eliminate copied elements. If you hand in a final draft for the first time on Turnitin.com, and it turns out that your paper contains copied elements that are obvious, lengthy, and placed in the body of your essay, you will receive an 'F' in the course, being charged in this case, for plagiarism. Of course, we will work together throughout the course, throughout our homework assignments submitted each week to Turnitin, and in one-on-one in special mentoring sessions to make sure this does not happen.

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

Read the course **Syllabus** for the basic requirements and grading policy of the course. Read my **Promise of Student Scholarship** booklet so you will know exactly what it takes to receive an 'A' on the research paper. Complete the activities listed in the **Course Map**, perhaps using it as a checklist. Read the textbook, and attend the lectures, taking notes—mingling the words of the course (specifics) with words of your own.

### **Other Course Policies, and Opportunities:**

Library Card: If you do not have a NTCC Student ID Card, it would be a great idea to acquire one so you could check out books from our NTCC library. However, you can now use your NTCC student portal to access the NTCC library's data bases. A student does not need to go to the NTCC campus to complete the research paper, but an access to hardbound books is always an asset.

First Draft and Final Draft: You will be asked to complete a First Draft of your research paper two weeks before the Final Draft is due. The Final Draft for the research paper is due on the day grades close, so getting the paper late will result in an incomplete for the course.

Suppose you are unhappy with the results of your First Draft. Feel free to upload more than one draft. Keep in touch with me through email at ayox@ntcc.edu or (cell) 903-291-7987 to obtain quicker feedback. One purpose of the First Draft is to get enough feedback so that you can gain a clear idea of how to earn the grade you want to achieve.

Bonnie Spencer Contest: We have an annual contest in history in May with \$100 as the first-prize for the best essay in history. See or email me if you are interested!

McGraw Hill Poster Contest: We have an annual poster contest in May. First Prize is \$400. It is competitive as all of the college's honors students have to participate. However please contact me if you are interested! There are other essay awards as well to apply for. Let me know if you are interested!

Honors Component:\* This course has an optional honors component. In these days when university admissions officers can often spot “easy classes,” an ‘H’ on your transcript furnishes proof that you have not simply taken a few obvious multiple choice tests, and can creatively go beyond normal expectations. For our course, a fifteen- rather than five-page research paper, and one on Texas History would constitute an Honors-level achievement. Obtaining an ‘A’ or ‘B’ on the paper would constitute the grade of ‘H’ that would appear on your transcripts. Such a grade could also be a step in the direction of joining NTCC’s prize-winning honors program, and submitting your work for the Caldwell prize in Texas History. Excellent students interested in being a part of the Honors Program, may have the final paper requirements waived so that they can compete in NTCC’s McGraw-Hill, end-of-the-year student poster contest.

\*Since 2010, NTCC students have won ten exclusive Jack Kent Cooke scholarships (\$120,000 for three years). Only fifty students win this award, each year, nationwide. All ten of the winners—Clara Ramirez, Stephani Calderon, Stephen Milburn, Matthew Jordan, Kayleah Cumpian, Angelica Fuentes, Jessica Velazquez, Alicia Cantrell, Brenda Godoy, and Daniel Landaverde completed major projects in history that helped win these scholarships. See me if you would like to be in our honors program, or compete in our honors poster contest at the end of the year.

**Communications:** \*Reminder: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college. I would appreciate it if I could establish an easy and confidential email connection with each student in the class, early on. Remember to use only your NTCC Outlook account for this. I will also endeavor to contact you through MS TEAMS. Feel free to establish this connection by emailing me soon at [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu).

### **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 Statement:**

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

### **Academic Ethics**

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

### **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 Katherine Belew, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services. She can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the NTCC website - Special Populations.

### **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.

### **Eagle Assist:**

At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often need support that extends beyond the classroom. "Eagle Assist" is the place to start when looking for that type of assistance. Our support system is here to help you succeed in both your academic and personal growth. [www.ntcc.edu/eagleassist](http://www.ntcc.edu/eagleassist)

### Services provided:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Classroom Accommodations
- NTCC Care Center Food Pantry
- NTCC Care Center Hygiene Closet
- NTCC Care Center Cook Nook
- Financial Literacy
- Child Care Assistance
- Emergency Aid

Can't find what you are looking for? Send us a message at [eagleassist@ntcc.edu](mailto:eagleassist@ntcc.edu)

## PART 2. SCHEDULE AND STUDENT SUCCESS HANDBOOK

### I. WHAT'S IN THIS FOR ME?

- A. hope that you will consider this course as an ongoing opportunity for citations that could benefit your résumé! Consider the three state-mandated course objectives (COs) that govern what we do in this class. Can we not also see in them remarkable opportunities to become more employable, and more convincing, as well as more helpful and interesting to others? Each of these objectives points to significant capabilities that can help us through life.
- B. Here we consider our chance to develop **four** talents in our course, based on these objectives: **conceptualization**, **expertise**, **analysis**, and **fast-fidelity recall**.
1. We notice the first objective—"create an argument." Some of us have perhaps never yet written a true, thesis-driven essay, a paper governed by an idea. This is quite OK—I am confident that each of you has maintained an argument with someone; thus you can write a thesis-driven essay! Others have perhaps written works with a **Disparate Reasoning** style. This "almost-there" approach begins correctly with a good primary question. But Disparate Reasoning in essence creates not one but several arguments, usually in the guise of providing "three good reasons" and ending there. In this class, we will hope to cover the course objective and more through **Conceptualization**. Conceptualization involves condensing an essay's argument into a concept. A concept is a one-to-three-word crystallization of your answer. It is a most terse summary to the fundamental question your essay addresses. With conceptualization, a student knows exactly where to start when explaining the central point of the essay. When we develop bridge concepts that cover the main units of your research, and link them with the governing concept, one can develop a thesis (an ongoing creative argument) with ease. We will work on developing your governing concept, relating it to the



main sub-arguments of your essay through mentoring, and a stage-by-stage approach to building your essay. All of my lectures will be conceptualized so that you will better know what we want. All of our exam questions will provide opportunities for conceptualization (See “The Promise of Student Scholarship” for help with conceptualization).

2. The second mandated state objective (CO) above involves analysis of secondary and primary sources. In line with the idea of “analysis” are many newly emerging occupations: data analyst, business analyst, systems analyst. Common to all is a willingness to acquire **expertise** in a delineated area, by amassing relevant data (a domain), posing questions, and dealing with what we note above are both **“secondary” and “primary” sources**. **An Expert both knows** what other “experts” have argued about a certain problem (**secondary sources**) and what people who experienced that problem first hand, have said, or experienced (**primary sources**). Having **expertise** in an area is a wonderful ability, because it gets you hired. Often a successful letter of application, in fact, exudes the expertise to suggest to the employer what really is needed in the position that is open. Acquiring expertise enlivens conversations, enables us to better address existential predicaments, and allows us to better help others. Our second course objective will again relate to our research essay, where the ideal is to establish your “expertise” over a given area (domain). Never underestimate what latent potential lies behind “expertise” in our modern, information age. Expertise here in NTCC history classes has been commoditized for major student scholarships and benefits. I believe one can always leverage expertise for some benefit.
3. The third basic objective of this course again involves the word, ‘**analysis**’ (above). Seeing this term used a second time in this manner by our state’s Coordinating Board for Higher Education assures us that the word has become something of a slogan. What does it mean? **Analysis involves the use of a Question and Answer (Q&A)<sup>1</sup> format to explore and interpret the data of a domain.<sup>2</sup>** You have a body of knowledge for the first test consisting of specifics, generalities, and concepts. One has to organize this in some way, toggling from one knowledge element to the other to discover their relationships. This ordering best occurs through Q&A. You ask questions like: What were the major events of this time period, covered for the first test? Who were the major personalities? How were they different from one another? Can they be organized in groups? As you answer the questions, and generate questions from your answers, you are truly analyzing and thus interpreting or exploring a specific region of knowledge.

It is at best debatable whether a multiple-choice test could involve true analysis. Here the teacher is providing you with the thought pattern. Often, students merely seek answers which could be googled in a few seconds. Other times, students seek merely to repeat thought patterns they have already heard or read. Someone else has already done the analysis. Central to the idea of performing analysis is *your ability to pose your own questions*. This is precisely where

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<sup>1</sup> By Q&A, I mean ‘question and answer’. Q&A is so important to scholarship that its abbreviation comes in very handy.

<sup>2</sup> By ‘domain’ I mean the body of available knowledge on a given subject.

arguments for superintelligence—begin. Those who believe in the boundless knowledge potential of computers must show how computers can begin to address their own questions based on emergent problems. In any case, we will aim to advance our research papers, and perform true analysis as specified in our Course Objectives (COs) by performing “ideophanies.” This word is not in a dictionary, and was coined here at NTCC. The specific meaning we will give to it in this course is: An ideophany is an analytical exercise which searches for a usable idea or concept. In our course, it will consist of the following elements: 1) a question you pose about your research. 2) ten specifics, 3) a citation, 4) at least 150 words and 5) an answer at the end in the form of a concept. Please consult “The Promise of Student Scholarship” with questions. See the examples of ideophanies on pp. 29-32 in the “Promise” booklet. Note the presence of *all five elements* in each. We will also discuss this.

4. In the pursuit of **analyzing a subject**, a student has to understand or know clearly on a more basic level the facts, or what we will call the “specifics of the course.” Specifics are factual elements that are singular, apt<sup>3</sup> and out-of-the-ordinary. In Biology 1406, a student simply has to know specifics such as **covalent bonding, glycolysis, and epistasis**.<sup>4</sup> In our course, knowing certain key specifics allows one to address all the test questions that can be addressed about the course material. In other words, our analysis, our answers and interpretations lack all value unless they are backed with specifics. To make this easier, I will provide you with “100 orbital specifics,” that is, main factual elements that we will see a lot of, though in different guises, in the text, lectures and tests.<sup>5</sup> Hopefully they will revolve around and around your consciousness—in the text, in the lectures, and on tests. You do not have to memorize the particular specifics I give you per se—you might have others that you prefer to learn and use. But every student should consider it a given that they will memorize 100 specifics. This will allow one to analyze all the basic test questions of modern American history, and expand your capacity to remember specifics outside of History 1301.

**The improvement of memory** is a fundamental goal of all education. **Memory is the muscle of education; the more you use it, the better you will be.** In this course we will consider two different types of recall: Eidetic, and Memorative. With eidetic recall, we link specifics with images. So say you have to memorize America’s first presidents in order. Picture a washing machine for George Washington, a dam for John Adams, a jar of Jiffy Peanutbutter for Jefferson, the Mad-Hatter for James Madison. Strange maybe. But the stranger is the better! You won’t forget it.

“Memorative” recall holds specifics in mind by relating them to other elements of knowledge

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<sup>3</sup> By “apt” we mean appropriate or basic to the course.

<sup>4</sup> Notice that these terms are “out of the ordinary.” By the time you take Biology 1406, you will not impress your professor by relaying the facts that plants need Carbon Dioxide, or that we break down sugars to get energy, or that water is an impressive substance. We learned these facts in sixth grade. Rather you will want to increase the specificity of your discourse, discussing factual elements like “Photo-System B,” and the “dipole nature” of water.

<sup>5</sup> I call these “orbital specifics” because they will appear often in the course, “revolving around” the text, lectures, and tests.

we already know. If you know that “conservative” implies honoring the system as it is and being skeptical of innovation, we will have a good label we might attach say to Washington, Adams and Madison, above. (Not Jefferson!) If we know that American elections occur every four years, and know the order of the Presidents, we can much more easily construct a timeline. Timelines, in turn, are great, because we can often “analyze” an event by explaining what came before it. So the more we know, the more we can relate to the object of what we are trying to memorize, and the better we will retain it.

Finally, history is a discipline with unique attributes which I hope you will enjoy. Mathematicians and Physicists appear to do the best on MCAT tests for Medical School, because they are superb analysts. But what discipline publishes the most books, even more than professors of English? History does. Why? First, because where sciences master theories, historians must master the “story.” Stories are “destiny templates.” They interest us because we are all concerned with that scientifically uncharted realm of life known as “our future.” Second, where other disciplines rely on measurable data for their analysis, historians probe what people try to conceal, and that which remains largely unmeasured and personal. People living in the present do not like to give themselves away. Historians, however, more than any other discipline, open the door to the cellar of shame. We love to get at the rumors, gossip, and secrets that people hide. And whereas contemporaries do a great job of hiding all kinds of facts and events, corpses are not so clever.

## II. Blackboard

Our class blackboard site has the browse buttons to submit our weekly homework, and to upload the early October draft, trial drafts, and the Final Draft. You can also check the grade center for your running averages. It will also have PowerPoints for each lecture, the key orbital specifics for the class, examples of quality essays, and other hopefully helpful but optional materials. Let me know at [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu) how I can get Blackboard to further serve you, or help you with this course.

## III. Expectations, Support and Feedback:

A. By the end of this course, the student will:

1. Have a conceptualized, thesis-centered research essay that will meet the first course objective (CO) above, and form a template for your written works of research at the university level, and beyond.
2. Have established an area of expertise over secondary and primary source material, meeting the second CO above.
3. Have a mastery of at least 150 specifics which will enable the student to analyze all the basic problems of American History (We will break this up; attempting to master 25

specifics for each of the three exams, as well as at least 75 others on online assignments), meeting the third CO above. I will

**B.** To support these above attainments, I your instructor will be providing:

1. Several sessions of face-to-face personalized mentoring with you.
2. Periodic e-mentoring. I would so appreciate it if you could keep all of your writings about your research paper, and all of my responses together. If you can do this we can play “portfolio tag” where we can communicate by email, back and forth, and the get the best perspective on your research paper.
3. Conceptualized Lectures to exhibit what we want with your essays.
4. Concrete suggestions, and classroom assignments/games to develop your research domain and expertise.
5. Lists of “Key Specifics” for the course. This may help with exam preparation and memorization.
6. Online Quizlet games to help test your knowledge of these course specifics.
7. Grading Rubrics, and online help-sheets available in Blackboard
8. Suggestions for ways to improve your memory through Eidetic and Memorative Recall.
9. Examples online of the kind of questions you will encounter, and how to ace tests, and assignments.
10. Online lectures, lecture notes, and lecture transcripts, as well as other information sources for our tests and assignments.

**C.** Feedback. I will aim to provide feedback on all Blackboard homework assignments within five days after completion. More measured responses can occur through emails, and the portfolio.

## **IV. Grading. Case Studies and Rubrics:**

**A.** Recall from above the way grades are determined.

Four Major Grades contribute equally (25 percent each) to the Final Grade:

- I. Participation. Includes online participation, and attendance.
- II. Early Tests Grade. Includes Unit Tests One and Two. First half of course. Just the last section of Chapter 17, pp. 453-461, and Chapters, 18-24.
- III. Final Exam. Includes last half of course. Chapters 25-32.

#### IV. Final Research Essay.

Sections I. and II. Above are determined by a compilation of Minor Grades. Section I is determined by the average of the following ten minor scores: Six of the highest Post Scores to the Discussion Board, average quiz score, online attendance (percentage present) classroom attendance (percentage present), and Rough Draft of Research Essay. Section II is determined by the average of the first two test scores

#### **Grading: How the Average of your 4 Major Grades determines your Final Grade**

<i>Final Average</i>	<i>Final Grade</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
90-100	A	Excellent
80-89	B	Good
70-79	C	Average
60-69	D	Below Average, But Passing
50-59	F	Failing

#### **B. Case Studies**

**Grading: Example A. Case of Cullen.** Cullen attends class regularly, works 10 specifics into each Discussion Board Post, 10 into the Quiz, and 20 into the two ideophanies. Cullen misses one Thursday night class, and doesn't always conceptualize or ask good questions. But Cullen still wins a 92 for the Class Grade.

Cullen scores a 70 on the first test, and a 90 on the second, for an average of 80. After having the practice of the first two exams, Cullen achieves a 95 on the Final Exam. After stepping up with better ideophanies, and more research toward the end of the course, Cullen achieves a 98 on the Final Essay.

Four grades would thus be averaged: 92, 80, 95, and 98 for a final average of 91. Cullen achieves a Final Grade of 'A'. Great Job Cullen!

#### **Grading: Example B. Case of Tyler.**

Tyler never does the posts or quizzes. Despite perfect attendance every week in our Hanson Sewell classroom, and a perfect rough draft, the class grade would be a mere 20. If we average this with 90 for the Early Tests, a 90 for the Final Essay, and 90 for the Final Exam, the average is: 72.5. Thus, without online participation, an 'A' student like Tyler has become a 'C' or average student.

#### **Grading: Example C. Case of Ricki.**

Ricki is always working behind by 12 days, but is a genius, who aces every test and assignment. Still, the

maximum grade that Ricki can obtain for the class is a B with a maximum average of 89. See Chart below.

*Chart on the Effect of Being Late on a Due Date.*

Maximum Grade for Post or Essay or Quiz	Points Lost for Lateness	Highest Score that a student ten days late for exam or assignment can achieve.
100	One point a day	90

## C. Rubrics:

### 1. Rubric for Weekly Saturday@6 Assignments:

#### A. Discussion Board Questions and Quizzes.

**Discussion Board, Worth 40 Points:** Includes at least 10 specifics in answer which also are underlined or identified in some manner (*20 points*). Addresses question with a workable answer (*10 points*). Responds to up to 2 other students, unless others have not posted yet, in which case you are the pioneer and get the 10 pts for being first (*10 points*).

#### Quiz, Worth 20 Points:

Has 10 specifics overall that are correct (15 points).

Responds in complete sentences (5 points).

**Ideophanies: Worth 40 Points, and can be recycled/revised into your research paper. Each week two are assigned. Worth 40 Points for both:**

**10 Points. Questions and Concepts.** Are the questions of each of the two ideophanies stated on top in bold? They should be. Are the questions new, interesting, comparative, difficult, original, bold, or promising of some new insight or idea? Or are the questions simply meant to initiate a stream of easily accessible facts, or details, perhaps facts covered in a previous homework assignment? Is the student making an honest effort to answer the question? Does the student summarize the essay's answer to the questions in a one-to-four-word concept at the end of each essay? Is the chosen concept very creative?

**10 Points. 300-Word Contribution.** Do the two ideophanies between them have at least 300 words? We need 1,100 words by the end of the second month.

300 words a week will give you 1,800 words by the time of the first draft. From this base, you can take the most appropriate information, and writing the draft will be a cinch.

**10 Points. 20 Specifics.** Are there at least twenty specifics in the two ideophanies each week? Are they highlighted, or underlined, or identified by the student in some way? Specifics again are details that are singular, apt, and out of the ordinary. Specifics are dates, names, and terms such as ‘John Adams’, ‘President from 1797-1800, and ‘Missouri Compromise’—not ‘school,’ ‘a long time ago,’ or a ‘woman’.

**7 Points. The Correct End Note.** Are there two citations in the correct format? I will allow other formats but will encourage the endnote. See Texas History Endnote Form below.

**3 Points. Staying With It.** Has the student opened the professor’s last response to the homework?

## 2. Rubric for In-Class Essay Tests:

**A: 90-100.** The student analyzes the past with the use of specifics that s(he) underlines, highlights, or identifies with a special color. The student addresses the questions with arguments, and maintains a point of view. At least 25 specifics are in the test. The student uses “connecting sentences” (help the student response link better with the question)<sup>6</sup> and keywords in the question, or similitudes of the same to stay connected. The student has memorized the content of specifics and concepts correctly. There are at least a good four pages in terms of quantity. Some new concepts or ideas of the student, perhaps addressing the question about the student’s research paper are in evidence.

**B: 80-89.** There is a less impressive analytical thrust. The student is using the questions as points of departure, rather than seriously answering them with arguments that are maintained. There are 20-24 specifics in the test. The student uses the details well, and errors of fact are minimal. There are at least three pages in quantity.

**C: 70-79.** There are over 15 viable specifics in the test and over two pages. There may be prominent errors, and problems with memory but these are canceled out with correct specifics. The responses are sometimes wide of the mark, and blatantly

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<sup>6</sup> Suppose I ask how nature made human settlement difficult in Texas. But you have blanked out about the natural challenges of Texas, and remember only the stuff on Indians. You need a “connecting sentence” that can align what you know with what is being asked! It could come in the form of: **“Texas was such a challenge that it took its first inhabitants time to equal what other civilizations had done.”** For example, Neolithic age in Texas did not start until 800 AD. In this case, the sentence above starting with “Texas” sets up your answer as pertinent and capable of scoring more points.

underthought.

**D: 60-69.** The student has attempted to salvage the exam. After errors are subtracted from correct specifics, there is still a sum of at least eight viable specifics.

**F: 0-59.** The student has under eight viable specifics on the entire exam.

**B Unit Values for Essay Test:**

60 points: N of specifics. Having 30 correct specifics is a perfect score.

20 points: Engages Questions

20 points: Maintains Arguments

**3. Rubric for the Research Essays**

**A. First Draft:** If the student can hand in a 1,100-word essay that concerns History 1301, with at least one primary source, and five citations (can be taken direct from ideography homework), on time, they will receive a 100.

If for whatever reason, the student fails to implement the above, it will be graded as a final essay below.

**B. Final Essay. Outcomes and Grades.**

**A: 90-105.** There is a creative argument or thesis which is supported throughout the essay. The essay is revelatory. There are signs of creative conceptualization. Specifics are as numerous as sentences. There are at least 1,100 words. The paper has a focus, and at least six, properly cited, unique endnotes with at least two primary sources and two secondary sources. The Introduction and Conclusion of the paper are winsome, and inspiring. It is obvious the author has improved the paper from the first trial draft.

The presence of a great story, with danger, and suspense could increase the score to the 100-105 range for a super-A!

**B: 80-89.** There is a main concept or motif, but it is not as surprising, or controlling as it could be. The paper has a unique, definitive or innovative focus that is maintained. The paper has over 1,100 words, and there is a specific every sentence. There are at least five citations, and the use of at least one primary source. Ultimate responses pertaining to the worth of topic and thesis are not very thought out. The author has made a few upgrades since November.

**C: 70-79.** There is over 1,000 words, and at least three endnotes. The writing



tends to be very expository, reflective of other works. There is no evidence yet of a creative argument, at least not one that shows potential of being sustained. The paper may be missing a strong basis in primary research, though it still has citations. There is no real progress since the first draft. Already this kind of essay, if it were to be printed, would have the worth of a used candy wrapper.

**D: 60-69.** There is over 800 words, and at least two endnotes. There is no evidence of a creative argument.

**F: 0-59.** The essay is over 20 percent plagiarized. The topic may not be in modern American history.

### **In Terms of Values:**

**25 Points:** Thesis Development (Creative Argument), and conceptualization.

**25 Points:** Sustains Thesis.

**20 Points:** Presence of a good story, interesting focus, and other unique, special, or vital elements.

**20 Points:** Introduction and Conclusion deal with ultimate questions, inspiring readers.

**10 Points:** Mastery of Primary and Secondary Sources

## **V. How to Succeed in History 1301**

### Brief Version

- A. Devote at least 6 hours each week to reading, watching, and the organization of your knowledge; 6 hours a week, on your research paper (more if you would like to win a \$550 poster prize in May, a Bonnie Spencer Award (\$100) or obtain an 'H' for honors credit).
- B. Decide on a general topic for your research paper you enjoy. Ask me ([ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu)) how you might relate your interest (in whatever) to modern American history. Take notes over eyewitness accounts as well as the accounts of experts about your topic. Formulate a lot of basic questions about your topic, as questions are the freeways of creative thought.<sup>7</sup> Conceptualize your answers. Name them. Write. Re-Write. Ask for help (Me! or College

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<sup>7</sup> Before 1960, the best United States roads were still highways which involved counter traffic, causing accidents and slowdowns. Freeways, after 1960, generally allowed for swifter, easier traveling. Likewise, once you have a viable question, you can focus your research in such a way as to eliminate extra work, and slowdowns of uncertainty. Dealing with your own questions and concepts is a sure way to avoid fatal collisions involving plagiarism, or truisms. Plagiarism involves using the texts of others, and is a crime. Truisms are statements that are trite or un-original. Since encyclopedias provide basic facts, truisms often waste time.

supplied tutor, or?). Edit away the bad. Keep that which supports your thesis—the answer to your question. If you can sustain a thesis for 1,100 words over your own unique subject or domain, you will receive an ‘A’.

C. Digest Course Rubrics (above), and what is needed.

D. Keep Up with the Online Sessions (Due Saturday at Six PM), and Tuesday Night Attendance.

The mark of an ‘A Student’ is keeping up with this Syllabus, and our two sessions per week. They are designed to insure you meet the course objectives, and receive the highest possible grade for your efforts. Nearly every student who falls behind receives a bad grade, or an incomplete. Nearly every student who keeps up receives a B or better.

## VI. Examples of Test Responses

### Superior, Mediocre, and Poor

*In History 1301 you will do very well on tests if you can address questions bringing in relevant specifics.*

*The response to question #1 below already has produced 19 of the 25 specifics (76/100) we hope to see on a quarterly test/exam or Final! Moreover the response addresses the question successfully. This is important because the student then gets full credit for each specific. Merely listing specifics, or stating them in some way oblivious to the question will count for 25-50 percent less. Note how the keyword, ‘strengths’ which appears in the question is repeated in the response, as well as antonyms or synonyms of ‘strengths’ such as ‘power’, ‘influence’, or ‘weaknesses’. These keywords are underlined below. This use of keywords work powerfully to keep the answer relevant to the question. This is exactly the kind of technique you will want to use in interviews, in addressing requests for information by employers, or in helping a physician to figure out what may be wrong with a member of your family.*

*Note how in the second paragraph, the student uses connecting phrases such as: “The strengths of the Europeans were evident in battle,” and “the Indians, however, had their pluses” By the use of a connecting phrase, students can better relate what they know to the question.*

*Note how each sentence aims to increase the point total with specifics that are in bold letters. It is helpful when students make specifics stand out in some way, both for you and me. Consider using colors, or underlining to accent specifics. Finally, see how a final paragraph scores 4/100 more points not with historical specifics, but with concepts that the student has made. The concepts are in italics and include new constructions such as: Corporate Overcontrol and Bystander Leaders.*

The response to question 2 shows what happens when the student uses neither keywords, nor

connecting sentences. The answer is not addressing the question, and the specifics count only half as much.

The response to question 3 is totally ineffective, and is not scoring points. It is not necessarily wrong! The problem is that there are no **specifics** from the time period under review!

*Question #1: Compare and contrast America's aboriginal inhabitants, the Indians, with Europeans? What strengths and weaknesses did each group possess?*

Answer: Indian tribes living in America before Columbus like the **Iroquois**, the **Cherokee**, and in Texas, the **Caddo**, had their *weaknesses*. They *lacked metallurgy, ocean going vessels, writing systems, and the wheel*, and thus the *influence to project themselves*. The Europeans *had all those things* plus **flintlock rifles, polyphonic music**, and the *ability to convey, dramatic, realistic images*. Indians were **animists** who believed in many animal spirits. The Europeans were by contrast **Catholics** or **Protestants**, but both believed in the **Triune God**. The Europeans had cattle, goats, and sheep which they **domesticated**. They tended to catch their diseases, and hence were immune to many types of **influenzas, smallpox, and mumps and measles** which the Indians were all susceptible to.

The *strengths* of the Europeans were evident in battle. They had steel, canons, and navies. They imported the **horse**, and for a time had the only cavalry. In a pitched battle they had the power of bullets. The Indians, however, had *their pluses*. They lived by their wits and were more attuned to nature, being animists. One Indian *strength* is that they could sometimes ambush the settlers as they did in **Prince Philip's War** in 1675.

*Question #2: How did Americans win the Revolutionary War against Britain?*

The Revolution began in 1776. The Americans lost many battles. **George Washington** was their commander. The British were led in the end by **Lord Cornwallis**. The peace treaty was signed in **Paris in 1783**. One place where Americans lost a lot of men was **Valley Forge**. George Washington had to worry about **Loyalists**, whose head was in England, whose body was in America, and whose, neck, the patriots said, needed to be stretched.

*Question #3: How did the North manage to win the Civil War?*

The North had a lot of people, and guns. The southerners had slaves and plantations. The Northerners attacked. But they did not have much luck at first. They did have a good navy. They kept on attacking. Many people were lost. There were riots at home. The President almost wasn't elected. Eventually the South ran out of food.

## VII. Exam Success Manual

Test yourself as soon as you note you have a test on the horizon! Memorizing over a long haul is much easier, more productive, and more retentive, than trying to memorize the night before.

Use my channel on Quizlet. Test yourself. Perhaps you don't gravitate to the "orbital specifics" I have provided. Choose others from the relevant section of the course—in the texts and lectures--that are more relevant or easily accessible to you. You do not have to pick the most commonly cited ones; you may gravitate to others with more relevance to your interests. This is OK! Choose 25 specifics, and make a map of them on a sheet of paper, relating them in some creative way. Or turn them into flash cards.

Specialize in five main areas for each exam. Make sure that for each area you have memorized five specifics that you can define (25 in all). Test yourself without looking at your notes. What are these five areas? What are the five specifics per area? What does each mean?

Imagine receiving a question in one of your areas above. (See my file on blackboard on past test questions). Can you respond successfully? Can you relate the question to what you have in terms of memorized specifics? Get used to writing or verbalizing connecting sentences to tie keywords in the question to the material you memorized.

Doodle images for your main specifics or concepts. Eyeball your images, and your memory will be as good as a "steel trap."

Give a lecture while you are walking somewhere or taking a shower. Lecture your dog, and note his or her attention span. Present your ideas, and include specifics.

Record yourself on your laptop,<sup>8</sup> or phone and play your recital of specifics and ideas while washing dishes. You drive in from Diana? Listen.

Note some of the techniques of good test-taking above, and why a student might strike out.

Finally, try to exhibit all you can of what you have learned in our essay tests. It is best if you can address the questions. But by all means, stay until the end, and try for the best quantity, with the densest array of specifics.

## **VIII. What if I am Performing Poorly or Falling Behind?**

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<sup>8</sup> If you have a Macbook, Garage Band has a record feature. With a laptop or pc, *Audacity* is not a bad app.

Perhaps one of the most critical areas where both students and professors fail is in the area of **early warning**. Professors want to assure students early-on that they can succeed. Students are often willing to attribute an early low test score to something like “bad luck,” or “just not getting the hang of it yet.” The truth is that with the first bad score, or missed assignment, we both need to contemplate seriously what is going wrong. This half-semester course, especially is not going to give us generous time-dividends as we approach the end of our study together. If all is not right, we need to give serious thought to: A) How can I change my schedule or approach to make this work? B) What contingency plan can I use in case the same disturbance that caused my first bad score or missed assignment, occurs again? Can you and I both be alert to this problem, if it is a problem?

At the first sign of trouble, I hope you will email me at [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu), or at least respond to an email, or phone call I send you. Together we hopefully can gravitate to a new strategy that will insure your success.

## IX. End Notes for Texas History Caldwell Awards.

### Examples:

**Artwork:** John Biggerstaff, *The Legend of the Sun* (Painting at the Learning Resource Center at Northeast Texas Community College, dated 1957).

**Book** (the first time you use it): Stanley C. Hopewell, *Jean Laffite, Gentleman Rover* (New Orleans: Hamanson, 1952), 222-224.

**For a Book (using it a second time):** Hopewell, *Jean Laffite*, 223.

**Using the Same Source as the Footnote Above:** Ibid., 52-58.

**Interview:** Interview with John Anderson, former employee of Enron in Houston. At his home in Daingerfield, Texas, 23 September 2012.

**Journal Article:** John Vlach, “The Architecture of Urban Slavery,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 35 (October 1931): 222.

**More than One Source Per Footnote?** Separate by a semi-colon (;).

**Internet Site?** “Cassiano, Jose”<sup>9</sup> *The Handbook of Texas Online*,  
<<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook etc..html>> [Accessed January 1, 2008].

## **I. Schedule:**

### ➤ **Major Dates:**

- A. Class Census** 24 January (Missing 1<sup>st</sup> class and first online work assignment, may delete you from the rolls)
- B. First Test: 3 February**, over chapters: 1-5. Unit 1.
- C. Second Test:** 17 February over chapters: 6-9. Unit 2.
- D. First Draft of Research Essay Due:** 27 February
- E. Last Day to Withdraw with W:** 1 March
- F. Final Exam:** 10 March. 6 PM over Chapters 10-16. Unit 3.
- G. Final Paper Due:** 11 March at 8AM.

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<sup>9</sup> Note first of all that the raised script for both the citation number and the endnote number (that corresponds) is what we want. Use the “insert endnote” icon on your computer and do not do it manually. Also note here that Cassiano is not the author, but the subject of this article. Authors are never put in quotations, only articles and manuscripts, and lesser works of art. Also, Cassiano’s name comes first because this occurs in the Handbook in an encyclopedic order.

## ➤ Homework and Course Calendar (Chapters in Text)

Week: Starting on Sundays	Homework: Chapters to Read and Study	<b>Thursday Evening Session 6-9 PM</b>	Homework: Chapters to Read and Study	<b>Online Session Due Sun@6 PM</b>	Unit 1
I: 16 January	<i>Syllabus, The Promise of Student Scholarship &amp; Chapters 1 &amp; 2 in Text</i>	Intro. Indians & Coloniess	Chapters 3-4	Pilgrims Colonial Life	1
II: 23 January-	Chapter 5	Enlightenment	Chapters 6-7	Revolution	1-2
III: 30 January	Study for Unit I Exam over Chapters 1-5	<b>Unit 1 Test,</b> Meeting Ben F.	8	Constitution Federalists	1-2
IV: 6 February	9	Meet Jefferson	10-12	Industrialism Religious Reviva l	2-3
V: 13 February	Study for Unit II Exam over Chapters 6-9	<b>Unit 2 Test.</b> Age of Jackson	13-14	Slavery and its Perils	2-3
VI: 20 February	15	Cracking Up Of the Union	Research	<b>Draft Due 27 February</b>	3
VII: 27 February	16	Summarizing The Course	Research	Refining your paper	3
VIII: 6 March	Study for Final	<b>Final over Unit 3</b> Chapters 10-16	Research	<b>Complete Essay by 11 March at 8 AM</b>	3