

History 2111: American History to 1865 Summer 2018 100% Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
Email: cvasconc@westga.edu or in CourseDen (no preference)
Phone: 678-839-6032

Office Hours

Virtual Office Hours: See CourseDen Announcements for Weekly Hours as they are subject to change.

Course Objectives

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. This class puts less emphasis on dates and figures and more focus on change over time, the cause and effects of those changes, and specifically why those changes took place. Topics include but are not restricted to colonization, expansion, warfare, slavery and the slave trade, emancipation, immigration, gender, industrialization, and the changing role of the United States in foreign affairs. In order to examine American History from a well-rounded point of view, much of this class will take an Atlantic perspective in order to fully understand the peoples, events, and cultures that influenced and impacted this part of America's past.

This course is a 100% online course using CourseDen and your computer as the delivery medium. You are not required to attend class face to face. All assignments, quizzes, and exams will be submitted online, and there will be no proctored exams for this course.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be expected to:

- Identity and explain the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of US history.
- Interpret primary and/or secondary sources.
- Examine topics and issues from diverse perspectives.
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Demonstrate superior oral and written communication skills.

Special Note

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

This link contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Course Readings: See the Supplemental Readings folder for all course readings. There is no specific textbook for this course. That means you don't have to buy a book! Everything you need to read, I have provided for you. You're welcome.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

COMPUTER ACCESS

It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access, preferably a home computer with broadband Internet access. This course can be completed using public computers at UWG or other public access areas. However, be aware that using public computers may create a hardship. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

You should be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor (changing font, spell check)
- using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary
- navigating the Internet

Online Help

- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

UWG|Online HelpDesk (M-F 8-5pm) Phone: 678-839-6248

Their Email: online@westga.edu

24/7 HelpDesk <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>

ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

I don't take formal attendance in this class, but there is an initial attendance verification process that is required by the university that will be performed during the first two weeks of class. Please note that students who do not actively participate in the class within the first two weeks will be withdrawn by the course at the deadline set by the university.

Here is how attendance verification works for this class:

In this class, we will have **three attendance checkpoints** during the first week of class:

- (1) An **introduction** assignment
- (2) A mandatory **student contract quiz**
- (3) Completion of all **Unit 1 activities** are also required.

Students who do not fulfill all of these requirements, which can be found in the Start Here: Syllabus and Start Items module AND in Unit 1 as outlined in CourseDen will be dropped for non-participation.

If you are unable to complete these assignments in the allotted time-frame and/or have documentation to that effect should contact me as soon as possible to avoid being dropped after the deadline. Please note UWG's policy on attendance verification as outlined in Section 204 of the UWG Faculty Handbook: "In fully online or hybrid courses each

instructor has the authority to specify in the syllabus what qualifies as attendance at the first class meeting and during the Drop/Add Period to drop students who fail to meet that requirement. Instructors may require students to attend a face-to-face meeting, to login in to the online course-delivery system by a specific date, or to take other specified steps at the beginning of the session." If you are dropped and do not have sufficient documentation as to why you were unable to complete the attendance assignments as outlined here, that decision is final and you will not be reinstated in the course.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The course will be evaluated on a 10-pt scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59-0.

Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, reading, writing, analytical and critical thinking skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. There will be no extra credit offered in this class, so don't ask. Grade calculations are as follows:

- Final Exam 35%
- Unit Quizzes 35%
- Historical Figure Project 10%
- Class Participation 20%

Final Exam: 35%

You will have **one comprehensive essay exam at the end of the semester**. Late exams or exams submitted outside of the Exam Dropbox will not be accepted. If you miss it for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. Failure to turn in that make-up exam within one week's time of it being scheduled will result in a 0. More info on this exam will be given as we get closer to the date of the exam.

Unit Quizzes 35%

Each unit's assignments will consist of one online discussion, one essay as described above, and one unit quiz. The questions for each unit quiz will cover the materials read and discussed in that unit only. Failure to take the quiz by the scheduled deadline will result in a 0 without a properly documented excuse. Each quiz will consist of 20 questions, and students will have one attempt to take the quiz over a scheduled 40 minute time period. See the Quizzes Module and the weekly announcements for more information.

Historical Figure Facebook Profile Project 10%

You will create a Facebook page for a historical figure of your choice. Please see the Facebook Historical Figures Project Module in CourseDen for more information. It will be graded according to the following rubric:

- 1 Profile Picture of your historical figure (2 points)
- Basic Information (10 points, 2 points each)
- Contact Information (5 points)
- Friends Photos (12 points, 2 points each photo):

- 6 pictures of people that are/would be friends with your figure and include captions to explain who they are and how they know each other
- 6 significant Posts in your feed highlighting important events, accomplishments, etc (36 points, 6 points each post)
- Personal Information: (25 points, 5 points each)
- 5 photos of things/events/etc in their life (10 points, 2 points each)

TOTAL 100 points

Class Participation 20%

Each unit, you will have one discussion activity based on that unit's course material. Each Online Class Discussion will be graded on a 25 point scale, and will be graded as follows:

How well discussion posts address the Learning Outcome:

- **Superior (A) 5 points:** Comments demonstrate mastery of the objective and critical understanding of the topic
- **Good (B) 4 points:** Comments demonstrate above average understanding of the objective and a good understanding of the topic
- **Acceptable (C) 3 points:** Comments demonstrate moderate understanding of the objective and an average level of thought about the topic
- **Needs Improvement (D) 2 points:** Comments show that student had only partial understanding of the objective, or student demonstrates a lack of thought or consideration of the issue
- **Failing (F) 1 point:** Shows obvious lack of effort or comprehension
- **Not submitted/Late post 0 points:** Your post was not submitted by the posting deadline or was not submitted at all.

Discussion posts' specificity/originality:

- **Superior (A) 5 points:** Comments are highly specific, well-supported and show original thought, thereby promoting additional discussion
- **Good (B) 4 points:** Comments are specific, mostly well-supported and show original thought or ideas that further the discussion
- **Acceptable (C) 3 points:** Comments are general, somewhat well-supported, and bring some new ideas into the discussion
- **Needs Improvement (D) 2 points:** Comments are vague, unsupported, and generally restate what others have already said within the discussion
- **Failing (F) 1 point:** Comments are irrelevant or off-topic
- **Not submitted/Late post 0 points:** Your post was not submitted by the posting deadline or was not submitted at all.

Discussion posts' focus:

- **Superior (A) 5 points:** Comments make vividly clear references to readings or other relevant sources
- **Good (B) 4 points:** Comments make some reference to readings or other relevant sources

- **Acceptable (C) 3 points:** Comments make vague reference to readings or other relevant sources
- **Needs Improvement (D) 2 points:** Comments make no reference to readings or other relevant sources
- **Failing (F) 1 point:** Comments make no reference to readings, and strongly suggest that reading assignments have not been completed
- **Not submitted/Late post 0 points:** Your post was not submitted by the posting deadline or was not submitted at all.

On the discussion posts' usage of language:

- **Superior (A) 5 points:** Writing is well-organized, unified, and error-free
- **Good (B) 4 points:** Writing is mostly organized and unified, with few errors
- **Acceptable (C) 3 points:** Writing is somewhat organized and unified, with some errors
- **Needs Improvement (D) 2 points:** Writing is poorly organized and unified, with many errors
- **Failing (F) 1 point:** Writing is not organized or unified; errors impair communication
- **Not submitted/Late post 0 points:** Your post was not submitted by the posting deadline or was not submitted at all.

On overall participation:

- **Superior (A) 5 points:** Weekly discussion meets deadlines, and participation demonstrates an extraordinary level of engagement. Student has gone above and beyond the posting requirements for the discussion.
- **Good (B) 4 points:** Weekly discussion meets deadlines, and participation demonstrates a high level of engagement
- **Acceptable (C) 3 points:** Postings are on time, and participation meets minimum levels required
- **Needs Improvement (D) 2 points:** At least one of your posts were late or were not submitted at all.
- **Failing (F) 1 point:** Most of your posts were late or not submitted at all.
- **Not submitted/Late post 0 points:** All of your posts were not submitted by the posting deadline or were not submitted at all.

Comments made after posting deadlines will not be counted, and comments not fulfilling comment requirements will not be counted either. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

Also as part of your class participation grade, you will also be responsible for the following:

- Student Contract Quiz: This is a graded quiz, but it is a simple social contract regarding class conduct and intellectual honesty between student and professor and the grade you receive will count towards your class participation grade. **Failure to take this quiz by 11:59PM EST, Friday, June 29 results in your removal from the course.**
- Mandatory Introduction: Please introduce yourself to the class no later than **11:59PM EST, Friday, June 29. Failure to do so results in your removal from the course.**

A Note about Submitting Assignments to CourseDen

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All submitted assignments must be submitted in MS word format. Papers should be double-spaced and be written in size 12 Times New Roman font, black text, with 1" margins. Parenthetical references of (pg) are required for all paraphrased or directly quoted information. The usage of any source outside of CourseDen is not allowed.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS LATE OR OUTSIDE COURSEDEN: Late assignments submitted after the scheduled deadline or outside of the Assignments Dropbox will not be accepted unless you have a properly documented excuse. **Late assignments submitted without proper documentation will receive a 0. Please note that this rule is written in stone.**

THE RETURN OF GRADED WORK: Assignment grades will be posted within a week of the due date. Discussion grades will be posted within one week of the date of the discussion's end.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit offered in this class.

IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

It is **your responsibility** to see that your assignments have posted to CourseDen properly. Please check to make sure that your assignment was uploaded correctly and appears in the appropriate Dropbox. If it does not appear, I cannot grade it, so please make sure that your attachments upload properly, because I will not be contacting you to resubmit them.

In the event that you are having computer/wifi difficulties, please find an alternative source. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.** You are submitting items over the Internet, and sometimes the Internet Gods get angry and withhold access. There are many things that can go wrong in the path between your computer and CourseDen. Technical problems related to computer connections or equipment cannot be used as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate online. **It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online.** Please be aware of alternate Internet connections and computers available through college computer labs, college Learning Resource Centers (libraries), the public library, and any friends, relatives, or neighbors and access them if my personal computer equipment is not working.

A Note about Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words, and outside research is prohibited. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing, which may not be taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin**, and I have a zero tolerance policy. Plagiarizers will automatically fail the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action. Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. **In short, don't do it.** See CourseDen for details on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Content Module.

Tentative Course Outline and Readings Assignments

All unit materials and assignment guidelines can be found in Courseden.

Assignment deadlines have been added to the class calendar.

Course Introduction and Overview: June 27-29

- Introductions due by 11:59PM on Friday, June 29
- Student Contract Quiz due by 11:59PM on Friday, June 29
- Please note that failure to complete both of these assignments by 11:59PM on Friday, June 29 will result in your removal from the course for non-participation.

Unit 1: June 27-July 5—The Colonial Period

- No Class Wednesday, July 4. Happy Birthday, America!
- Unit 1 Discussion is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 5
- Unit 1 Quiz is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 5
- Please note that failure to complete both of these assignments by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 5 will result in your removal from the course for non-participation.

Unit 2: July 6-12—The New Republic

- Unit 2 Discussion is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 12
- Unit 2 Quiz is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 12

Unit 2: July 13-19—Civil War and Reconstruction

- Historical Figure Facebook Profile Project is due by 11:59PM on Monday, July 16
- Unit 3 Discussion is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 19
- Unit 3 Quiz is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 19

Final Exams: July 20-23

- Final Exam due by 11:59PM on Monday, July 23
- Final Grades submitted to the Registrar no later than 12 noon on Friday, July 27