

History 2111H: American History to 1865 (Honors)  
Fall 2018 Hybrid Course     T/TH 5:30P-6:45P TLC 3205

Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos Office: TLC 3208 Phone: 678-839-6032 (email preferred) Email: <a href="mailto:cvasconc@westga.edu">cvasconc@westga.edu</a>	Office Hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ In TLC: 3P-5P Thursdays</li><li>❖ Online: M-W 10A-2P</li><li>❖ By appointment</li></ul>
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Course Objectives

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865, with a special emphasis given to the changing nature of American foodways during this period. 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. Food has played a consistent yet complicated role in the shaping of our national history, social relations, personal experiences, and culture as we know it today. Therefore, we will also spend the semester exploring how, by examining the various intersections between food and culture across the American landscape. 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 is a hybrid course.**

50% of this course will take place online using CourseDen, with your computer as the main delivery system. It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer 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).

Learning Outcomes

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

- ❖ Identify 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.

Course Readings

There are no textbook purchases for this class. All readings and materials are provided in CourseDen within their respective content units.

### Special Note:

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

<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

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 Requirements and Evaluation

### ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

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

(1) introduction assignment      (2) the student contract quiz      (3) the plagiarism quiz

Students who do not fulfill these requirements, which can be found in the in the Start Here: Syllabus and Start Items Module, will be dropped for non-participation. If you are unable to complete these assignments in the allotted time-frame and have documentation to that effect, you 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.

### 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. 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 CourseDen

## Online Help

- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me either in courseden or at [cvasconc@westga.edu](mailto:cvasconc@westga.edu)
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk: <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu> **Email:** [online@westga.edu](mailto:online@westga.edu) **Phone** (M-F: 8-5p): 678-839-6248

## 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:

- Online Class Participation 15%
- Reaction Papers 20%
- Midterm 20%
- In-Class Participation 15%
- Historical Figure Facebook Page 10%
- Final 20%

## Exams

You will have **two essay exams** over the course of the term, with these exams comprising a combined 40% of your final grade. Late exams or exams submitted outside of the Exam Assignment Dropboxes will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse. If you miss an exam for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. More info on these exams will be given as we get closer to each one.

## Reaction Papers

Students are expected to **submit a 2-3 page reaction paper at the end of each unit** in the specified Assignment Dropbox. See CourseDen for details. Late papers will not be accepted. Combined, these papers will comprise 20% of your grade.

## Historical Figures Facebook Page Project

For this project, you will **create a Facebook page about the historical figure of your choice** for a total of 10% of your overall grade. Please see the Class Projects and Assignments Module in CourseDen for more information on what is required of this project, when it is due, where it should be submitted, and how it will be graded. Late and/or emailed assignments will not be accepted without a properly documented excuse.

## Class Participation

There are a total of **8 unit discussions** based on that unit's course material, with each discussion receiving a separate grade that will be applied towards your class participation grade. Grades received for your **mandatory introduction, student contract quiz, and plagiarism quiz** will also

be counted towards your class participation grade. Each Online Unit Discussion will be graded on a 25 point scale. Late posts will not be counted towards your unit discussion grades.

As this is a hybrid class, we will also meet each Thursday in TLC 3205. You will receive a separate grade for our class meetings in TLC. I do not take attendance, so be advised that in-class participation is measured by participation in class discussion and not by your silent presence in class each week. Any class participation must stay on topic, unless it relates directly to the subject at hand. Comments to the contrary will be classified as disruptive, and you will be asked to refrain from making comments such as these in the future. If it continues, you will be asked to leave class.

See the Course Overview Module in CourseDen for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

### 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 and discussion posts 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:** Assignments and discussions will be graded in one week's time of their scheduled deadlines.

#### 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 Assignment Dropbox. **It is your responsibility to confirm that your assignments have been submitted properly to the Assignment Dropbox.**

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, equipment, or submitting an incomplete or incorrect assignment cannot be used as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate 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. **It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online.**

#### A Note about Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class and my policy is one of zero tolerance. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words. This 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 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. Every UWG student agrees upon their admission to the university to uphold the UWG Honor Code, which states: “[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member.” UWG students further agree that they will “refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.”

**In short, don’t do it.** You can find a link to the UWG Honor Code in the Course Overview Module, as well as links to pages on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Course Overview Module. Also, the mandatory plagiarism quiz will help you with this as well. Furthermore, assignment and discussion guidelines will give instructions on citation formats, but feel free to contact me with questions on how or what to cite. A good rule of thumb is “when in doubt, cite.”

#### Federal Privacy Laws and Grades

I cannot discuss grades or course progress with any student via email or over the phone. It must be in person. Furthermore, I cannot discuss grades or your progress in the course with your parents at all. If you would like to discuss any of your exam grades, your overall grade, or your progress in the course, it must be in person and I am happy to do so at any time. Just make an appointment and we’ll talk.

Other class rules:

- No Tobacco Products of any kind, eCigarettes, or vapes. Cell phones on silent or vibrate.
- If you need to leave early or will be late, shoot me an email to let me know.

## Tentative Course Outline

Please note that this schedule could change due to unforeseen circumstances.

### August 15-28: Unit 1 – Conquest and Settlement

#### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, August 16
- Thursday, August 23

#### Unit Deadlines:

- ❖ Mandatory Participation Deadline. Introduction, Student Contract Quiz, and Plagiarism Quiz due by NOON EST, Wednesday, August 22. **Failure to participate by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.**
- ❖ Unit 1 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Tuesday, August 28
- ❖ Unit 1 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Tuesday, August 28

### August 29-September 9: Unit 2 – Early American Slavery

#### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, August 30
- Thursday, September 6

#### Unit Deadlines:

- ❖ Unit 2 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, September 9
- ❖ Unit 2 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Sunday, September 9

### September 10-20: Unit 3 – The American Revolution

#### In-class Meeting Days:

- Thursday, September 13
- Thursday, September 20

#### Unit Deadlines:

- ❖ Unit 3 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, September 20
- ❖ Unit 3 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, September 20

### September 21-October 3: Unit 4 – Early American Foodways

Please note that there are no in-class meeting days for this unit.

#### Unit Deadlines:

- ❖ Unit 4 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, October 3
- ❖ Unit 4 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Wednesday, October 3

### October 4-5: Fall Break!

October 8-12: Midterms: Midterms due by 5 PM EST, Friday, October 12

**October 15-25: Unit 5 – Nationalism, Sectionalism, and Westward Expansion**

**In-class Meeting Days:**

→ Thursday, October 18

→ Thursday, October 25

**Unit Deadlines:**

❖ Unit 5 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, October 25

❖ Unit 5 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, October 25

**October 26-November 5: Unit 6 – The Slavery Question**

**In-class Meeting Days:**

→ Thursday, November 1

**Unit Deadlines:**

❖ Unit 6 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Monday, November 5

❖ Unit 6 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Monday, November 5

**November 6-17: Unit 7 – 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Foodways**

**In-class Meeting Days:**

→ Thursday, November 8

→ Thursday, November 15

**Unit Deadlines:**

❖ Unit 7 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, November 17

❖ Unit 7 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, November 17

❖ Historical Figure Facebook Page due by 11:59 PM EST, Saturday, November 17

**November 19-23: Thanksgiving Break!**

**November 26-December 7: Unit 8 – Civil War and Reconstruction**

**In-class Meeting Days:**

→ Thursday, November 29

→ Thursday, December 6

**Unit Deadlines:**

❖ Unit 8 Discussion due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, December 7

❖ Unit 8 Reaction Paper due by 11:59 PM EST, Friday, December 7

**Other Deadlines**

❖ Final Exam due by 11:59 PM EST, Tuesday, December 11

❖ Grades will be submitted to the Registrar by 12 Noon, Monday, December 17