

History 2111: American History to 1865 Spring 2020 100% Online Course

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Course Objectives

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. 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. The midterm and final exams will both be taken online, and there will be no proctored exams for this course.

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.
- ❖ Develop critical thinking skills

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 Readings: There is no specific textbook for this course. Everything you need is provided.

Accessibility

Please submit any SAR documentation to me within the first week of class, or once received if the semester is already in progress. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs as outlined in your paperwork. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need further assistance.

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Please note that students who do not actively participate in the class within the first two weeks will be withdrawn by the course at the deadline set by the university.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 computer
- using CourseDen and MS Word
- using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary

Online Help

- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me either in CourseDen or at cvasconc@westga.edu
- We have a couple discussion forums in the online classroom where you can post questions if you have them. Feel free to post them there!
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

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

Email: online@westga.edu [external]

UWG | Online HelpDesk (M-F: 8-5pm): 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. Grade calculations are as follows:

- Reaction Papers 20%
- Quizzes 50%
- Class Participation 30%

Exams

There will be no assigned midterm or final exam in this class. Yep, you read right. Since this is an accelerated semester and you have a weekly content quiz, I decided to skip the midterm and final exam. You're welcome.

Reaction Papers

You will write **three short papers of 1-2 pages in length** over the course of the semester, for a combined total of 20% of your final grade.

- **Your first two papers are creative writing exercises** that ask you to put yourself in the material and imagine what it would be like to live during this period. You can do this through a variety of ways and I've given you some suggestions on how in the paper prompts.
- **The third paper is a reflective essay due at the end of the semester** which asks you to reflect on the semester as a whole.

See the Reaction Papers Module in CourseDen for more information on what is required of each of these papers. Late papers and/or emailed papers 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, with the grading rubric posted in CourseDen. Late posts will not be counted towards your unit discussion grades. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading. Class participation is 30% of your grade.

Unit Quizzes

Each unit has a 20-question quiz based on that unit's materials, with each quiz timed to 55 minutes with a 5-minute grace period. Your quizzes count as a combined 50% of your final grade. Quizzes that exceed the time allotted or are taken after the deadline will receive a 0.

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) or (Author, pg) are required for all paraphrased or directly quoted information. The usage of any source outside of CourseDen is prohibited, and assignments containing information taken from outside sources will be graded accordingly. Essays that do not contain in text citations will also be graded accordingly.

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: Assignments and discussions will be graded within the week.

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 is not necessarily taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin.**

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. **Plagiarizers will automatically fail this course.** I will also recommend that UWG administration take action.

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 Content 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.”

Tentative Course Outline

Mandatory Participation Deadline. Please note that your Introduction, Student Contract Quiz, and Plagiarism Quiz are **due by 11:59P EST, Wednesday, January 15.**
Failure to participate by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.

Unit 1 – Colonial America

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, January 10

- ❖ Unit 1 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 1 Quiz

Unit 2 – Early American Slavery

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, January 17

- ❖ Unit 2 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 2 Quiz

Unit 3 – The American Revolution

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, January 24

- ❖ Unit 3 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 3 Quiz
- ❖ Reaction Paper 1

Unit 4 – Nationalism and Sectionalism

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, January 31

- ❖ Unit 4 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 4 Quiz

Unit 5 – Westward Expansion

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, February 7

- ❖ Unit 5 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 5 Quiz

Unit 6 – Antebellum Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, February 14

- ❖ Unit 6 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 6 Quiz
- ❖ Reaction Paper 2

Unit 7 – The 1850s

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, February 21

- ❖ Unit 7 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 7 Quiz

Unit 8 – Civil War and Reconstruction

The following unit assignments are due by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, February 28

- ❖ Unit 8 Discussion
- ❖ Unit 8 Quiz

Final Reaction Paper: The 1-2 Page Reflective Essay

- ❖ Your Final Reaction Paper is a reflective essay that asks you to consider the semester as a whole in no less than three detailed paragraphs. Please submit this paper to the Assignment Dropbox no later than 11:59 PM EST, Friday, February 28. See CourseDen for more details on what is expected for this paper.