

HIST 1400
U.S. History I – ONLINE (3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of United States History beginning with European colonization and continuing through the era of reconstruction following the Civil War. It examines some of the major economic forces, political conflicts, and social ideals that shaped the nation's development during this period. Using digital history resources, we will focus in particular on exploring the connections between past events and contemporary issues.

Upon completion of this course you will know or be able to do the following.

- Recognize the plurality of the American past before 1877.
- Investigate historical questions, analyze sources, and verify claims with evidence.
- Read perceptively, write to be read by others, and write to reflect on one's learning.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY & TEXTS

TECHNOLOGY: This course requires a high speed internet connection and a computer device capable of word processing and streaming media. The course is administrated through Blackboard university email. Hence, you must have and use Fitchburg State Blackboard and email accounts. In order to access course documents, you must be able to view PDF files.

TEXTS: There are no required textbook purchases for this course. Instead, assigned readings are all free, online digital sources, including the required textbook, [The American Yawp](#), an open access, collaboratively built textbook featuring the best, most recent historical scholarship available on American history. There is no cost associated with using the textbook. If, however, you desire a hardbound copy, the editors have partnered with Stanford University in order to provide print editions at a low cost. See the textbook for details.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

METHOD: The method of instruction in this course emphasizes active, independent learning. You are expected to read for knowledge and write with the goal of exploring ideas, including those of your classmates.

FORMAT: This course is an asynchronous ONLINE course. Synchronous meetings are optional and will also be available as a recording. All course materials, texts, and films are available in electronic format

through Blackboard. The course is not self-paced. You are responsible for knowing all deadlines and submitting assignments on time to keep up with the class.

INSTRUCTOR ROLE: My role as instructor of the course takes multiple forms: I facilitate synchronous meetings; I grade all assigned work; I use Blackboard's announcement function to comment on classwork; and I use Blackboard's assignment feedback function to provide individualized feedback (viewable by clicking on the feedback icon in My Grades). The best way to reach me is by email. If I am unable to respond promptly, I will endeavor to do so before the end of the day.

EXPECTED ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

CIVILITY: Everyone, including myself, is expected to show respect for others. In a course of this nature, that includes abiding by the rules of written English in all communication (including emails), and thoughtfully and respectfully engaging others in discussion following the rules of "[netiquette](#)."

PROFESSIONALISM: Everyone, including myself, is expected to behave in a professional manner. This means being punctual, meeting deadlines, being prepared, completing work diligently, using a polite, respectful tone for all communication, resolving issues in a mature and responsible manner, and behaving ethically.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is an important subset of professional behavior. As I'm sure you're already aware, it is unethical to cheat, or to use the words or ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement. Use appropriate citations to indicate the source of any wording of ideas not your own, including that found on the Internet, or created by another student. There will be serious consequences for your grade in this course, and possibly for your academic standing at the university, if you are found guilty of cheating or plagiarism.

SUPPORT SERVICES

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: For assistance with Blackboard, FSU email, and other technical support contact the University's [technology help](#).

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: The library provides a full range of library services to students enrolled in distance learning and extended campus programs. Information on how to access these services is available on the library DL&EC [libguide](#).

ACADEMIC SUPPORT: Students who wish to deepen their understanding of course concepts, extend their skills, and improve performance in this course are encouraged to take advantage of the University's [Academic Support](#) services, which include an on-line tutoring service.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have a documented disability that may require accommodation in this course, please communicate with me as soon as possible. Additionally, you will need to contact [Disability Services](#).

COURSEWORK

ASSIGNMENTS: Course assignments are described below. Instructions and evaluation criteria for all writing assignments are provided in the *Writing Assignments* digital workbook on Blackboard. The reflective writing assignments are described in a separate handout. There is no midterm or final exam. All assignments are graded on a 10-point scale translated into a percentage. The overall grade for each category of assignment is a straight average. You can keep track of your grades on Blackboard under “My Grades.”

- **Textbook Chapter Quizzes** You can learn a lot from course readings, but only if you do it and spend some time thinking about it. To encourage you to do so, there is an untimed multiple-choice quiz administered through Blackboard on each assigned reading. See the last page of the syllabus for additional information about the textbook and quizzes.
- **Writing Assignments** Writing assignments are designed to extend your learning about specific problems relating to course material, and to allow you to learn from each other.
- **Reflective Writing Assignments** Reflective writing assignments ask you to reflect on your learning at regular intervals throughout the course. They are designed to help you consolidate learning and become a more active, aware, and critical thinker.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES/TIMES: Provided as a separate document titled “Schedule.”

GRADE DETERMINATION

Overall course grades will be assigned according to the Fitchburg State grading scale. In calculating final grades, scores in each assignment category will be averaged and weighted as indicated. If you have any concerns about the evaluation of your work, please speak with me directly and refer to the grade appeal policy in the university catalog.

			<i>Percent of Grade</i>		
Textbook Chapter Quizzes (13 total)					40%
Writing Assignments (8 total)					40%
Reflective Writing (5 total)					20%
A	4.0	95% - 100%	C+	2.3	74% - 76%
A-	3.7	92% - 94%	C	2.0	71% - 73%
B+/A-	3.5	89% - 91%	C-	1.7	69% - 70%
B+	3.3	86% - 88%	D+/C-	1.5	67% - 68%
B	3.0	83% - 85%	D+	1.3	64% - 66%
B-	2.7	80% - 82%	D	1.0	60% - 63%
C+/B-	2.5	77% - 79%	F	0.0	0% - 59%

LATE WORK: I understand that life happens, and that you may at times be unable to meet an assignment deadline. I’m sure you can understand as well that I have my own schedule to keep and deadlines to meet, and that it is difficult to do so if I must constantly deal with assignments turned in late. Hence, I use a dual deadline system in an effort to balance individual need for flexibility against the larger need for coursework to proceed as scheduled. The course is divided into four parts. For

each part the following applies.

- “Soft” deadlines: Routine deadlines for assignments due each quarter. If you miss a soft deadline, you have until the quarter hard deadline to submit the work for full credit.
 - “Hard” deadlines: The final deadline for assignments due each quarter. If you miss the hard deadline, you will earn a 0 on the assignment. You may, however, still complete the assignment at any point before the end of the semester for *partial credit* (see next bullet point).
 - With the exception of quizzes, work submitted after its hard deadline is not graded until the end of the semester and is penalized 3 points.
 - If something truly overwhelming occurs that’s going to derail your ability to complete multiple assignments in a timely manner, please contact me immediately.
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	WRITING ASSIGNMENT (see digital workbook) post by 11:59pm CST	Addendum +24 hours	TEXTBOOK QUIZ due 11:59pm CST
F 7/9	7:00pm CST Orientation: Google Meet (optional)		
M 7/12	1. What is History?	√	
T 7/13			CH 01 The New World
W 7/14			CH 02 Colliding Cultures
R 7/15	2. Remembering Columbus	√	
F 7/16			CH 04 Colonial Society
S 7/18	Reflective Writing #1		
S 7/18	1ST QUARTER FINAL DEADLINE		
M 7/19	7:00pm CST Google Meet (optional)		
T 7/20	3. Slavery and New England	√	
W 7/21			CH 05 The American Revolution
R 7/22	4. Revolutionary Myths	√	
F 7/23			CH 06 A New Nation
M 7/26			CH 07 The Early Republic
T 7/27	Reflective Writing #2		
T 7/27	2ND QUARTER FINAL DEADLINE		
W 7/28	7:00pm CST Google Meet (optional)		
R 7/29			CH 08 The Market Revolution
F 7/30	5. Sexual Harassment in Historical Perspective	√	
M 8/2			CH 10 Religion and Reform
T 8/3	6. The Trail of Tears: A Roadtrip Through History	√	
W 8/4			CH 11 The Cotton Revolution
R 8/5	Reflective Writing #3		
R 8/5	3RD QUARTER FINAL DEADLINE		
F 8/6	7:00pm CST Google Meet (optional)		
M 8/9			CH 12 Manifest Destiny
T 8/10	7. The Origins of Illegal Immigration	√	
W 8/11			CH 13 Sectional Crisis
R 8/12			CH 14 The Civil War
F 8/13			CH 15 Reconstruction
S 8/14	8. Remembering the Civil War	√	
S 8/15	Final Reflective Writing (see handout)		
S 8/15	4TH QUARTER FINAL DEADLINE		