

## United States History 1301

Instructor: David Kramer

Web Site for Course: <http://www2.austincc.edu/dskramer/>

**Course objective:** This course will acquaint the student with United States History, from the Colonial period to the end of Reconstruction. Historical background will be included. This class will be lecture, also with questions being asked for the class to respond to.

**Course rationale:** The Texas legislature requires students to take 6 hours of American history to graduate from an institution of higher learning in Texas. This course helps fulfill that requirement. Students taking History 1301 can expect to improve their reading and writing competencies, critical thinking skills, research skills, etc., all of which help students better succeed in life outside academia.

**Course description and particular common course objectives (what student should know upon completion of the course):** See History Department web-site: <http://www.austincc.edu/history>

**Textbook:** *America: Past and Present*, Volume I (seventh edition); Divine, Breen, Fredrickson, Williams.  
***Other Readings to be discussed in class*** (see calendar).

**Course Requirements:** The textbook is to be read. In addition, the lectures will figure heavily in the exams. A geography quiz must be passed. An assigned essay is required for an "A" or "B".

**Attendance is required. Students are expected to ask questions as well as respond to questions. The "Other Readings" (see above) should be prepared and be ready for discussion on assigned dates (see calendar).**

**Grading:** There will be three tests in addition to a geography quiz. The final is not comprehensive. Each test will have a total of 100 points possible. Passing the geography quiz is needed to pass the course. An accepted assigned essay is required for a final grade of "A" or "B".

For an "A"; Total of 270 points, and accepted paper. Geography quiz passed.

For a "B"; Total of 240 points, and accepted paper. Geography quiz passed.

For a "C"; Total of 210 points. Geography quiz passed.

For a "D"; Total of 180 points. Geography quiz passed.

A score below 180 points will result in an "F" in the course, as will cheating or plagiarism. **Plagiarism** means using someone else's words or ideas without citing them (which should usually be done in a footnote). Instructor reserves the right to pass on the example of plagiarism to the dean for further disciplinary action. **ACC's policy on scholastic dishonesty** is as follows: "Acts prohibited by the College for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to, tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework."

**Incompletes** will be given only upon presentation by the student of a medical excuse certified by a physician. Please include the phone number. In addition, at least 50% of the course-work must have been completed to be granted an incomplete. All incompletes must be completed within the first four weeks of the following semester. **More than three (3) missed classes can result in the student being dropped from the course, at the discretion of the instructor.**

**Exams:** Exams should be taken at the scheduled times. Students must supply blue-books for answers. There are no re-tests. **A medical excuse proving hospital stay**, accompanied by a physician's note, will be accepted. Please include the phone number. Make-up exams **MUST** be taken before next scheduled exam. Should a test be missed for any other reason than that above, then the following rule will apply. Make-up exams automatically drop 25%, thus 75 points would be the maximum possible. **Only one test can be taken as a make-up though, even for medical reasons.** No exceptions to the rule. Tests will be a combination of short answer and essay. Once testing begins students cannot leave room.

**Classroom:** No taping of lecture allowed unless required by disability. Students are expected to show appropriate behavior. This means keeping the noise down and no talking except during questioning or discussion. Leaving class early will be counted as an absence. ***COURTESY IS NOT AN OPTION IN THIS CLASSROOM.*** Inappropriate behavior will result in being dropped from the course.

**Geography quiz:** This must be passed with a score of 80 or above. The quiz can be taken twice, and will not contribute to the over-all score. On a map, the student must be able to locate the following features;

All 50 states by name; Gulf of Mexico; Red River; Tennessee River; Great Salt Lake; **Chesapeake**

**Bay;** Washington, D.C.; Charleston, S.C.; Pittsburgh, PA; Canada; Ohio River; Columbia River; Appalachian Mountains; **Great Basin;** **Long Island;** New York City; Chicago; San Francisco; Mexico; **Cape Hatteras;** Mississippi River; Rio Grande River; Rocky Mountains; **Great Plains;** **49<sup>th</sup> degree North Latitude;** Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, Va.; Nashville, TN; Pacific Ocean; Atlantic Ocean; Missouri River; **Hudson River;** All 5 Great Lakes; Florida Keys; Boston, MA; New Orleans, LA; Denver, CO; Atlanta, GA.

**Assigned Essay:** The student will write an essay on the topic given by instructor. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and 4-5 pages in length. See the attached guide for help in the writing of the paper. Papers will be accepted or not. The student must follow the essay guide for the paper to be accepted. No cover pages or folders. **MLA style** will be used. **Papers will be stapled or they will not be accepted. No late papers will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Building Regulations:** ACC regulations prohibit smoking, eating, and drinking in the classroom. **These will be strictly enforced.**

**Students with Disabilities:** Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office of Students with Disabilities on campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.

**Privacy Policy:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects confidentiality of educational records. Grades cannot be given over the phone, through a fellow student, or by e-mail in this course.

**Freedom of Expression:** “Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many different viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.”

**Tutoring Labs:** <http://www2.austincc.edu/rvslab/ll.html> This is an excellent resource if a student needs help in writing or verbal skills. There are many links to English grammar usage sites, as well as sites which can help with topics in the study of history. Check out web resources for instructors. Also, Learning Lab policies and times can be found here.

**Testing Center:** Make-up exams are given in the testing center. Access this site to find your campus testing center; its policies, open times, and location. <http://www2.austincc.edu/testctr/>