

**Course Syllabus**  
**American History 1 – HIST 1301**  
Fall 2019 (September 16, 2019 – December 21, 2019)

***Instructor Information***

Instructor: Vu Luyen  
Telephone: 0908 333933  
E-mail: [luyenv@saigontech.edu.vn](mailto:luyenv@saigontech.edu.vn)  
Office Hours: by appointment

***Course Identification***

Location: Room 205, SaigonTech Tower  
Class Times: Thu, 7:30–11:15  
Credit Hours: 3  
Lecture Hours: 3  
Total Course Contact Hours: 48  
Type of Instruction: Lecture

***Course Description***

A survey of U.S. history from the Colonization years through Reconstruction. This course explores the period from the time of first contact between Europeans and the original inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere through the events of the Civil War. Topics will include the various cultural and biological exchanges between New and Old World civilizations, the evolution of colonial communities within North America, revolutionary ideology and the War for American Independence, industrialization and technological revolution, antebellum reform movements, and the struggle over the institution of slavery. Special emphasis will be on the American Revolution, the formation of a republic under the U.S. Constitution, westward expansion and the Civil War. When possible, the topics will include the causes and effects of each significant event. History 1301 fulfills three hours of the state-required six hours of United States History.

***Course Pre-requisites:***

Must be placed into college-level reading (or take GUST 0342 as a co-requisite) and college-level writing (or take ENGL 0310/0349 as a co-requisite).

***Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)***

1. Students will evaluate historical developments in an essay.
2. Students will read primary source documents.
3. Students will analyze historical evidence by writing an analytical essay.
4. Students will explain the importance of chronology and how earlier ideas and events shaped later events.

***Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)***

1. Explain Colonization
2. Identify the Causes and effects of the American Revolution
3. Explain the origins and impact of Slavery
4. Analyze the formation of the Republic

5. Summarize the effects of Expansion and Innovation
6. Explain Nationalism and Sectionalism
7. Discuss the Civil War
8. Evaluate the effects of Reconstruction

### ***Learning Objectives (LO) for Students***

- 1.1. Explain how contact between European arrivals and the native peoples of the Americas affected both groups.
- 1.2. Describe the English arrival in the New World.
- 1.3. Contrast patterns of settlement and expansion in the Chesapeake with those in New England.
- 1.4. Describe and explain the reasons that cultural patterns in the English colonies diverged from life in England.
  
- 2.1. Describe the change in British attitudes that occurred between the Seven Years' War and the start of the American Revolution.
- 2.2. Identify the philosophical underpinnings of the colonial revolt against Britain.
  
- 3.1. Understand the patterns of life for all peoples in the colonies, including women, slaves, and immigrants.
  
- 4.1 Explain the reasons for American success in the War for Independence.
- 4.2 Identify the new American ideological ideals and compare these with the realities of American society.
- 4.3 Describe the impact of the Constitution of 1787 on resolution of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- 4.4 Identify the diplomatic crises that the United States faced during its first decade, and the government's response to these crises.
  
- 5.1 Describe Andrew Jackson's political philosophy and how it was put into action during his administration.
- 5.2 Explain the evolution of white attitudes toward Native Americans and their impact on the Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears.
- 5.3 Describe the major innovations in transportation and communications in the 1820s and 1830s and their effect on the U.S. economy.
- 5.4 Describe the beginnings of a modern capitalist economy in the United States.
- 5.5 Describe how the industrial workforce changed between the 1820s and 1840s, including the effects on American society.
  
- 6.1 Explain how the decisions of President Polk intensified the sectional conflict.
- 6.2 Explain the issue involved in Bleeding Kansas as a reflection of the intensifying division between North and South.
  
- 7.1 Assess the advantages of the North and of the South at the beginning of the war and over the course of the war.
- 7.2 Understand the four-year timeline of the Civil War and the important battles leading to Union victory.
  
- 8.1 Identify the principal questions facing the nation at the end of the Civil War.
- 8.2 List the major achievements of Reconstruction, and suggest reasons why it also failed.

## ***Additional Learning Objectives for Students***

Students are also expected to achieve the additional skills as follows.

Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making Guidelines

## ***Required Course Text***

**The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People – 8<sup>th</sup> edition**, by Alan Brinkley, Andrew Huebner, and John Giggie. McGraw-Hill, 2016.  
ISBN-13: 978-1259287121

## ***Course Policies***

### **Attendance Policy**

Saigon Tech policy stipulates that if a student misses 12.5% of class hours of instruction, then he/she will be dropped from the course at the instructor's discretion.

### **Email and Discussion policy**

All personal questions or announcements for your instructor should be directed to him by email, or in person before/after class, or during an appointment meeting.

You need to check your school email before every class meeting for possible course updates or changes.

## ***Academic Dishonesty***

Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, is a serious academic offense. Now that SaigonTech has recently circulated an official policy on academic dishonesty, students are advised and expected to strictly observe the policy.

If you have questions about cheating and/or plagiarism, ask your instructor as soon as possible. Any instance of plagiarism will earn a **zero** for the entire task (assignment, group discussion, mid-term speech, and final speech presentation) and, in severe cases, result in an F for the course or more serious consequences. To prevent plagiarism, all students will be required to cite all sources used for their speechmaking, to quote and to paraphrase appropriately.

## ***Assignments & Exams***

### **Periodic Quizzes**

Throughout the course, each student will have to finish 8 quizzes of a total 90 multiple-choice questions on the major topics of the course. The quizzes aim at testing students'

understanding of the chronology, land, people, ideas, and events that made up the American history from the pre-colonial time to the aftermath of the Civil War.

There is normally no cancellation of quizzes. You will get a zero as a result of your failure to submit the quiz answers by the due date unless you have a reasonable excuse with proper documentation.

### **Mid-term Exam**

The mid-term exam is in the form of a medium-length essay (500-600 words). The purpose of the exam is to test students' memory and writing skills related to analyzing key peoples, events, documents, and structures that are mentioned in the first half of the course. Students are expected to effectively apply their communications and critical thinking to their writing on the assigned/selected essay questions.

The questions will be made known to the students prior to the examination date. Each student will then select one question and prepare necessary notes, rather than a complete essay, to address the question. The notes shall be used for their development of the complete essay to be written on the test sheet that will be provided by Saigon Tech.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam is, similar to the midterm exam, in the form of a medium-length essay (500-600 words). The purpose of the exam is to test students' memory and writing skills related to analyzing key peoples, events, documents, and ideas that are mentioned in the second half of the course. Students are expected to practically apply their communication and critical thinking skills to their writing on the assigned/selected essay questions.

The questions will be made known to the students prior to the examination date. Each student will then select one question and prepare necessary notes, rather than a complete essay, to address the question. The notes shall be used for their development of the complete essay to be written on the test sheet that will be provided by Saigon Tech.

### ***Grading Scheme***

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Final Score</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>

The passing grade is C.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the following:

Periodic Quizzes (90 multiple choice questions)	100 points	40 %
Midterm Exam (Essay Writing)	100 points	30 %
Final Exam (Essay Writing)	100 points	30 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>300 points</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### ***Course Schedule***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics / Assignments/ Exams</b>	<b>Notes on assignments</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sep 19</b>	<b>Syllabus explanation - Course Orientation Chapter 1 - The Collision of Cultures</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sep 26</b>	<b>Chapter 2 - Transplantation and Borderlands</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Oct 03</b>	<b>Chapter 3 - Society and Culture in Provincial America</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>Chapter 4 - The Empire in Transition Quiz 1 (chapter 1)</b>	<b>Quiz 1 due on Oct 12</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Chapter 5 - The American Revolution Quiz 2 (chapter 3)</b>	<b>Quiz 2 due on Oct 19</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Chapter 6 - The Constitution and the New Republic Quiz 3 (chapter 4)</b>	<b>Quiz 3 due on Oct 26</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Oct 31</b>	<b>Chapter 7 - The Jeffersonian Era Midterm exam</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Nov 07</b>	<b>Chapter 7 (continued) Chapter 9 - Jacksonian America Quiz 4 (chapter 6)</b>	<b>Quiz 4 due on Nov 09</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Chapter 9 (continued) Chapter 10 - America's Economic Revolution Quiz 5 (chapter 9)</b>	<b>Quiz 5 due on Nov 16</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Chapter 10 (continued) Chapter 13 - The Impending Crisis Quiz 6 (chapter 10)</b>	<b>Quiz 6 due on Nov 23</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>Chapter 13 (continued) Chapter 14 - The Civil War Quiz 7 (chapter 13)</b>	<b>Quiz 7 due on Nov 30</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Dec 05</b>	<b>Chapter 14 (continued) Chapter 15 - Reconstruction and the New South Quiz 8 (chapter 14)</b>	<b>Quiz 8 due on Dec 07</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>Chapter 15 (continued) Final Examination</b>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>Course Review</b>	

Note : To ensure the learning quality of the course, the instructor reserves the right to make necessary modification to this syllabus without prior notice.