**HIST 2610.501 – United States History To 1865**

**Fall 2025**

**Tu/Th 9:30– 10:50 am**

**FRLD 166**

**Instructor:     Diana Reinhard**

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**Home Phone – 267-825-4609 (Available 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.  No text messages please.)**

**Office Hours:**

* + **Tuesday/Thursday 10:50-11:20 am**
  + **Other times by appointment**

**Though my regular office hours will be held after each class meeting, I am always available to discuss questions, concerns, and your overall progress.  You have several options for keeping in touch with me, so please take advantage of them!**

**Course Description and Goals:**

This course offers a survey of important themes and developments in American history from the seventeenth century through 1865.  We will examine key political, economic, social, cultural, and technological changes.  Specific topics include the effects of contact and colonization; American settlement and diversity; the emergence and evolution of slavery, the causes and effects of the American Revolution; the rise of industrialization; expansion, immigration, and migration; and sectional conflicts and Civil War.

Our course will include discussions of methods of historical inquiry.  How do scholars arrive at their interpretations of the past, and how should we evaluate these interpretations?  What material may be utilized as historical evidence?  How are the questions historians ask of the past shaped by contemporary concerns?

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define key historical terms, individuals, ideas, events, and the significance of each in American history.
2. Draw direct connections between historical events and the consequential impact.
3. Critically analyze historical primary sources.
4. Apply the foundational knowledge of history to understanding present circumstances.
5. Identify the significance of why we study history.

**Required Texts:**

* ***The American Yawp, Volume I*(**[**https://www.americanyawp.com/**](https://www.americanyawp.com/)**)**
* ***Containing Multitudes, A Documentary Reader of US History To 1877 (Please make sure to purchase access to Volume I NOT Volume II.)***

*Please note that all readings should be completed before the class meeting under which they are listed on the schedule.  Many of our  in-class assignments will incorporate material from the readings, so being prepared will help you to be successful as you complete those assignments.*

**Course Assignments:**

**In-Class Exercises**  – A good portion of every class meeting will be devoted to discussion; at least once a week, we will have a chance to work in teams to scrutinize historical evidence or to discuss connections between historical events. These in-class exercises will allow you to reflect on ideas and apply skills related to different modules in the course.  I will drop the four lowest grades on these assignments when calculating your final course grade, so missing a few of these assignments will not have a detrimental impact on your final course grade.

**Short Narrative Explaining Early American History –** At the beginning of the semester, students will write a single-page essay that outlines their explanation of early American history (up to the Civil War). When does “American history” begin? What are some of the important moments in this narrative? What do you see as the overarching theme(s) in this story of early America? At the end of the semester, students will submit another single-page essay that documents how their views of the questions above may have changed over the course of the semester. Your second essay will also be accompanied by a 200-250 word explanation of how your narrative of early American history has changed over the course of the semester.

**History Signature Assignment –**You will cap off the summer session with a project that allows you to analyze multiple historical artifacts from a particular era. 

**Quizzes –** Regular Canvas quizzes will help you to review key ideas from each chapter in the *American Yawp*.   The quizzes are designed to demonstrate your understanding of important vocabulary, key events, and dynamics of cause and effect in different historical eras.  The **highest ten quiz grades**will be included when the final course grade is calculated.

**Exams**– You will take **two exams** over the course of the semester.  You will be given a study guide for each exam to help you prepare.

**Attendance and Participation –**

Our class meetings will often focus on material that goes beyond the topics covered in the *American Yawp*. We may add details not included in the textbook or explore different angles of analysis. Therefore, attending class regularly is an important element of setting yourself up to be successful in this course. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting, and students with more t

You are expected to complete assigned readings before the designated class and to participate in classroom discussions.  Lively and respectful debate is a crucial element of the learning process. Feel free to contribute both comments and questions during our meetings.  Please note that there is a heavy reading load for this course – pace yourself accordingly.

Students who miss class or arrive late are responsible for obtaining any missed information or announcements.  Please make sure to check our Canvas page regularly.  It's the best way to keep track of announcements and reminders.

**Grading:**

 In-Class Exercises                                             25%

Short Narratives (combined worth) 10%

History Signature Assignment                           10%

Quizzes (10 combined)                                      5%

Exam 1 25%

Exam 2 25%

**Grading Scale:**

A --      90-100

B --      80 - 89

C --      70 - 79

D --      60 - 69

F –       0 - 59

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk as soon as possible about the need for any modifications.  If you require specific accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Access (ODA) at [**APPLY.ODA@UNT.EDU**](mailto:apply.oda@unt.edu) or [**940-565-4323**](tel:940-565-4323).

**Class Schedule:**  Please *note that readings and due dates are subject to change.  If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me to see if changes were made.  I will also send reminders about assignments and deadlines through Canvas, so you should check your university email on a regular basis.*

**Week 1 (beginning with August 19th) – Introduction to the Course**

Definition of Primary and Secondary Sources

* How do historians work? What factors influence how is history written? How do we recover voices that have been lost from previous historical narratives?
* Power, Agency, and Resistance in History

**Week 2 (beginning with August 26th)  –   Indigenous America**

**Read: *American Yawp,*Chapter 1**

**Week 3 (beginning with September 2nd)  –   Colliding Cultures**

**Read: *American Yawp,*Chapter 2**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 2**

**Week 4 (beginning with September 9th)  – British North America**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 3**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 3**

**Week 5 (beginning with September 16th)  – Colonial Society**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 4**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 4**

**Week 6 (beginning with September 23rd) – The American Revolution**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 5**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 5**

**Week 7 (beginning with September 30th) – A New Nation**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 6**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 6**

**\*\*\* Exam 1 will be given during this week \*\*\***

**Week 8** **(beginning with October 7th)  — The Early Republic**

**Read: *American Yawp,*Chapter 7**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 7**

**Week  9 (beginning with October 14th)  – The Market Revolution**

**Read: *American Yawp,*Chapter 8**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 8**

**Week 10 (beginning with October 21st) – Democracy in America**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 9**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 9**

**Week 11 (beginning with October 28th) – Religion and Reform**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 10**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 10**

**Week 12 (beginning with November 4th) – The Cotton Revolution**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 11**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 11**

**Week 13 (beginning with November 11th) – Manifest Destiny**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 12**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 12**

**Week 14 (beginning with November 18th) – The Sectional Crisis**

**Read:  *American Yawp,*Chapter 13**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 13**

**Week 15 – Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 16 (beginning with December 2nd) –  The Civil War**

**Read:   *American Yawp,*Chapter 14**

***Containing Multitudes,*Chapter 14**

**Please note that our last official day of class is Thursday, December 4th,**

           \*\*\* **Exam 2 will be given during finals week \*\*\***