

US History 1301: UNITED STATES HISTORY to 1877  
Spring 2010  
**Blinn College – Bryan Campus**

**Instructor:** Chris Thomas

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Instructor Website: <http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/socialscience/Hist/cthomas/>

Textbook Website: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/america7/>

Office: A216 Office  
Phone: 209-7578

Office Hours: MW 12-1pm, OBA

**Course Description:**

History 1301 is a survey of United States History from the pre-Columbian Era to 1877. The course covers the social, cultural, political, and economic developments.

**Prerequisites:**

See Blinn Catalog for course prerequisites

**Core Curriculum Course:**

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Blinn College Core Curriculum web site is:

[www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm](http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm)

After completing HIST 1301, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- Describe the periods of discovery and colonization.
- Summarize the causes and results of the revolution.
- Explain the creation of the nation between 1787 and 1861.
- Examine the social, economic and political issues that led to the Civil War and the consequences of the war.
- Discuss the period of Reconstruction and its results.

**Required Texts:**

-George Brown Tindall & David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History, Vol. I*

-Ron Wright, Larry Watson and Blanche Brick, *Readings in United States History, Vol. I*

-Randolph Campbell, *Sam Houston*

**ADA Statement:**

Reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities will be made. Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

**Civility Statement:**

Members of the Blinn Community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

**Attendance:**

Blinn requires students to regularly attend class and instructors will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

**Other Policies:**

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Food and drinks in the classroom are NOT permitted. Appropriate dress is required. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off.

**Supplies:** Five 100-question scantrons

**Exams:**

All exams, including the final, will be multiple choice. Exams will cover lecture material as well as the assigned texts. Make-up exams will only be given in case of a valid absence and with permission of the instructor. Make-up exams will not be the same format/questions as the regular exam.

**Papers:**

Students must submit 3 TYPED papers over the assigned readings (250-500 words in 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, double spaced). Points will be deducted for incorrect format as well as for not being stapled. Papers should ANSWER the question posed by the assignment, SUMMARIZE the MAIN POINTS of the readings and give the student's REACTION to it. Papers will be due on respective due dates (as listed on the schedule below). See my website for grammar help. Use the following format:

Intro: 1 paragraph - introduce the topic, state the thesis (the answer to the question)  
Body: 1-2 paragraphs - summarizing the main points that support the thesis  
Conclusion: 1 paragraph - reactions, opinions, thoughts, arguments, etc.

**Extra Credit:**

Students may choose one or two films (if two, they must be about the same era, same issue, same historical figures, etc.) from the provided list, view them and write a 2-3 pg. paper (12pt. Times New Roman, 1-inch margins) analyzing how that particular historical event or time period is

portrayed in the film(s). DO NOT JUST GIVE ME A FILM SUMMARY. Questions to help guide your paper are found beneath the movie list. If you would like to do a film that is not on the list you must get my permission first. Papers are worth up to 20 pts extra credit. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED IN ALL PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS MAY TURN IN EXTRA CREDIT.

**COURSE SCHEDULE: \*Subject to change as needed\***

Week 1 - M: MLK Day  
W: Intro & Pre-test

Week 2 - M: The New World (Chap 1)  
W: England's Colonies (Chap 2)

Week 3 – M: Colonial America (Chap 3)  
W: The Imperial Perspective (Chap 4) **\*Morgan Paper Due\***

Week 4 – M: Documentary & Quiz  
W: **Exam 1 (Text: Chapters 1 – 4)**

Week 5 – M: From Colony to Independence (Chap 5)  
W: The American Revolution (Chap 6)

Week 6 – M: Shaping a Federal Union (Chap 7)  
W: The Federalist Era (Chap 8)

Week 7 – M: The Early Republic (Chap 9)  
W: contd. **\*Olsen Paper Due\***

Week 8 – M: Documentary & Quiz  
W: **Exam 2 (Text: Chapters 5 – 9, Houston: 1-4)**

Week 9 – Spring Break

Week 10 – M: Nationalism & Sectionalism (Chap 10)  
W: The Jacksonian Era (Chap 11)

Week 11 – M: The Dynamics of Growth (Chap 12)  
W: An American Renaissance (Chap 13)

Week 12 – M: Documentary & Quiz  
W: **Exam 3 (Text: Chapters 10 – 13, Houston: 5-7)**

Week 13 – M: Manifest Destiny (Chap 14)  
W: The Old South (Chap 15)

Week 14 – M: The Crisis of Union (Chap 16)  
W: contd.

Week 15 – M: The Civil War (Chap 17)  
W: contd.

**\*McPherson Paper Due\***

Week 16 – M: Reconstruction (Chap 18)  
W: Review

**\*Extra Credit Due\***

**Final, Cumulative (Text: Chaps. 1 – 18, Houston: 8-10)**

<u>Class Start Time</u>	<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Exam Time</u>	<u>Exam Room</u>
11:00	Mon., May 10th	10:15-12:15	CPC 105
1:25	Mon., May 10th	12:45-2:45	A 125
2:50	Weds. May 12th	3:15-5:15	A 276

**Grades:**

Exam 1	50 pts.	306 – 340 pts. = A
Exam 2	65 pts.	272 – 305 pts. = B
Exam 3	65 pts.	238 – 271 pts. = C
Final	85 pts.	204 – 237 pts. = D
Papers (3)	60 pts.	000 – 203 pts. = F
<u>Quizzes(3)</u>	<u>15 pts.</u>	
	340 pts.	

**Last Day to Drop with a “W” is April 16th**