



Eastfield College

DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Eastfield College
Social Science, Human Services and Business Division
Winter 2012 History 1301 – Online (3 Credit Hours)
Sections 4423, 4425, 4426, 9039, 9004, 9024
Begins December 16, 2011 – Ends January 6, 2012

Instructor: Jerry C. Henson, Ph.D.

Contact Information:

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Hours Available: see “How to Contact Me” on course web site

Course Description (from Eastfield Catalog):

HIST 1301 History of the United States (3)

This is a Texas Common Course Number.

Prerequisite: One of the following must be met: (1) Developmental Reading 0093 AND Developmental Writing 0093; (2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or (3) have met Texas Success Initiative (TSI) in Reading and Writing standards AND DCCCD Writing score prerequisite requirement.

Course Description: The history of the United States is presented, beginning with the European background and first discoveries. The pattern of exploration, settlement, and development of institutions is followed throughout the colonial period and the early national experience to 1877. (3 Lec.)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 5401025125

Textbook:

Davidson, et al., *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Vol. I, 2nd edition.

ISBN: 978-0-07-338566-2

The publisher furnishes a free (with new book) online study resource named “Connect History.”

Access to “Connect History” can be purchased for \$10 if you buy a used book. More information will be on the class web site.

Class Web Site:

You will be required to use the class web site which is on what we call **eCampus**. It uses the Blackboard platform which you may already know. Since this is an online course, the web site is obviously very important. You may access the site at <http://ecampus.dcccd.edu> or by clicking on the eCampus link from the DCCCD or Eastfield College home page. If you don't have regular access to a good computer with high-speed service, the student computer lab is located in L-108 and there are several computers in the library. You can also find computers at public libraries.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the chronology of major events and trends in U. S. history to 1877.
2. Demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate historical sources, distinguishing between primary and secondary sources.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the causes of various conflicts (such as wars, social movements, political movements, and economic conflicts) and the effects of their outcomes during the course of U.S. history to 1877.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the origins and foundations of American democracy, including the founding documents and the democratic values of freedom, equality, and justice.
5. Demonstrate the importance of expansionism, manifest destiny, and western settlement during the course of U.S. history to 1877.
6. Demonstrate writing skills by successfully producing a written exercise.

Evaluation Procedures:

The course is exclusively online and self-paced. You will take a 10 question multiple-choice test over each chapter of the text at a time of your choosing. Remember, however, that this is about a chapter a week. Procrastination is your worst enemy. Prior to taking the test, in addition to the available online study aids, you can discuss the material with fellow students on "Discussion Board" aka "Sign In & Blog." I will be happy to participate in these discussions as appropriate.

Practice Tests. Unlike the fall semester course, I am reinstituting practice tests with questions very similar to the actual test questions. If you take a practice test enough times (each try will have different questions from a pool) you will cover just about every topic that will be on the real test. I am still offering the "Learn Smart" exercises as extra credit options, but they deal with the material at a higher

intellectual level and are not as helpful in preparing for the chapter tests as I had hoped. They will, however, help you better understand the history.

By the end of the course you will submit a 1-2 page paper in which you answer a few questions about a short historical document you read. The specific due date will be on the course web site. You can choose from several documents posted on eCampus. More information about the paper is found on the course web site on eCampus.

You are asked to complete a brief “Student Survey of Instruction” during the latter part of the course. This is your opportunity to evaluate the course. (I don’t see the results until well after final grades are turned in.) Click on “Student Survey” on the Main Menu on the first page of the course web site.

Requirements

The course is self-paced, so you may organize your time as you see fit with two exceptions: 1) you must take each chapter test in sequence, and 2) all work must be completed by the date listed in “Important Dates” on the website. If while taking a test, you lose the connection and are “kicked off,” email or call me immediately. I will have to reset the test before you can continue. Meanwhile you can continue to the next test in the event my response takes a few hours. I don’t work 24 hours per day, but I will make every effort to be prompt.

You will complete 17 chapter tests, write one paper and, if you choose, some or all of the extra credit *LearnSmart* study exercises. Instructions for all these will be on eCampus.

Grading

17 chapter tests of 10 questions each @ 50 pts. per test	850 points
One paper of 1-2 pages	150 points
Total possible points	1000 + Extra credit*

A = 900-1000 pts.
B = 800-899 pts.
C = 700-799 pts.
D = 600-699 pts.
F = 0-599 pts.

*there is a *LearnSmart* exercise for each chapter worth 3 points of extra credit per chapter for a possible total of 51 points.

You can always see your grades on the web site by clicking on “Tools,” then “My Grades.”