**AMH 2010: American History to 1877**

Professor Charles Cox Fall 2023

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Email: ccox1@uwf.edu

**Class Location:** Online

**Course Description:** Survey of the United States' history beginning with Native American cultures on the eve of colonization through the end of Reconstruction. Examines political, economic, and social developments. Meets General Education requirements in Social Sciences.

The course surveys key themes in the history of the United States from pre-contact/colonization to the end of Reconstruction in 1877, as well as the methods and materials historians use. From the founding of Jamestown to the end of Reconstruction, the United States has transformed in many ways. We will focus on these transformations by examining people and movements who have helped form America into the country it is now. We will meet a diverse set of characters. We will read what they wrote, see what they saw, and try to grapple with a couple of fundamental questions: Who are they? How did we get here? What does it mean to be American?

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Recognize history as an interpretative account of the human past is created in the present from surviving evidence.
* Build historical knowledge about American History prior to 1877.
* Evaluate historians’ arguments explaining how they were constructed and might be improved.
* Evaluate and analyze primary sources
* Discuss and practice the basic methods and traditions of research and analysis in History.
* Gen Ed SLOs for the course include Solve problems using social science methods (critical thinking) and Reason ethically in an appropriate disciplinary context (integrity and values).

**Course Topics:** evolution of the United States, race, slavery, religion, politics, war, class, gender

**Civic Literacy Learning Outcomes**

* Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
* An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
* Knowledge of government documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government.
* An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

US History to 1877 is designated as a General Education course. The General Education curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting the requirement in the Social Science. The major General Education learning outcomes for this course are **Critical Thinking** and **Integrity/Values**. Students will learn and practice Critical Thinking through Primary Source Document analysis and Integrity/Values through the Exams and Book Quizzes, which will be used to assess the General Education curriculum.

If you are interested in a major inhistory**(which you should be because History Majors Get Jobs!!)** you should contact the Department ofHistory at (850) 474-2680 or set up a meeting with me. If you are undecided about your major, you should contact your academic advisor or Career Services at 850-474-2254.

**Required Texts:**

* *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook*. This is a FREE online textbook. Here is the link: <https://www.americanyawp.com>
* Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England.* New York: Hill and Wang, 1983.
* Johnson, Walter. *Soul by Soul: Life in an Antebellum Slave Market*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

\*\*\*The textbook(s) for this course are available for on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the John C. Pace Library for a 2-hour loan period (books must stay in the Library). Please take advantage of this resource, but keep in mind that copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be in use by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan your textbook use accordingly.\*\*\*

**Grading:**

* Book synopsis/reports are worth 15% each for a total of 30%
  + These will be based on the two other required readings for the class. Each student will read the book and write a book synopsis/report on each of the books. These are relatively short books, but I would recommend reading some each week to stay ahead. More instructions will come about the writing of book synopsis/reports as we get closer to the assignment.
* Weekly discussion posts/Primary Source Analysis - 30%
  + Every week each student will respond to one of several discussion points from the reading. The student will be responsible for writing a 300-word response on the point and reply to another student’s post with a minimum of 150 words. Some weeks students will have a primary source to respond to instead of discussion points. In those weeks, students will still be responsible for a 300-word response but will not have to respond to another student. On the weeks that students have a test due, they will not have a discussion post but will still be responsible for reading that week’s chapter in the textbook.
* Tests- 40%
  + After every five weeks, the students will take a test combined with multiple-choice and essay questions. There will be a total of three tests throughout the semester. Each student will have one hour to complete the test unless granted accommodations by the university to have extended time.
* Extra Credit
  + Throughout the semester, I will post extra credit opportunities, so be on the lookout for those!
* Grading Scale

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Range** |  | **Letter Grade** | **Range** |
| A | 94% to 100% |  | C+ | 77% to 79.9% |
| A- | 90% to 93.9% |  | C | 74% to 76.9% |
| B+ | 87% to 89.9% |  | C- | 70% to 73.9% |
| B | 84% to 86.9% |  | D | 61% to 69.9% |
| B- | 80% to 83.9% |  | F | 0% to 60.9% |

* **Class Policies:**

Attendance: This is a General Education course for which regular attendance and participation is required. Because this is an entirely online/virtual course, attendance and participation are flexible. You will be able to complete assignments and exams within fairly large time frames. Because of this, participation in ALL discussions are crucial to your grade. You will also need to read all posted material and your textbook and keep track of due dates on the syllabus and in the course modules/calendar carefully so as not to fall behind in the course. Note, you will **Not** be able to submit discussions or other homework assignments late unless the absence is excused. I will accept late papers, but with a penalty. Here is a link to the UWF attendance policy. <https://catalog.uwf.edu/undergraduate/classattendance/>

Information for students who receive financial aid: To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. I will confirm your attendance once you have participated in the assignments located in the Module 1. A student may review confirmed attendance status by using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF. A student who stops attending class for any reason will not automatically be withdrawn and will still be responsible for any missed work. A student who stops attending/participating in class may be awarded a grade of NF. This grade may affect financial aid eligibility or require repayment of funds awarded.

Classroom Decorum: Because this course deals with sensitive material, including religion, race, and sexuality, you need to be very careful and courteous with your posts. Be considerate of others feelings and perspectives and try to remain objective and respectful at all times. Also try, though it may be difficult to not to take other’s opinions personally. We must respect and understand all reasonable thoughts, beliefs, and viewpoints. However, any foul language will not be tolerated. Nor will hurtful statements or harassment. Any posts deemed as such will mean a 0 for that student’s participation grade and possibly removal from the course.

**Academic Conduct and Plagiarism Statement:**

The [**Student Code of Conduct**](http://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/student-affairs/dean-of-students/osrr/documents/2013-03-19-UWF-REG-3.010-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf) (PDF) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida.  Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct.  It is the student’s responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations.  The [**Academic Misconduct Policy**](http://uwf.edu/academic/policies/misconduct/misconduct.cfm) (2009) defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy. Essays will be submitted to Turnitin to ensure author authenticity and academic integrity. For information on the application see the UWF Turnitin website: <http://uwf.edu/offices/cutla/services-for/turnitin/>.

**Student Accessibility Resource Center Statement:**

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, [www.uwf.edu/sar](http://www.uwf.edu/sar), e-mail [sar@uwf.edu](mailto:sar@uwf.edu) or call 850.474.2387.

**Career Development & Community Engagement:**Career Development & Community Engagement (CDCE) is a free, on-campus resource designed to equip UWF students and alumni with the tools necessary for professional success. CDCE is located in Building 19 and offers resume reviews, assistance with your job or internship search, interviewing tips, and many other strategies to become career ready. For more information, check out Handshake ([uwf.joinhandshake.com](http://uwf.joinhandshake.com/)), visit [uwf.edu/career](http://uwf.edu/career) or call 850-474-2254.

**Veterans Services Statement:**

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ® education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>.

**Mental Health Support**

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive, and flourish; you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources here on campus. If you experience a health concern, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172. If you experience a mental health or substance use concern, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420. Crisis counseling is available to all students 24/7 by calling 850-474-2420 and pressing option 6.

All students are encouraged to utilize [Therapy Assistance Online (TAO)](file:///C:\Users\srandall\Downloads\uwf.edu\tao) to strengthen skills to cope with anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. TAO is an interactive web-based self-help program that is available 24/7, and access is anonymous.

**Assistance Reporting Discrimination or Harassment**

The University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University’s non-discrimination and harassment policies.  Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited.  If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone.  Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University the faculty are required to notify the University’s Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you.  If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF’s Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420.  This service is free for students.  Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to [UWF’s Equity and Diversity office](https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/equity-and-diversity/) for additional resources.

**TurnItIn**

UWF maintains a university license agreement for an online text-matching service called Turnitin. At my discretion, I may use the Turnitin service to evaluate the originality of student papers. I may employ other services and techniques to evaluate your work for evidence of appropriate authorship practices as needed.

**Writing Lab**

[The Writing Lab](https://uwf.edu/cassh/support-resources/the-uwf-writing-lab/) can help with the projects in this course. Graduate and undergraduate Writing Lab assistants are available to review the mechanics of writing with you and help you upgrade the quality of your papers before you submit assignments.

Note: It may take up to 48 hours or more to receive your work back from the Writing Lab. **It is your responsibility to turn your assignment in on time. Take this into consideration when utilizing the Writing Lab.**

**Ask-a-Librarian - GREAT for ONLINE Students**

UWF Library staff are available for help through our [Ask-a-Librarian Live Chat](https://uwf.edu/library/research_help/ask-a-librarian/) monitored from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. You can also email a librarian using the left-hand navigation in Canvas under Help or Library Tools, or text a librarian at 850-483-0225.

**Other Student Support Links and Resources**

It can sometimes feel like it’s harder to access academic resources since you’re not always on campus, but that doesn’t have to be the case. Learn about other student support resources that may not be listed here by visiting the [UWF Online Student Support Links and Resources](https://confluence.uwf.edu/x/uIN9Ag) page.

**Emergency Information and Course Continuity Statement:**

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the campus might be closed and classes cancelled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM.

**Weather Emergency Information**

* WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the University. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.
* In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes, and the closing of the University.  
  Emergency plans for the University of West Florida related to inclement weather are available on the following UWF web pages:  
  [**Hurricane preparedness**](http://uwf.edu/offices/environmental-health-safety/weather-resources/hurricane-and-tropical-storm-preparedness/)  
  [**Other emergency procedures**](http://uwf.edu/offices/environmental-health-safety/emergency-plans-procedures/emergency-operations-and-procedures/)

**Tentative Schedule**

**Week 1, August 21-27:** Read chapter 1 in the Yawp, Indigenous America. Complete Discussion Post 1.

**Week 2, August 28-September 3:** Read chapter 2 in the Yawp, Colliding Cultures. Complete Discussion Post 2.

**Week 3, September 4-10:** Read chapter 3 in the Yawp, British North America. Complete Discussion Post 3.

**Week 4, September 11-17:** Read chapter 4 in the Yawp, Colonial Society. Complete the first Book Synopsis on William Cronon, *Changes in the Land*.

**Week 5 (First test week) September 18-24:** Read chapter 5 in Yawp **(early in the week or the previous week to be prepared for the exam!!!)** The American Revolution. Test One will open on Monday, and you will have until Sunday to complete it.

**Week 6, September 25-October 1:** Read chapter 6 in the Yawp, A New Nation. Complete Discussion Post 4.

**Week 7, October 2-8:** Read chapter 7 in the Yawp, The Early Republic. Complete Discussion Post 5.

**Week 8, October 9-15:** Read chapter 8 in the Yawp, The Market Revolution. Complete Discussion Post 6.

**Week 9, October 16-22:** Read chapter 9 in the Yawp, Democracy in America. Complete Discussion Post 7.

**Week 10, October 23-29:** Read chapter 10 in the Yawp, **early in the week or the previous week to be prepared for the exam!!!)**. Religion and Reform. Test Two will open on Monday, and you will have until Sunday to complete it.

**Week 11, October 29-November 5:** Read chapter 11 in the Yawp**,** The Cotton Revolution. Complete the second Book Synopsis on Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul*.

**Week 12, November 6-12:** Read chapter 12 in the Yawp, Manifest Destiny. Complete Discussion Post 8.

**Week 13, November 13-19:** Read chapter 13 in the Yawp, The Sectional Crisis. Complete Discussion Post 9.

**Week 14, November 20-26: (Thanksgiving)** Read chapter 14 in the Yawp, The Civil War. No Discussion Post this week

**Week 15, November 27-December 3:** Read chapter 15 in the Yawp, Reconstruction. Complete Discussion Post 11.

**Week 16, (Third test week) December 4-10:** Read chapter 30 in the Yawp, The Recent Past.