

Clarendon College

Liberal Arts Division

History Department

U.S. History 1301.103

Fall 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Introduction

The United States of America is a nation with a rich history and a grand vision: government of the people, by the people, for the people. The nation's struggle to achieve this vision is a dramatic story stretching over hundreds of years.

This course is an introductory history course that will present American history thematically, emphasizing general patterns and trends that continue in the present and may influence future judgments. The course will be broken into a large-scale timeline: Ancient America, Discovery and Conquest, The Search for Democracy, Diversity and Discrimination, America at War, and The Determination for Equality.

This course begins on Monday, August 25 and goes through December 10. It is a F2F course that meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 AM. The last day to drop with a "W" is Thursday, November 13.

This course uses the Student Portal (not LMS). All necessary documents and grades are provided on the portal.

Instructor

Dr. Ken McIntosh (Call me Dr. Mac).

Office is Admin. 108

Office Hours: M,T,W,Th,F 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Email: ken.mcintosh@clarendoncollege.edu Emails will be replied to within 24 hours during weekdays (not weekends). Any email sent after noon on Friday may not be answered until the following Monday.

Textbook and other study material

The textbook for this course is *U.S. History* by P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, et al. Published by Open Stax. ISBN-13: 978-1-938168-36-9. Updated January 2025.

The textbook is free: <https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>. Links to assigned readings are in the document section of the Student Portal. You can also download a copy for yourself, or you can purchase an inexpensive hardcopy from Amazon. Instructions for acquiring the book for yourself are on the Open Stax website. The instructor has also purchased a copy that is kept in the library for student use.

All are provided on the Student Portal.

Statement of Purpose

This course satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, as well as the requirements for associate degrees awarded by Clarendon College.

Methods of Instruction

This course will utilize a research paper, reflective discussions, quizzes and exams. Communication is essential for the exchange of ideas and a greater understanding of the course content. Questions are welcome. Lectures, feedback, videos, selected textbook readings, primary sources, writing assignments, and assessment tests will all be part of the instructional process.

Core Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all U.S. History courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** (CT): creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** (COM): effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **Personal Responsibility** (PR): connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility** (SR): intercultural competence, civic responsibility, and effective engagement in regional, national, and global issues.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

Demonstrate knowledge about a major pattern of U.S. History through a research paper on Schlesinger's Cycles of History.

(CT, COM, SR)

Analyze and reflect on the significance of selected primary sources

(CT, COM, PR)

Demonstrate knowledge U.S. history via assessments

(COM)

Demonstrate communication skills through class questions, discussions, research paper and emails

(COM, PR)

Course Expectations

The course grade will be based on ten weekly quizzes on Wednesdays, three exams, ten weekly discussions due on Fridays, and a research paper that will focus on a major historical pattern called Cycles of History.

This is a Face-to-Face course (F2F). You are expected to attend class. Attendance will be taken at each class period and reported to the college.

HINT: I have taught for thirty-six years, and I can tell you with 100% certainty that students who cut class frequently do not do well in my courses. I do not penalized students for missing class; however, I value attendance so much that I operate with a "benefit of the doubt" rule. If you are within a couple of percentage points of a better grade, and you have four or less unexcused absences, I will bump you up to the better grade. However, should you have five or more unexcused absences, you will receive the grade you earned. All absences are unexcused unless I receive an email from either a coach or the Academic Dean that explains the reason for your absence.

Switching from F2F to Online

There is no switching after the semester begins. Students enrolled in a F2F course must remain in the course through the end of the semester unless the student decides to drop the course. There will be no transition from a F2F class to a similar online course. Extenuating circumstances can override this policy. If a possible transition exists, it will only be allowed if the Vice President of Academic Affairs, in consultation with the Division Chair, the Athletic Director, and the instructor, approves the change. If you want to make this switch it is best to do it by Friday, August 29.

Grievance Appeals

Disputes concerning grades or class policies should be handled this way:

1. Contact the instructor to discuss the issue.
2. Unresolved issues are then appealed as described by the College Student Handbook or the College Policy Manual.

Assessments

Quizzes: Weekly quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on Wednesdays. These are intended to be a simple check that you are keeping up with the course. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Ten quizzes will be figured into final grade. All quizzes after the 10th quiz will be extra credit points. Unexcused absences on Wednesdays cannot make up a missed quiz.

Exams: Three exams will be figured into the final grade. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams happen as scheduled. No student may take an exam earlier than scheduled. All exams are taken in person with the class, including the last exam scheduled during Finals Week. **DO NOT GO HOME EARLY AND EXPECT TO TAKE THE LAST EXAM ONLINE.** Students who miss the last exam will receive a 0 for the exam. Finals Week is December 8, 9 and 10.

HINT: Nearly every student who makes an F in courses does not either turn in a research paper or skips the exam during Finals Week (or both).

Makeup Work

- * **Weekly discussions** are due on Fridays. The cutoff time is noon each Friday. I prefer you to turn in a hard copy to class but will accept email as long as you have formatted the document as a PDF. Missed discussions cannot be made up. Discussions proved to be cut and pasted will earn a 0.
- **Exam I and II** may be made up during instructor's office hours and must be scheduled by the student. **Exam III cannot be made-up.** Exams must be made up by December 5.
- **Research Papers** past the schedule deadline will receive a grade lower than scored. No paper will be accepted after December 5.

Calculating Grades

Exam I	100 pts
Exam II	100 pts
Exam III	100 pts
Quizzes	100 pts
Paper	100 pts
Discussions	100 pts

A = 90% or greater	(600 -- 540 pts)
B = 89% to 80%	(539 -- 480 pts)
C = 79% to 70%	(479 -- 420 pts)
D = 69% to 60%	(419 -- 360 pts)
F = 59% or less	(359 -- 0 pts)

Withdrawing from a Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete the course, or that it is impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” on your transcript instead of an F. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. You are permitted to drop a course by obtaining an official drop slip from the registrar’s office. The student should consult with the instructor because the instructor’s signature is required on the drop slip.

You can drop the same class twice; however, you will be charged triple the tuition to take the class a third time or more. Students in Texas can only drop six courses throughout their entire undergraduate career, regardless of where they go to college in the state. After the 6th drop course, students can no longer withdraw from any classes.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Students requiring special accommodation should see the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services. I will honor any accommodation recognized by the College.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

[https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

Academic Integrity Policy

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment ; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate vice president, and/or the vice president. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered, and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discovers or suspects a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Instruction. The Vice President of Instruction will maintain a file on all

violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Vice President of Instruction, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Instruction. If the Vice President of Instruction observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Instruction is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Instruction is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change. You will be notified when changes are made.

August 25 Orientation

UNIT I Discovery and Conquest (August 27 – September 19)

The Peopling of the Americas
Europe and the Americas
The Columbian Exchange
African Slavery

EXAM I – September 22

UNIT II Search for Democracy (September 24 – October 6)

The Impact of the Enlightenment
No Work, No Food
Massachusetts Bay Colony
Colonial Diversity

UNIT III Forming a Nation (October 8 – October 31)

Influence of Iroquois Confederacy
States Rights or Federal Power?
Founding Documents
Rise of Political Parties
The Vision of Democracy

EXAM II – November 3

UNIT IV Diversity and Discrimination (November 5 – November 7)
The Hypocrisy of Removal

UNIT V America at War (November 10 – December 5)

French and Indian War
American Revolution
War of 1812
War with Mexico
Civil War
Who Loses Rights During War? Why?

RESEARCH PAPER DUE November 26

EXAM III – Monday, December 8, 10:30 AM (Tentative)

Course Protocols

Class begins promptly at 10:00 am. After the first day, arriving late will result in being locked out of class for that day.

You are adults. There is no need to ask permission to go to the restroom. Leave class and return afterwards quietly.

Falling asleep in class will get you special attention. Students who fall asleep in class three times or more will be sent away each time for remainder of semester.

Use of cell phones, laptops, and tablets for purposes not related to class will result in being kicked out of class for the remainder of time.

No headphones and ear buds are allowed. Be sure the cell phone's ringer is turned off. One "free" interruption. Then, after the "grace" disruption, each time your phone rings you will be kicked out of class. If you must leave class to answer a phone call, do so quietly, take care of business, then return quietly.

If my cell phone rings during class, everyone in class that day will receive 5 extra credit points.

There will no individual extra credit projects; extra credit opportunities must be available to all students in the class.