

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2025 – SYLLABUS

HIST 2610-0004: U.S. History to 1865 – 3 hrs.

Department of	History & Political Science
School of	Liberal Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name	Dr. Cameron Sinclair
Office Location	FH 302A (Adjunct Workroom)
Office Phone	N/A
Email Address	Cameron.Sinclair@untdallas.edu
Office Hours	TR 2:30-3:00 pm (in person), TRF 9:00-10:30 am (virtual), and by appointment
Course Format/Structure	Face to Face
Classroom Location	FH 338
Class Meeting Days & Times	TR 11:30 am – 12:50 pm
Course Catalog Description	From colonial origins through the Civil War.
Prerequisites	N/A
Corequisites	N/A
Required Reading	Volanto, Keith, et. al. <i>The American Challenge: A New History of the United States</i> . 7th Edition. Volume 1. Wheaton, IL: Abigail Press, 2025. ISBN #: 9798985761986
Recommended Reading & References	All other readings will be provided by the instructor on the course Canvas site.
Access to Learning Resources	UNT Dallas Library: Phone: 972-338-1616 Website URL: http://www.untdallas.edu/library Email: library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: Phone: 972-780-3652 Website URL: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore Email: untdallas@bkstr.com

Canvas Resources Supported Browsers: • Chrome • Firefox • Safari Supported Devices: • iPhone • Android • Chromebook <i>Note: Tablet users can use the Canvas app</i> Screen Readers: • VoiceOver (Safari) • JAWS (Internet Explorer) • NVDA (Firefox) <i>Note: There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome</i>	Getting Help with Canvas: Canvas 24/7 Phone Support for Students: 1-833-668-8634 Canvas Student Guide: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701 Canvas Instructure Support & Unsupported Operating Systems: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720 UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721 For additional assistance, contact UNT Dallas Distance Learning: DAL1, Room 157 Phone: 972-338-5580 Email: distancelearning@untdallas.edu If you are working with Canvas 24/7 Support to resolve a technical issue, please keep me updated on the troubleshooting progress. If you have a course-related issue (e.g., course content, assignment trouble, quiz difficulties), please contact me during office hours or by email.
Other Technology Requirements	• Internet access (free access available via campus WiFi and in campus computer labs) • Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet browsing) • Access to Canvas for UNT Dallas • <i>Recommended</i> – Microsoft Word, which is provided by UNT Dallas free of charge for all students and faculty through Microsoft Office 365, which can be access via your student email • <i>Recommended</i> – Google Docs, free with a Google account, can also be used to write and save assignments • <i>Recommended</i> – Download the free Canvas app on your phone or tablet to receive notifications for course announcements, assignment due dates, and direct access to the course through your mobile device

Course Overview

This course surveys the social, political, and economic history of the United States from pre-European contact through the Civil War. Themes that may be addressed in this course include American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government. In addition to a survey textbook, this course will also use primary source readings, maps, art, and some videos to enable students to experience history from the perspectives of its participants.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will

1. Demonstrate critical thinking by understanding the key social, political, and economic developments in American History from pre-European contact to 1865.
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills by writing an analytical essay with a thesis statement drawing on historical evidence from this course.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking, communication skills, and social responsibility by analyzing and discussing written and visual primary sources representing diverse viewpoints.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills by defining and explaining the significance of key people, places, and events chosen by the instructor.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking, personal responsibility, and social responsibility by applying these skills in daily life as an active citizen in a democratic society.

General Education Learning Objectives/Outcomes: The UNT Dallas graduate will:

1. Think critically and creatively, learning to apply different systems of analysis.
2. Engage with a variety of others in thoughtful and well-crafted written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Demonstrate social responsibility via intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Understand and evaluate personal responsibility by examining ethical issues and considering alternative actions.

Course Outline and Discussion Topics

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and/or posted on the course Canvas page.

Date	Topic and Textbook Chapter
8/26	Orientation / Why do we study history?
8/28	The Old World Meets the New World (ch. 1)
9/2	European Exploration and Colonization, 1492-1600 (ch. 1)
9/4	European Exploration and Colonization, 1492-1600 (ch. 1)
9/9	European Colonization of North America, 1585-1660 (ch. 2)
9/11	European Colonization of North America, 1585-1660 (ch. 2)
9/16	Colonial Expansion and Conflict in North America, 1660-1690 (ch. 3)
9/18	Colonial Expansion and Conflict in North America, 1660-1690 (ch. 3)
9/23	Colonial Society in North America (ch. 4)
9/25	The British Empire, 1660-1775 (ch. 4-5)
Sunday, 9/28	Unit 1 Chapter Quizzes Due (11:55 PM)
9/30	The British Empire, 1660-1775 (ch. 4-5)
10/2	American Revolution, 1775-1783 (ch. 5-6)
10/7	American Revolution, 1775-1783 (ch. 5-6)
10/9	New Government, New Nation, 1776-1790 (ch. 7)
10/14	New Government, New Nation, 1776-1790 (ch. 7)
10/16	First Two Administrations, 1788-1800 (ch. 8)
10/21	First Two Administrations, 1788-1800 (ch. 8)
10/23	Jeffersonian America, 1800-1815 (ch. 9)
10/28	Jeffersonian America, 1800-1815 (ch. 9)
10/30	Antebellum Economic Change, 1783-1860 (ch. 10-13)
11/4	Antebellum Economic Change, 1783-1860 (ch. 10-13)
11/6	Era of Good Feelings, 1815-1828 (ch. 10)
Sunday, 11/9	Unit 2 Chapter Quizzes Due (11:55 PM)
11/11	Jacksonian America, 1828-1840 (ch. 11)
11/13	Antebellum Social Change, 1800-1860 (ch. 12)
11/18	Antebellum Social Change, 1800-1860 (ch. 12)
11/20	Westward Expansion, 1806-1849 (ch. 13)
11/25	Political Crisis and Sectionalism, 1846-1861 (ch. 14)
11/27	<i>Fall Break / Thanksgiving Holiday - CAMPUS CLOSED</i>
12/2	Political Crisis and Sectionalism, 1846-1861 (ch. 14)
12/4	Civil War, 1861-1865 (ch. 15)
Sunday, 12/7	Unit 3 Chapter Quizzes Due
Tuesday, 12/9 OR Thursday, 12/11	Unit 3 Worksheet Quiz Due
Friday, 12/12	Extra Credit Paper and All Late Work due (11:55 PM)

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Chapter Quizzes (15 x 15 points each)

Each Chapter Quiz will be taken online through the course website using. Each Chapter Quiz will consist of 15 questions. Chapter Quizzes are open book and untimed, so students will have as much time as they need to answer the questions. More instructions and explanation are available with the quiz on the course website. Chapter Quizzes must be completed by 11:55 PM on the due date specified in the Course Calendar located in the syllabus and online. Chapter Quizzes are not subject to the late policy and will **NOT** be accepted after the deadline.

Response Papers (5 x 25 points each)

Response Papers are short writing assignments based around documents, videos, or other readings that will be assigned by the instructor throughout the semester. Instructions, due dates, and other information for each Response Paper will be discussed in class and posted on the course website. Response Papers must be saved as Microsoft Word Files (.docx) and submitted via the corresponding submit link located on the course website (See Technology Requirements above). Response Papers will be submitted through online plagiarism and AI detection software and may not be accepted if either is found. Instructions, due dates, and other information for each Response Paper will be discussed in class and posted on the course website. See the Late Work Policy below.

Unit Worksheet Quiz (3 x 50 points)

Each Unit Worksheet Quiz is a two-part assignment. For part 1, student will be given a Map Activity Worksheet to take home and complete. For part 2, students will use the completed Map Activity Worksheet to complete a Quiz taken in person during class. More detailed instructions and guidelines, as well as the due date, will be discussed in class and posted on the course website. See the Late Work Policy below.

Extra Credit Paper

Historical Movie Review (25 extra-credit points): The Historical Movie Review consists of selecting a movie from a list provided by the instructor and writing a review following a set of guidelines that will be provided with the movie list.

Grading Matrix

Assignments	Point Values	Totals
Chapter Quizzes	15 x 15 points each	225 points
Response Papers	5 x 25 points each	125 points
Unit Worksheet Quizzes	3 x 50 points each	150 points

Total: 500 points

Grade Determination

Letter Grade	Points / Percentages
A	448-500 points = 90% or higher
B	398-447 points = 80% or higher
C	348-397 points = 70% or higher
D	298-347 points = 60% or higher
F	0-297 points = 59% or lower

Need tutoring services or just some help with a particular assignment? For tutoring that empowers students to achieve success, schedule an appointment with the Learning Commons today at <https://www.untDallas.edu/learning/schedule-appointment/>.

Course-Specific Policies

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1347&public=true>.

Assignment (Late Work) Policy:

Students that miss a deadline for Response Paper may submit that assignment late for a point penalty of 10% per day, up to a maximum penalty of 50% total. If a student cannot attend class for a Unit Worksheet Quiz, the assignment can be completed at an alternate time with prior approval from the instructor. Chapter Quizzes will **NOT** be accepted late.

Communication with the Instructor

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. The best way to contact me is through e-mail (Cameron.Sinclair@untDallas.edu). Typically, I will respond to your email within 24 to 48 hours, usually less than 24. If you don't receive a response from me, please send your email again. Don't wait days for me to respond.

Classroom Policies

1. No food is allowed in the classroom
2. Drinks (non-alcoholic) are permitted but must have a lid.
3. Cell phones must be turned off or on silent while in class. Please remove headphones and ear buds during class time.
4. Laptops and tablets are permitted with instructor approval but must be used solely for course-related activities. If the device becomes a distraction (social media, streaming, gaming, etc.) to the user, the students, or the instructor, this privilege will be revoked

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Disabilities Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodation at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delays in implementation. Note that a student must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu on the first floor of the Student Center.

Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring that online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. The Canvas Instructure Accessibility Statement is provided at <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>.

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <https://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>.

Incomplete Policy:

The deadline to file for an incomplete for the course is the last day in which there is regular instruction for the session (not including finals), which is December 5 in Fall 2024. In order to receive an incomplete in this course, the [Grade of Incomplete Form](#) posted on the Registrar forms site must be completed, signed, and returned to the Office of the Registrar by the deadline posted in the Academic Calendar. For other questions related to grade of incomplete, contact Dr. Dawn Sales, Assistant Provost, at dawn.sales@untDallas.edu.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the UNT Dallas Academic Integrity Policy in the appropriate Catalog at <http://dallascatalog.unt.edu>.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. For this course, any student guilty of scholastic dishonesty will receive a 0 for that assignment. A second incident may result in an F for the course and a referral to the Office of the Vice Provost.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) composition or editing software, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Grammarly, is not allowed in this class for any stage or phase of written work, including generation of ideas, writing of text, or revising your own work. Doing so is considered a violation of the cheating and plagiarism standards of the UNTD Code of Academic Integrity.

Web-based Plagiarism and AI Detection: Please be aware that students will be required to submit all written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism and AI detection service.

Classroom etiquette:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate (UNTD Policy 7.001 found at <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1278&public=true>).

Classroom Disruption:

Students are expected to always engage with the instructor and other students in this class in a respectful and civil manner to promote a classroom environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. A student who is directed to leave class due to disruptive behavior is not permitted to return to class until the student meets with a representative from the Dean of Students Office. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the Dean of Students before class meets again and to provide the instructor confirmation of the meeting. A student who is directed to leave class will be assigned an unexcused absence for that class period and any other classes the student misses because of not meeting with the Dean of Students. The student is responsible for material missed during all absences, and the instructor is not responsible for providing missed material. In addition, the student will be assigned a failing grade for assignments, quizzes or examinations missed and will not be allowed to make up the work.

The Code of Student's Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (UNTD Policy 7.001 found at <https://untsystem.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=1278&public=true>) describes disruption as the obstructing or interfering with university functions or activity, including any behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff access to an appropriate educational environment. Examples of disruptive behavior that may result in a student being directed to leave the classroom include but are not limited to: failure to comply with reasonable directive of University officials, action or combination of actions that unreasonably interfere with, hinder, obstruct, or prevents the right of others to freely participate, threatening, assaulting, or causing harm to oneself or to another, uttering any words or performing any acts that cause physical injury, or threaten any individual, or interfere with any individual's rightful actions, and harassment. You are encouraged to read the Code of Student's Rights,

Responsibilities, and Conduct for more information related to behaviors that could be considered disruptive.

Course Evaluations:

Student evaluations of teaching effectiveness are a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester via your campus email, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I (as the instructor) will not have access to the results of the evaluations until after final grades have been posted. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking:

UNT Dallas is committed to creating a safe learning environment for all members of our community, free from gender and sex-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, in accordance with Title IX, Texas laws and University Policies. Please note that all employees are mandated reporters and must report all instances of sexual misconduct, dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has experienced any form of sex or gender-based discrimination or violence and wish to speak to the Title IX Coordinator, you can email them at titleix@untDallas.edu or file a report [here](#).

Pregnancy, Pregnancy Related Conditions and Parenting Modifications Under Title IX:

UNT Dallas is committed to compliance with Title IX, and to supporting the academic success of pregnant and parenting students and students with pregnancy related conditions. If you are a pregnant, have pregnant related conditions or a parenting student (child under one-year needs documented medical care) who wishes to request reasonable related modifications from the University under Title IX, please email the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@untDallas.edu. The Title IX Coordinator will work with your professors and academic unit to provide reasonable modifications needed to be supportive of your education while pregnant or as a parent under Title IX.

Bad Weather Policy:

Campus facilities will close, and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information, please refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes:

Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Technology Assistance:

To successfully access the materials in Canvas, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements listed on the first page of the syllabus. If you have trouble accessing or using components of the course, try using Google Chrome browser. If you still experience technical

difficulties, first, notify your instructor. If the problem is still not resolved, call Distance Learning at the phone number listed on the first page of the syllabus. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups.

For more information see:

- UNT Dallas Canvas Technical Requirements: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>
- Canvas Instructure Support & Unsupported Operating Systems: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>

Food and Health Assistance:

No student should go hungry. If you face hunger, need access to immediate food, or struggle to afford food, you are not alone. Our campus offers free food and resources to students at the [Trailblazer Care Pantry](#). For help, visit the pantry on the second floor of the Student Center (behind the speaking lab) any day between noon and 4pm. If you arrive before or after hours, please call 972-338-1816 for access or contact: carepantry@untdallas.edu

Additionally, your mental health and wellbeing is critical to your success. If you have any questions, concerns, or simply need support in any way, please contact the or via email Counseling.Wellness@untdallas.edu