

HIST 1302: United States History from 1877 to Present  
 Course Syllabus – Summer 2025  
**5 Week Session**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Professor Megan Schwab**  
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 Austin Community College

**Office Hours: Fridays via Zoom (11:00-1:00pm)**

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 Austin, Tx, 78745**

**ABOUT ME:**

- I was born and raised in Austin, Texas.
- I went to Texas A&M University (gig'em!), for my undergraduate degree and received my masters at Texas State University.
- I am a big fan of music, and usually try to listen to live music every chance I get around Austin, including the chaos of ACL. I also enjoy playing with my monster fur baby, Xena, a 60-pound loveable kelpie-lab mix.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

- History 1302, United States History since 1877, is a survey course that seeks to highlight major events in the United States, starting with the end of Reconstruction through to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the deepening political divisions facing the country today.
- In lecture, we will study and examine events that affected the political, economic, and social impacts on groups of people residing in the United States.
- Some of these major themes will surround the idea of what American citizenship means to different groups of people, how various groups were treated within the United States because of their status as being part of the status quo or who were deemed as “other.” Additionally, this course seeks to highlight the idea of democracy, within the continental U.S. and abroad.
- This course addresses groups traditionally on the outskirts of U.S. politics, society, the economy, and how that has influenced social activism and challenges to both legislative and judicial precedence, largely within the twentieth century onward.
- We will also analyze how global events impacted the U.S. in terms of its global influence and expansion onto the world stage.
- By the end of the semester, students should be able to analytically approach history while being able to understand and identify the circumstances of how the United States was founded, and the questions left unanswered regarding various groups of people and their inclusion, or exclusion in the concept of an American identity.
- This is primarily a reading-based course. Class will include lectures, studying primary sources, watching documentaries, and student participation.
- The Texas Legislature requires students to take 6 hours of American history to graduate from a public institution of higher learning in Texas. A grade of C (some universities might only require a D), or better in this class partially fulfills that legislative requirement

- You are expected to read the relevant course textbook before class (see course schedule below)
  - For common course objectives, see the ACC History Department website, <http://www.austincc.edu/history/>

## CORE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCY OUTCOMES

### Critical Thinking Skills

- Students should be able to demonstrate creative and analytical thinking, inquiry, and comprehension and application of information.

### Communication Skills

- Students will develop their ideas and convey them through oral and written communication. \*More to come regarding email etiquette!\*

### Social Responsibility

- Students will exhibit their understanding of civic responsibility as it pertains to the subject, including in their ability to comprehend and engage with communities different than their own in a local, national, and global context.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Throughout and by the end of the semester, students will be able to understand and convey their knowledge of U.S. history following the Reconstruction and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Through written assignments and exams, students will use critical thinking and writing skills to show their comprehension of the class material.
- Students will also learn to analyze sources and see how it applies to understanding history. Sources include written as well as film sources.
- Lastly, students should be able to take what they have learned from the course and apply it to today's world and how it directly impacts themselves and their communities.

## PREREQUISITES

### Reading and Writing:

- This is a reading-intensive course.
- You must be in compliance with the reading and writing portion of the TSI (Texas State Initiative)
  - Either in compliance or exempt.
  - Check with an ACC counselor if you have questions or are unsure of your TSI status.

### Other Prerequisites to Consider:

- Giving yourself enough time to study and prepare for class.
- Make a commitment to your success in this course.
- Have time-management skills that work for you.
- Realize that this is a college class – you will succeed or not, on your own.
- Have a general understanding of geography and basic history concepts: the three bodies of government, imperialism, colonialism, suffrage, veto, etc.
- Deep breaths. We will go over these concepts.

## HELPFUL HISTORY HINTS

- **Take notes!** While there will be PowerPoints, what is shown on the screen will only be

the minimum amount of information to succeed. In order to do well on assignments and exams, you need to work on taking diligent notes in class rather than just writing what is in front of you. Reread notes, ask fellow students, or attend office hours to further discuss if you need clarification or have questions.

- Remember that notes are taken and used so you can remember the content later on. Take notes in the best way that benefits you. Make connections that you understand!
- Think historically! Put yourself in the past and try not to approach history only through a twenty-first century lens. Open your eyes and attempt to think how somebody from that period thought of what was happening around them.
- Do not wait until the last minute to discuss grades. Often times students wait until the end of the semester to address a poor grade. Be proactive rather than reactive!
- When possible, study groups are some of the best tools. Work together to complete Study Guide questions, compare notes, and quiz one another. You **are not permitted to post Study Questions on any online platform.**
- If you require accommodations for testing, please inform me in advance. Doing it in the first week of the semester is best so everything can be settled sooner rather than later. Help me help you. Everybody learns differently and that is okay!

## TEXTBOOK

- The required textbook for this course: Roark, et al. *The American Promise: Volume II*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. It is important for you to get access to this textbook for additional information not covered in class but may show up on your study guide and exams.
- Exams will include information from lectures and the textbook, but you do not need to bring it to class.
- Textbooks can purchase or rent the textbook.
- Please try getting the book so you will have it on the first day of class.
- Below are four different versions of the textbook. Choose whichever suits you. It is easier to find the book online when using the ISBN number.

<b>Full color paperback</b> ISBN:9781319343354	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available from the Publisher and other booksellers.</li> <li>▪ <b>Publisher:</b> <a href="https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us">https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us</a></li> <li>▪ This version is the more expensive version. It includes full color maps and pictures.</li> </ul>
<b>“Value” Edition</b> ISBN:9781319343354	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available from the Publisher and at ACC bookstores and other booksellers. (less expensive, fewer visuals)</li> <li>▪ <b>Publisher:</b> <a href="https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us">https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us</a></li> </ul>
<b>Loose-leaf” Edition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available from the publisher</li> <li>▪ <b>Publisher:</b> <a href="https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us">https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us</a></li> </ul>

ISBN:9781319343699	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loose-leaf pages that you can put in a notebook.</li> <li>▪ <b>NOTE: You will NOT be able to resell this to the ACC Bookstore</b></li> </ul>
<b>“E-book” Edition</b> ISBN: 9781319486631	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Available to download from the publisher</li> <li>▪ <b>Publisher:</b> <a href="https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us">https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us</a></li> <li>▪ Online edition</li> <li>▪ <b>NOTE: You will NOT be able to resell this to the ACC Bookstore</b></li> </ul>

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Be mindful of your classmates and be respectful of one another when interacting. Some topics may be sensitive to others, and it is important that discourse can occur, but it needs to be done in a constructive and respectful manner.
- While there may be different opinions and lived experiences, there is no room for arguments, only open discussion. This online environment should be a safe place to share thoughts and ask questions, but always with compassion and kindness.

## EMAIL ETIQUETTE AND POLICY

- People living in the twenty-first century must learn proper email etiquette – students and professors alike! Every email should include a respectful greeting (i.e., “Hello Professor Schwab,”) and should include a well-thought-out message that tells me what you have a question about.
- Your closing must include your name and class, preferably with the days and times of your class. The sooner I can determine who it is and what the email is about, the quicker I can answer your email. Proper salutations and closings are very important, and will follow you into the real world, not just the academic one!
  - As a reminder, we all enjoy weekends. My email hours apply to the work week, and emails will not be answered on the weekends unless it is of the utmost importance.

## STUDENTS’ RIGHT TO PRIVACY

- In compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), I will not give information concerning your grades, academic progress, or attendance to anyone (including your parents and high school personnel). In addition, I will not give grade information over the phone.
  - Unless there is an emergency, I will not communicate with parents, guardians, or high school personnel.
  - If there are any problems or concerns, please speak with me directly.

**NOTE:** ACC makes your “Directory Information” (name, address, phone number, birthdate, etc.), available to the public without your consent, unless you specifically request in writing that this information NOT be publicly available.

- For more information, you can visit <http://www.austincc.edu/ferpa>

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING THIS COURSE

This is a college level course and all students enrolled are considered college students.

- You are expected to have college-level reading comprehension and vocabulary, college-level writing ability, and the ability to plan and organize your workload – the same as non-high school students.
- Regardless of your age or high school status, when you are enrolled in a college course, your privacy is protected by the *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974* (as mentioned above).
- All sections of this syllabus pertain equally to all students in this course, regardless of age or education status (i.e., high school).

## IMPORTANT FOR DUAL-ENROLLED\* HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

**Withdrawing** from this course or earning a **failing** grade in this course **MAY** impact your high school **graduation timetable** and/or your high school **class rank**. Contact **your high school counselor** if you're considering withdrawing or if you're at risk of failing the course.

\*Dual enrolled means you are seeking high school AND college credit.

## WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Plagiarism is any form of you taking somebody else's words or ideas and using them as your own.

- If you find information in the textbook and you write that down word for word, and use it in your paper, that is considered plagiarism.
- If you tweak the sentence and use only slightly different words, that is also plagiarism.
- Using quotes is the best way for you to avoid the issue, as is rephrasing information and putting it into your own words, while noting who originally came up with the concept.
- Please always check with a professor or tutor to ensure you are not plagiarizing – even accidentally!
- Additional Examples of Plagiarism Includes:
  - Submitting someone else's work as your own
  - Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit (including online sources)
  - Paraphrasing words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
  - Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation with the intention of deceiving
  - Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up most of your work, whether you give credit or not

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

- “An aggie does not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.” This rule applied to my undergraduate experience, and I will emphasize this in class.
- Academic honesty is instrumental to being successful in class. Citing sources correctly and using your own words not only shows you did not cheat, but also shows you understand the material and can rephrase it in a new way.
- We live in the age of ever-growing technology, but we must continue to think, write, and study for ourselves.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:**
  - Using Google, AI apps, or any other digital source, unless specifically instructed, is considered plagiarism, is strictly prohibited, and will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and possibly the course.

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## WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE – DEADLINE IS 5:00PM by June 27, 2025

If you find you are unable to successfully meet the course requirements, you should consider withdrawing from the course to avoid any possibility of being assigned a failing grade.

- I can and will withdraw a student who is disruptive to the class.
  - This includes chronic tardiness. This also includes students who disrupt class by interfering in the respectful exchanging of ideas.
- For all other reasons, students are responsible for withdrawing from the course, if that is what you choose to do.
  - A withdrawal appears as a “W” on your transcript.
  - A withdrawal does not affect your GPA
  - Before you consider withdrawing, please read up on the state’s information on withdrawals from Texas public colleges/universities at <http://www.austincc.edu/apply-and-register/registration-steps/drop-or-withdraw-from-a-class>
  - Please visit with me, a counselor, or an advisor to be sure you understand the consequences of withdrawing.
  - The instructions and forms to withdraw are here at <https://students.austincc.edu/help/myacc-and-online-services-instructions/course-withdrawal-drop-instructions/>
  - *It is your responsibility to complete the withdrawal process by the deadline.*
  - You can **withdraw on or before June 27<sup>th</sup> until 5:00pm.**

## ASSIGNMENTS: ALL TO BE COMPLETED & SUBMITTED ON BLACKBOARD

### Map Quiz:

- The Map Quiz will be made up of 30 questions.
- You will have 40 minutes to complete it. This will be done through Respondus Lockdown Browser.
- There will be a Study Guide for you to review before the quiz.
- This is worth 10% of your grade

### Exams:

- There will be four exams throughout the semester. Each exam will cover 3 or 4 chapters. These are non-cumulative, meaning that you will not be retested on previous exam content. However, it is important to remember that history connects. By understanding the past, you can better understand the future – meaning that material on exam one will be important when understanding the future topics.
- **Exam Layout:**
  - Will consist of 30 multiple choice questions, plus a bonus question.
  - You will have 40 minutes to complete the exam.
  - Each question will be worth approximately 3.33%.
    - Each exam is worth 75 points out of the 500 points you can earn in the class.
  - Each exam is worth a total of 15% of the class
- Exam grades will be posted on Blackboard.
- The Exam will be done through Respondus Lockdown Browser. Respondus will record you during your exam and flag anything deemed questionable, meaning I will be notified of possible plagiarism or cheating.
- These exams are not open book, despite being online. You will also not be permitted to use any notes or the textbook during your exam. Any use of notes, text, or outside sources during the exam will constitute as a violation of the academic policy for the class and will result in a student being given a zero for the class.

### Make-Up Exams:

- Make-up exams are allowed only for documented serious medical issues or under exceptional circumstances.
- You must notify me ASAP when you know you will miss an exam. Do not wait until the last minute.
- I will work with you, but it is your responsibility to arrange a make-up exam.

### Late Policy:

- For all assignments, there will be a 10% deduction for each day it is submitted late. (If you submit something 1 day late, the highest grade you can receive is 90. By day 4, you will receive an automatic 0.
  - Exam 4 will have a single late day allowance, as the semester ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> and grades are due by the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Written Assignments – Primary Source Assignment

- You will have a primary source assignment.
- You will be provided two primary sources via Blackboard that contains a series of questions, which you will use to write a 4-6 double spaced page paper in essay format.
- A separate handout with instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

### Written Assignments - Discussion Board Posts

- There will be 2 discussion board posts throughout the course following a documentary. You will answer some of the questions posed to you regarding the documentary, and you will give an insightful or contributing comment on 1 classmates' post.
  - Your initial post must be at least 350 words, but no more than 500 words. Your response to your classmate must be at least 150 words.
  - In total, each Discussion Board post and contribution will equal 37.5 points (75 in total out of 500 points in class)



<b>Assignment/ Grade Breakdown:</b>		
<b>Map Quiz:</b>	<b>x1</b>	<b>50 Points</b>
<b>Primary Source Assignment</b>	<b>x1</b>	<b>75 Points</b>
<b>Discussion Board Posts</b>	<b>x2</b>	<b>75 Points</b>
<b>Exam 1-4</b>	<b>x4</b>	<b>300 Points</b>
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<b>Total Semester</b>		<b>500 Points</b>
<b>Percentage Breakdown:</b>		
<b>Map Quiz</b>	<b>x1</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Primary Source Assignment</b>	<b>x1</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Exams (15% Each)</b>	<b>x4</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Discussion Board</b>	<b>x2</b>	<b>15%</b>
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<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>



## HOW YOU EARN YOUR GRADE

- Per ACC History Department guidelines, there is no extra credit to students.
- **To receive an A in the course:**
  - You need at least an overall average of 90% on all assignments and class participation.
- **To receive a B in the course:**
  - You will have an average between 80% - 89% after taking all exams, completing assignments and participating in class.
- **To receive a C in the course:**
  - You will have an average between 70%-79% after taking all exams, completing assignments, and participating in class
- **To receive a D in the course:**
  - You will have an average between 60%-69% after taking all exams, completing assignments, and participating in class
  - **NOTE:** A grade of D does not fulfill the state requirement for U.S. History for most college or university degrees. If you earn a D you will likely need to take the course again in order to graduate from a public college or university in Texas.
- **To receive an F in the course:**
  - You will receive an average below 60% after taking all the exams, completing assignments and participating in class. An F is also received by students who engage in Academic Dishonesty.
  - **NOTE:** An F does not fulfill the state requirement for U.S. History for college or university degrees. If you earn an F you will likely need to take the course again in order to graduate from a public college or university in Texas.
  - **NOTE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** An F may impact your high school class ranking and/or ability to graduate on time.
- **For the grade of “I” (Incomplete), there are THREE requirements:**
  - Medical excuse signed from a physician and received by the professor no later than Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Must have completed and passed at least 3-unit exams before being eligible for an “incomplete.”
  - Must sign and date an “Incomplete” form, provided by the professor.

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

### LEARNING LAB AND UPSWING:

- Other than myself, the Learning Lab is your number one tool to assist with assignments or to help you study for an exam. If there is no in-person tutor, Upswing is your next available option to get input or get help studying for exams.

### OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

- The goal of Accessibility Services is ,“To provide equitable and effective access for students with documented disabilities in order to support their full participation in College classes and activities.” (<http://students.austincc.edu/student-accessibility-services/> ). Please feel free to reach out to them if needed. The goal of Austin Community College is to ensure everybody gets an education in the most inclusive way possible.

### VETERANS SERVICES

- For questions on Veteran Services at Austin Community College, please visit <https://students.austincc.edu/veterans-services/>. ACC embraces all of its students, and they meet their students needs to the best of their abilities. Take advantage of specialists and reach out to them if needed!

### ACADEMIC ADVISORS

- Academic advisors at Austin Community College help students select classes, make decisions about programs available at ACC, and help determine what is the best course of action to get to your desired educational or career goals. Students are assigned based on their chosen area of study and program. To find your advisor or reach out to them, start at <https://students.austincc.edu/advising>. They are here to help you, so take advantage and do not be afraid to ask questions – that is what they are here for!

### CONCEALED CARRY INFORMATION

- According to ACC policy, open carry (Carrying a gun openly in a holster) is prohibited on all ACC campuses, including parking lots, driveways, and walkways. Texas Senate Bill 11 allows licensed gun owners to carry concealed handguns on public college campuses. For more information, visit <https://www.austincc.edu/about-acc/campus-carry>

## MENTAL WELLNESS

- Mental health is essential to everyday life. Many experience anxiety and depression on a daily basis. With the state of the world and in the face of a post-COVID19 reality, there are many who are still struggling with the necessities, or day-to-day functioning. There is no shame in needing help, and ACC offers that. For more information, please visit ACC’s Mental Health Resources website – <https://students.austincc.edu/social-support/find-essential-resources/mental-health/>.
- If you want to speak to a trained professional, ACC Counselors are around to support students’ needs, and will know of more services and assistance for students. Their website is <https://students.austincc.edu/mental-health-counseling/>.
- There is never shame in asking for help. I hope these tools can help you get help if you need it.

## SCHEDULE

The is a mock schedule for those who would like to treat this as an in-person class. Change for due dates are at the discretion of the instructor. You will be given advanced warning if this occurs via email.

All Documentaries will be available via ACC's Kanopy database – available at <https://www.kanopy.com/en/austincc/>

All Primary Sources will be provided by myself on Blackboard or through the library database.

		<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>WEEK 1</b>			
Mon	June 2	Introduction & Course Requirements	
Tues	June 3	The Contested West	Ch. 17
Wed	June 4	The Gilded Age	Ch. 18
Thurs	June 5	The City & Its Workers	Ch. 19
<b>FRIDAY by 11:59 pm</b>	<b>June 6</b>	<b>MAP QUIZ</b>	See Study Guide
<b>SUNDAY by 11:59pm</b>	<b>June 8</b>	Watch: “Haymarket: The Bomb, the Anarchists, the Labor Struggle” <b>CONTRIBUTE TO:</b> Discussion Board	Discussion Board
<b>WEEK 2</b>			
Mon	June 9	The City & Its Workers/ Dissent, Depression & War	Ch. 19-20
Tues	June 10	Dissent, Depression & War	Ch. 20
Wed	<b>June 11 ONLINE DAY</b>	<b>Pre-Recorded Lecture</b> Progressive Reform, 1890-1916	Ch. 21
Thurs	<b>June 12 ONLINE DAY</b>	<b>Pre-Recorded Lecture</b> Word War I: Progressive Crusade	Ch. 22

<b>FRIDAY by 11:59 pm</b>	<b>June 13 by 11:59 pm</b>	<b>UNIT 1 EXAM Ch. 17-20</b>	<b>Available Wed – Fri</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>			
Mon	June 16	From the New Era to the Great Depression	Ch. 23
Tues	June 17	The New Deal Experiment	Ch. 24
Wed	June 18	The New Deal Experiment/The US & The Second World War	Ch. 24-25
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>June 19</b>	<b>JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY (ACC CLOSED)</b>	
<b>FRIDAY by 11:59 pm</b>	<b>June 20 by</b>	<b>UNIT 2 EXAM Ch. 21-24</b>	<b>Available Wed- Fri</b>
<b>SUNDAY by 11:59pm</b>	<b>June 22</b>	<b>Primary Source Analysis Due on Blackboard</b>	
<b>WEEK 4</b>			
Mon	June 23	The US & The Second World War	Ch. 25
Tues	June 24	The Cold War	Ch. 26
Wed	June 25	Postwar Culture & Politics	Ch. 27
Thurs	June 26	Postwar Culture & Politics & Rights, Rebellion & Reaction	Ch. 27 - 28
<b>FRIDAY by 11:59pm</b>	<b>June 27</b>	<b>UNIT 3 EXAM Ch. 25-27</b>	<b>Available Wed- Fri</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b>			
Mon	June 30	Rights, Rebellion, & Reaction	Ch. 28

Tues	July 1	The Vietnam War & the Limits of Power	Ch. 29
Wed	July 2	The Conservative Era	Ch. 30
Thurs	<b>July 3 ONLINE DAY</b>	<b>Pre-Recorded Lecture</b> America in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Ch. 31
<b>THURSDAY By 11:59pm</b>		<b>Contribute to Discussion Board:</b> “The Day the 60s Died” OR “She’s Angry When She’s Beautiful”	Discussion Board
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>JULY 4</b>	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY (ACC CLOSED)</b>	
<b>SUNDAY by 11:59 pm</b>	<b>July 6</b>	<b>UNIT 4 EXAM Ch. 28-31</b>	<b>Available Thurs -Sun</b>