

The History of the United States, 1492-1865

HIS 315K: The United States, 1492-1865

TCCN: HIST 1301

Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world while considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. History 315K surveys America from its colonial beginnings through the Civil War and focuses on five Big Ideas. You will analyze how various individuals and groups imagine **American Identities** throughout the nation's history. You will also study the connection between **Labor and Technology** and how conditions have changed over time. In addition, you will examine what movements have inspired **Reform and Renewal** throughout history and how an evolving democracy balances individual freedoms and societal needs with the Big Idea of **Self and Society**. Lastly, you will study the role of **America and the World** with its foreign policies and involvement in international events. This course fulfills the University of Texas at Austin core curriculum requirement for U.S. History (Texas core code 060).

Course Pre-requisites

- Completion of High School English I
- Concurrent enrollment or completed High School English II

Course Learning Outcomes

- Construct a meaningful and intellectually honest narrative of America's history – supported by solid evidence – from colonial settlement through the Civil War.
- Engage with historical information through writing, discussion, and reading.
- Formulate ideas and analyze key concepts, events, and interpretations relating to the history of the period.
- Collaborate with team members to produce coursework.

Course Format and Procedures

- **Units at a Glance**
 - There are six units in this course, plus an introduction (Unit 0). Each unit has a thematic *Focus Question* (FQ) designed to provide direction for student understanding and is followed by a lesson's *Essential Question* that will connect to the FQ. The first lesson of each unit will focus on the college assignment known as the *Pre-Unit Quiz* in the College Canvas Course. You will take the Pre-Unit Quiz and reflect collaboratively with your team on your results. You are expected to be prepared for your Lesson One assessment by completing all the Before Class reading assignments and Parts 1 and 2 of your Unit Study Guides. As you complete the content lessons of each unit, you will have the opportunity to independently gauge your understanding of lesson Learning Outcomes and themes by completing *Unit Knowledge Checks*. At the end of each Unit, you will take an *End-of-Unit Quiz* covering the content studied in the Unit and apply the historical thinking skills you practiced during lesson activities. Unit themes, including course Big Ideas and practice of historical thinking exercises will prepare you for the college-level writing you will demonstrate in the midterm essay, the Analysis Essay, and the final exam essays.
- **Team-Based Learning**
 - This course uses *Team-Based Learning*. You will collaborate with your assigned team in lesson activities such as the *In-Class Question Sheets* (IQs) and class discussions. Team members will take turns with different team roles, such as leading a group through an activity or taking notes for the group. Teams are permanent and members should get to know one another to lean on each other's unique strengths.
- **Readings/Study Guides/Journal Entries/Document Analysis Sheets**
 - Throughout the course, you will examine and analyze several primary and secondary sources that cover the same historical concepts. Upon close reading, you may notice that each author draws different conclusions about the same historical events and figures. Therefore, you should use the *Unit Study Guides* as a living document to build your understanding. As you read assigned texts, watch videos, and study the daily lessons, you will continue to develop your understanding by using the structures of the Guide, specifically Parts 1, 2, and 3.

Many lessons require a Before Class assignment such as reading a document or watching a video and completing a *Journal Entry*. Occasionally, Journal Entry assignments will be replaced with a *Document Analysis Sheet* to prepare you for in-class activities, as some lessons have several primary and secondary sources to cover in one class period. Additionally, you will complete two Knowledge Check assignments per unit. The Knowledge Checks will support your understanding of assigned readings, videos, terms, and themes of the unit. These activities will guide you as you study and are essential to the flipped classroom model and collaborative team learning.

- **College Assignments**
 - Instructors will support you as you prepare for each assignment, but you must participate in individual and collaborative research before and during class to be successful. The college assignments include multiple choice quizzes for each unit, a midterm exam, an *Analysis Essay* project, and a final exam. The Analysis Essay project is an argumentative essay of up to 500 words. You can find more details about the Analysis Essay in the Canvas College course. You will participate in multiple forms of research and use writing guides to prepare for all college assignments.

University Course Staff

Title	Description
UT Austin Faculty Lead	A UT Austin faculty member who designs and oversees delivery of the OnRamps college distance course and ensures its alignment to the course as it is delivered at the residential university campus.
OnRamps Course Staff	A UT Austin staff member and designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead who serves as a primary subject-matter expert in the academic discipline of the OnRamps course and provides yearlong support to high school Instructors to ensure the course is delivered with fidelity. As a designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead, Course Staff assist with academic integrity investigations, send official University communication to students, and ensure students have access to all course resources and policies.
UT Austin Instructor of Record	The UT Austin Instructor of Record grades or oversees grading of college course work and determines student final grades and credit award.

Title	Description
	<p>The UT Austin Instructor of Record also investigates and resolves suspected incidents of academic integrity violations in the distance college course.</p> <p>The UT Austin Instructor of Record meets departmental and university criteria prior to appointment. The UT Austin Faculty Lead, Course Staff, or other UT Austin-appointed staff member may also serve as the UT Austin Instructor of Record.</p>

Course Outline

Unit & Topic
Unit 0: Introduction to the Course
Unit 1: Colonial America
Unit 2: Colonial Nuances
Unit 3: Revolution and a New Nation
Unit 4: Westward Expansion and Its Impact
Unit 5: Spiritual Revivalism and Social Reform
Unit 6: Sectional Crisis and the Civil War

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Technology Access and Expectations

Accessing technology is part of your OnRamps course requirements. You may only access OnRamps course technology using your own UT EID and password or other designated login credentials. You are forbidden from substituting for another person or permitting another person to use your login credentials to substitute for yourself to take a class, a test, or any class-related assignment.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
<p>UT EID</p> <p>URL: https://onramps.utexas.edu/eid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must use your UT EID and password, which is a unique account with the University of Texas at Austin, to register for OnRamps courses and access coursework. You must create a strong UT EID password in order to ensure uninterrupted technology access. The guidelines for creating a strong password are available here. Do not share your UT EID password with anyone. Sharing your password could allow unauthorized access to your educational information and may result in account suspension or an academic integrity investigation. Do not create multiple UT EIDs. If you have issues accessing your course after registration, contact OnRamps Support.
<p>Canvas Learning Management System</p> <p>URL: https://onramps.instructure.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OnRamps provides an online learning environment in Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) for all students in this class. You will have access to two (2) Canvas courses for the purpose of the dual-enrollment experience: the OnRamps high school course and the OnRamps college course. You may only access Canvas using your own UT EID and password. You are expected to access Canvas daily for readings, videos, assignments, quizzes, and exams. You will get many of your assignments and turn in your college work in Canvas. You are responsible for reading course information, including assignment instructions and due dates, that is posted in Canvas. You are responsible for frequently checking your Canvas Inbox and viewing course announcements. Failure to read announcements or failure to check your Inbox is not an acceptable reason for missed communication or missed deadlines.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
<p>OnRamps Portal</p> <p>URL: https://onramps.utexas.edu/portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will access the OnRamps Portal to manage your contact information and current OnRamps distance college course enrollment(s), including accepting or declining college credit, if earned. You may also view prior enrollment and credit information in the OnRamps Portal. You may only access the OnRamps Portal using your own UT EID and password. You must use the OnRamps Portal to request accommodations for your distance college course in order for eligible IDEA, 504, or ADA accommodations to be approved and applied. You may view requested accommodations, approval status, and update accommodations at any time in the OnRamps Portal.
<p>Email</p> <p>Use a personal email address that you check regularly and will have access to after you graduate high school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email is an official means of communication at UT Austin. OnRamps uses the email address you provide in the OnRamps Portal to communicate enrollment and credit information to you. It is your responsibility to keep your email address updated in the OnRamps Portal at all times. You are expected to check email frequently in order to stay current with OnRamps-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. Updating your email address in the OnRamps Portal automatically updates your email address in Canvas. Communication about your grades and course experience will be sent to you via Canvas Inbox, which may be forwarded to your email address based on your Notification settings in Canvas. Failure to check email or Canvas Inbox is not an acceptable reason for missed communication or missed deadlines.
<p>University of Texas Libraries</p> <p>URL: https://www.lib.utexas.edu/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have online access to The University of Texas Libraries, which you will access using your UT EID and password.

Technology System	Description and Expectations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must have a strong UT EID password to access the libraries. The guidelines for creating a strong password are available here. For questions about how to use the library website, visit: https://www.lib.utexas.edu/research-help-support/ask-us.

Technology Support

- Within your college course in Canvas, contact OnRamps Support by using the link in the lefthand navigation.
- OnRamps Support is available at 512-265-2515 from 8am – 5pm CT Monday – Friday. OnRamps Support is closed on [University holidays](#).

How to Succeed in this Course

- Complete OnRamps Orientation to prepare for college expectations.
- Complete all Before Class and During Class assignments by the expected deadline.
- Utilize your Unit Study Guides as a learning tool to study for Unit Quizzes, the Midterm, the Analysis Essay, and the Final Exam.
- Collaborate with your team members regularly, including rotating team roles from lesson to lesson.
- Complete the Unit Knowledge Checks frequently to gauge your understanding of unit themes, Learning Outcomes, and application of historical thinking skills.
- Participate with an open mind to new perspectives when engaging with assigned readings or videos and with classmates during team and class discussions.
- Ask for support and guidance from your Instructor when you are feeling confused or unsure about the directions of an assignment or activity.
- Check the Canvas course notifications and inbox regularly for important communication.
- Track deadlines and due dates and manage your time to ensure that you are prepared for class and that you can complete assignments on time.

Assignments & Grading

The following assignments and assessments contribute to your college grade. Detailed instructions and due dates for assignments are posted in your Canvas college course.

- **Late Policy**
 - Late assignments are **not** accepted, and the Canvas system will lock you out at the beginning of the minute of the assignment deadlines. All Canvas deadlines are in Central Time.

- Missed deadlines due to an unexcused absence will result in a grade of 0 points or an F. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation as described in the **Students with Disabilities** section, you must give appropriate lead time to your instructor as per the policies indicated in this syllabus.

You can be proactive by scheduling make-up assessments for excused absences and extenuating circumstances only. You may schedule assessments **five** academic days before or after the day the assessment was proctored to the whole class. You are responsible for knowing how your personal schedule affects your academic schedule and communicating with your instructor promptly.

- **Reporting Grading Errors**

- Students have 7 calendar days after Grade Release to report a grading error to their Instructor of Record using the Grade Resolution Request form in the college Canvas course. Note that grade changes are rare and an assessment's total score may go up or down depending on the Instructor of Record's review of a request.

Assessment	Description	Frequency	Assignment Type	% Course Grade
Final Exam	The Final has two parts, each 45-minutes, with Part 1 being an essay covering Units 4-6 and Part 2 consisting of questions about the Big Idea concepts of the course covering Units 1-6. The Final will be taken without any outside resources during class and proctored by your high school Instructor.	1	Exam	35%
Midterm Exam	The midterm is a timed 45-minute, exam with one essay and five primary source-based questions covering material from Units 1-3. The Midterm will be taken without any outside resources during class and proctored by your high school Instructor.	1	Exam	24%

Assessment	Description	Frequency	Assignment Type	% Course Grade
Analysis Essay	The Analysis Essay is an argumentative essay based on one primary source document, up to 500 words, covering a chosen topic from the time period covered in the semester course, 1492-1865. It is due after Unit 4.	1	Independent Analysis Project	20%
Unit Quiz Sequences 20% Total	Multiple choice Pre-Unit Quizzes cover the content of Lesson 1 assignments for every unit. You will have 20 minutes to answer 10 questions collaboratively with your team members during class and proctored by your high school Instructor. The Pre-Unit Quiz may be taken with a printed copy of Part 2 of the study guide only.	Once per unit, 6 total	Quiz	8%
	Multiple choice End-of-Unit Quizzes cover the content studied in the Unit's lessons. You will have 20 minutes to independently answer 15 questions during class and proctored by your high school Instructor. The End-of-Unit Quiz will be taken without any outside resources.	Once per unit, 6 total	Quiz	12%
OnRamps Student Orientation	Orientation is a Canvas module introducing you to the OnRamps course.	1	Independent	1%
Total				100%

College Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	94.00 – 100.00
A-	90.00 – 93.99
B+	87.00 – 89.99
B	84.00 – 86.99
B-	80.00 – 83.99
C+	77.00 – 79.99
C	74.00 – 76.99
C-	70.00 – 73.99
D+	67.00 – 69.99
D	64.00 – 66.99
D-	60.00 – 63.99
F	0 – 59.99

COLLEGE CREDIT

This is a dual enrollment course delivered through distance education. With dual enrollment, you may earn credit for The United States, 1492-1865 (HIS 315K) in addition to earning high school credit.

You earn college credit in this course by making a minimum grade of a D- (60.00) on college assignments and assessments described in the **Assignments & Grading** section. The OnRamps Student Orientation, Pre-Unit Quizzes, End-of-Unit Quizzes, midterm exam, Analysis Essay, and final exam contribute to your eligibility grade.

College Credit Decision Period

If you earn college credit, you may accept or decline college credit earned during the five-day college credit decision period, which will occur during a Monday – Friday window after you receive your final college grade. You will receive an email notification from OnRamps when your credit decision period begins, a reminder email during the credit decision period, and an email when the credit decision period ends.

If you do not make a decision during the credit decision period, OnRamps will determine course credit as follows:

- **C- or above.** You earned credit and *will* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you decline credit in the OnRamps Portal.
- **D+, D, or D-.** You earned credit but *will not* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you accept credit in the OnRamps Portal.

If you do not earn credit in the college course, you will not make a credit decision and you will not be issued a UT Austin transcript.

Credit Transferability & College Transcript

OnRamps credits earned for a letter grade of C- or above that fulfill UT Austin core curriculum are required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to transfer to any other public college or university in Texas. Most OnRamps courses also have a Texas Common Course Number (TCCN), which facilitates transfer to other colleges in Texas. Refer to page 1 of this syllabus for core curriculum and TCCN information for this course.

Each university has its own policies about transfer credit, such as whether transfer credit is factored into your college Grade Point Average (GPA), contributes to your academic standing, or how the credit applies to specific degree plans. Therefore, you should research credit transfer policies at any college or university you may attend to ensure you are making an informed decision that aligns to your academic plans. OnRamps credit is UT Austin credit and thus factors into your cumulative GPA and academic standing at UT Austin.

When you accept college credit, you will have undergraduate credit hours reflected on a UT Austin transcript. You may request an official UT Austin transcript through the UT Austin Office of the Registrar. You will receive an email notification from OnRamps when your transcript is available with instructions for ordering a transcript.

POLICY INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities

If you receive high-school accommodations related to a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you may also receive certain accommodations in your OnRamps college course. Accommodations in an OnRamps course must follow accommodations in your Individual Education Plan or 504 Individual Accommodation Plan and be allowable under the university assessment practices. Accommodations are individualized and based on need and disability.

You must use the OnRamps Portal to request accommodations for your distance college course in order for eligible IDEA, 504, or ADA accommodations to be approved and applied.

You must request accommodations prior to the due date for an assignment in order to access accommodations for that assignment. You are strongly encouraged to provide information about your need for accommodations during registration at the beginning of the course or immediately following changes to your Individual Education Plan or 504.

Academic Integrity

OnRamps students are subject to the University's academic integrity policies. Academic integrity is honesty in your academic work. Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code:

I pledge, as a member of The University of Texas at Austin community, to do my work honestly, respectfully, and through the intentional pursuit of learning and scholarship.

The honor code affirmation includes three additional principles that elaborate on the core theme:

- I pledge to be honest about what I create and to acknowledge what I use that belongs to others.
- I pledge to value the process of learning in addition to the outcome, while celebrating and learning from mistakes.
- This code encompasses all the academic and scholarly endeavors of the University community.

Upholding the University's Honor Code means following all directions for completing each assignment and assessment. You cannot use unauthorized materials or aid to complete assignments. You cannot substitute or allow another student to substitute for you to complete an assignment, in addition to the prohibitions on academic misconduct found in The University of Texas catalog, Chapter 11, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/>

To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the University's conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>

Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence

Use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), AI-content generators (such as ChatGPT) or other unauthorized aid when completing college assignments is a form of academic misconduct. Using AI to generate ideas, outline an approach, answer questions, or solve problems may constitute a violation of academic integrity. The UT Austin Instructor of Record will make clear in the assignment directions for each assignment whether collaboration is allowed and what types of tools may be utilized. Refer to the **Assignments and Grading** section for further details about assignment types in your course.

Communication Expectations

You must respond to messages and requests within Canvas Inbox from OnRamps staff for investigations of potential academic integrity incidents. If you fail to respond to Canvas Inbox messages about potential academic integrity incidents from OnRamps staff, you may receive an academic disciplinary action.

More information about academic integrity may be found in the OnRamps Orientation in Canvas.

Student Code of Conduct

As a participant in the UT Austin OnRamps program, you are expected to uphold a high standard of integrity and ethical behavior. This includes using UT Austin resources in an appropriate, ethical manner for the purpose of learning. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Unauthorized use of institutional technology and services
- Providing false or misleading information about an academic record
- Engaging in violent or disruptive conduct, including hazing, stalking, or behavior that impedes, interferes with, or disrupts any University teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, public service, learning, or other authorized activity.

Failure to abide by the student code of conduct may result in an academic sanction or removal from the course. For more information about standards of behavior, refer to The University of Texas catalog, Chapter 11, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/>

FERPA

All students in OnRamps are college students and subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a participant in the UT OnRamps program, it is important that you understand these rights as they apply to you.

Under FERPA, OnRamps staff may not share information regarding your college coursework or academic standing (grade point average, academic transcript, academic probation, or discipline records).

Exceptions:

- OnRamps staff will release your educational records, including college course grades and credit status, to your high school Instructor and school district administrators for legitimate educational purposes.
- If you sign a waiver stating that FERPA-protected information may be released to your parent/guardian, OnRamps staff may share the FERPA-protected information with the parent/guardian.

- If OnRamps staff share FERPA-protected information with high school staff with a legitimate educational interest, including the high school Instructor, and you are under 18 years of age, then the high school staff may share that information with your parent or guardian.
- If OnRamps staff suspect you present a significant risk of harm to self or others, they may disclose FERPA-protected information with your parent/guardian, high school Instructor, principal, or other appropriate authority to ensure your safety and/or the safety of other individuals.

For more information about FERPA, refer to The University of Texas catalog, chapter 9, Educational Records: <https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/educational-records/>