



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American History to 1877 - Section
Syllabus AMH 2010 -P2012 Summer 2025

D Session

Instructor: Dr. Brian R. Rucker

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Office Hours: (M): MW 9:00-9:30; (P): M 12:00-12:30, T 9:30-11:00, 12:30-1:30, W 12:00-12:30, 2:00-2:30, R 9:30-11:00, 12:30-2:00, 3:00-5:00

Department Head: Mr. Scott Schackmann

Department Head Phone: (850) 484 - 1118

Department Head Email: sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: June 30, 2025

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: July 25, 2025

Course Description: A survey of the history of the American experience from the Colonial period to 1877. Emphasizes the development and adoption of the Constitution, the major events resulting in the democratization of American society, the sectional struggle over the nature of America's destiny, and the Reconstruction Era.

Class Meeting Time: T-TH 6:00-9:20pm

Class Location: Pensacola building 14, room 1444

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: America Volume 1; David Shi; 9780393882537; 12th; Norton; 2022

Credits: 3 cc

Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENC 1101C.

Offered: FA, SP, SU.

Distribution: Meets AA General Education, Social Sciences requirement. A writing emphasis course.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: America Volume 1; David Shi; 9780393668964; 11th; Norton; 2019

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None

Special Requirements:

Writing Emphasis Requirement: A minimum of three fully developed, multi-paragraph, evaluated writing assignments, not including a final examination, are required.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for each evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before submission of the next evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Only individual student work may count toward the minimum three evaluated writing assignments.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Grading rubrics will be used for each evaluated writing assignment. These rubrics will be shared with each student.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

Grading Calculation	
3 Exams	70%
3 Papers	30%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

[Method of Evaluation: 3 Essay Exams (23.33% each), and three two-page course topic papers (graded for content, grammar, and style, and counting 10% each)

EXAMS:

A. There will be three exams, including the final, each counting 23.33 %.

B. All three exams will be essay-style exams in which 10 terms must be thoroughly identified in paragraph-style answers. In a well-written manner the student, using critical thinking skills, will identify the test terms by utilizing the following material -- who, what, where, when, and why.

C. Reviews before each exam may be scheduled if the need arises.

D. The final exam will not be cumulative.

E. If you miss an exam, you must have an administration official's excuse in order to take a make-up.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;

2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Communication: The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.

Cultural Literacy: The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture and its diversity.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the key events leading to the colonization of North America, the formation of the United States, the growth of the new republic, and the advent of the Civil War;
2. Identify the individuals, groups, and various people who were instrumental in the formation and growth of this country from the Age of Discovery period to the Reconstruction era;
3. Trace the ideas, forces, and movements which birthed the independence of the United States, created the U.S. Constitution, and forged the country's growth from the colonial period to Reconstruction;
4. Analyze the problems the colonists and the young republic experienced in gaining independence, creating a constitutional government, responding to the Industrial Revolution, taking part in western expansion, and attempting to deal with the crisis of the Civil War;
5. Critically evaluate and compare the key events from this period in American history, especially as it relates to cause and effect, and apply those lessons learned; and
6. Communicate, using critical thinking skills, the key events and players in this formational period in American history.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details.

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Email Response Time: The instructor will endeavor to return a response to your email within 48 hours, except for those mail sent to me on a Friday, which will be answered Monday.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Equity Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.]

Attendance: If you can't make a class, make sure you have a buddy system in order to get notes from any class lecture you do miss. After four absences, the student absences will be considered excessive and you may be dropped from the class.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

COURSE CALENDAR/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 13-February 12, UNIT ONE (Age of Discovery, Colonial Period, Revolutionary War Period; pages 1-239)

February 19-March 26, UNIT TWO (Early Republic, Western Expansion. Industry, Transportation, the Frontier, and the Romantic Era; pages 239-403, 442-483)

April 2-April 30, UNIT THREE (Slavery, Rise of Sectionalism, Events Leading to the Civil War, the Civil War, Reconstruction; pages 406-439, 487-655)

Monday, January 13: First day of class

Thursday, January 16: end of Drop/Add Period

Monday, January 20: NO CLASS -- HOLIDAY

Wednesday, February 12: **FIRST PAPER DUE**

Monday, February 17: **FIRST EXAM**

March 17-21: NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, March 26: **SECOND PAPER DUE**

Monday, March 31: **SECOND EXAM**

Monday, April 7: Last day to withdraw from class

Wednesday, April 30: **PAPER THREE DUE**; Last regular class day

Wednesday, May 7 (8:00-10:00): FINAL EXAM]