Early United States History
History 1110 Section 501, Fall 2026



General Information:

Instructor: Sue Taylor, PhD
Email: taylors@unm.edu
Phone: (505) 225-8305
Online Office Hours(via Zoom):
Zoom office hours: T 4:00 - 5:00 pm and R 1:00 -2:00pam
Office Hours by appointment through You Can Book Me

Course Description

HIST 1110 - History of the United States I. The primary objective of this course is to serve as an introduction to the history of the United States from the pre-colonial period to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. The elements of this course are designed to inform students on the major events and trends that are essential in the understanding of the development of the United States within the context of world societies.The primary objective of this course is to serve as an introduction to the history of the United States from reconstruction to the present. The elements of this course are designed to inform students on the major events and trends that are essential in the understanding of the development of the United States within the context of world societies.

Required Texts & Internet Access

Primary Textbook

Locke, Joseph L. and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook Vol. 1*. OER and Stanford University Press, 2026. Available at: americanyawp.com

Locke, Joseph L. and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp Reader: A Documentary Companion to the American Yawp, Vol.12*. OER and Stanford University Press, 2026. Available at: https://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html

The textbook and companion reader are Open Education Resources. This means there is no cost for the book. The book is entirely online; however, there are free downloadable PDFs available on the website. There are also options for purchasing the book for a fee.

Other readings and film clips as assigned in the course schedule (below); links to other readings are in the Learning Modules and on the course schedule linked to at the end of this syllabus.

Other readings will be posted on Canvas

Reliable internet to access UNM Canvas

**Please Note: History is a reading and writing-intensive discipline. That means we will spend much of our time in this course reading, writing, and discussing historical materials. If you have any concerns about your reading or writing skills, please talk to me. I am willing to work with you, help out, and teach the skills needed to succeed in this class. Also, please be aware that I am willing to work with you if personal, work, etc., issues arise that impact your ability to succeed in the class. The only condition is that you MUST let me know what is going on. I can't help you if I don't know that you could use some help.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Students will be able to EXPLAIN in their work how humans in the past shaped their own unique historical moments and were shaped by those moments, and how those cultures changed over the course of the centuries for the history of the United States from the pre-colonial period to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War.
2. Students will DISTINGUISH between primary and secondary sources, IDENTIFY and EVALUATE evidence and EMPATHIZE with people in their historical context.
3. Students will SUMMARIZE and APPRAISE different historical interpretations and evidence in order to CONSTRUCT past events.
4. Students will IDENTIFY historical arguments in a variety of sources and EXPLAIN how they were constructed, EVALUATING credibility, perspective, and relevance.
5. Students will CREATE well-supported historical arguments and narratives that demonstrate an awareness of the audience.
6. Students will APPLY historical knowledge and historical thinking "in order to infer what drives and motivates human behavior in both past and present."

There are three essential skills required: Information & Digital Literacy, Personal & Social Responsibility, and Critical Thinking. These skills will be evaluated with the following assessments: Discussions, Journals, and Final Project.

Consulting Your Instructor

My goal is to assist you in developing a meaningful understanding of history and to help you achieve the highest grade you are capable of. A constructive, mutually respectful attitude in all matters will greatly facilitate this process. I will be available to discuss your questions and concerns during the office hours stated at the top of this syllabus. You can also make an appointment for either an in-person or online meeting at a different time by emailing me.

Email: Please note: I will not open any email that does not show a recognizable name in the send field and this course number in the subject field. I check email daily and will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend. Note also that you will not receive a grade for any paper submitted via an email attachment that does not show your name on the first page.

Regarding Online Office Hours: I will be using Zoom for office hours this semester. Zoom has audio and video capabilities as well as the ability for me to share what I'm doing on the computer, so it does work well in these kinds of situations. I will be on Zoom every Tuesday from 4:00 - 5:00 pm and Thursday from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. You can book a time through You Can Book Me that works with your schedule. I've set up evening hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays; however, you can contact me via email to set up times that are not available on the You Can Book Me calendar.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS & TECHNICAL SKILLS

The nature of an online course requires that all students have regular and reliable access to a computer and internet services. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure they have and maintain regular and reliable access to a computer and internet services. UNM Canvas is designed to work best from a personal computer. Some features may not be accessible from tablets, smart phones, and other devices.

All files submitted for the course must be submitted as either a Microsoft Word Document or PDF. UNM Canvas is unable to read other file formats. It is each student's responsibility to ensure files have been submitted properly. (Or, articulate which apps, software, etc. are required.) If you want to submit your assignments in a Google doc please be sure to create a shareable link with permission to make comments and then copy that link into the appropriate submission section.

In order to participate and succeed in this class, you will need to be able to perform the following basic technical tasks:

- Use Canvas (help documentation located in "How to Use Learn" link on left course menu, and also at Online Student Documentation). Also, UNM-Valencia provides a Canvas Jumpstart self-learning module to give you practice with the most commonly used tools in Canvas. Ask your instructor if you do not see the UNM-Valencia Canvas Jumpstart in your list of classes in Canvas.
- Use email – including attaching files, opening files, downloading attachments
- Copy and paste within applications including Microsoft Office
- Open a hyperlink (click on a hyperlink to access a website or online resource)
- Use Microsoft Office applications
  - Create, download, update, save and upload MS Word documents
  - Create, download, update, save and upload MS PowerPoint presentations
  - Access MS Teams
- Use the in-course web conferencing tool (Collaborate Web Conferencing software in Canvas) or use Zoom or other web conferencing tool
- Download and install an application or plug in – required for participating in web conferencing sessions

Computer

- A high-speed Internet connection is highly recommended.
- Supported browsers include: Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems
- Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access your online course. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can *greatly* affect performance.
- Microsoft Office products are available free for all UNM students (more information on the UNM IT Software Distribution and Downloads page)
- Please update your contact information in Loboweb: MyUNM Login. When you log into MyUNM, Enter LoboWeb. Click on the Personal Information link to make sure your contact information is up to date.

Technical Support

- For Canvas Technical Support: (505) 277-0857 (24/7) or use the “Create a Tech Support Ticket” link in your course.
- For UNM-Valencia IT Support: (505)925-8911
- For UNM Web Conference Technical Help: (505) 277-0857

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Attendance in an online environment: This is not a self-paced course. If a student does not log in and/or complete the assigned tasks for two weeks, in a row or at any two points in the course, he or she will be dropped from the course. **Signing into Canvas without completing assignments does not constitute participation in the class.** Although the course is not self-paced, you do have the opportunity to work ahead. If you choose to do so, remember that you will need to return to the discussion board on Wednesday evenings or Thursdays to respond to the comments of your classmates. Also, be aware that I will not grade any assignments until after the due date given in the syllabus.

You will need to plan specific blocks of time each week to dedicate to this class. To successfully complete all the work, you should plan on at least 12-16 hours each week for this 8-week course. I tell you this so that you can remember to set aside time that you will dedicate specifically to this course. It is easy to put online classes on the back burner and forget about them. Please do not do that! Devise a weekly schedule that fits your life and allows you to complete all the assignments by the time they are due each week.

This is a three-credit-hour course delivered in an entirely asynchronous online modality over eight weeks during the fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a minimum of 18 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. [Insert number] or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence

Thriving and finding support: Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support and get involved in campus and academic life. The Student Life tab on the student and instructor MyUNM login page provides direct links to well-being resources, including financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. The Student Life tab on MyUNM will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on MyUNM. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources.

Course Work

General Organization

This class is divided into eight two-week segments. In units 2-8 you will read two or three chapters in your textbook, complete assignments online using the InQuizitive access code, submit assignments for our class timeline, and submit a journal in which you analyze the chapters through specific questions. There are also discussion forums in each unit; you will participate in four of them.

Readings

Each student is required to read the assigned chapters for each unit. There are also supplemental readings for each unit that are required.

Discussion Forums

In units 2-7 you will participate in a discussion forum in which you will share your impressions of the readings and topics for each week, in brief comments and/or questions. The discussion forums are in addition to the introduction discussion forum and the discussion forum over history and historical thinking (both of which are part of the first unit assignments). Initial discussion posts are due by Thursday and responses to at least three of your classmates are due by Sunday in units/weeks 2-7. The instructions for the discussion assignments can be found here. You are expected to address both the assigned chapters and supplemental readings in the discussion forums.

Journals

For units 2-8 you will also submit a journal in which you will analyze the societies, people, and events in the assigned chapters by responding to specific questions, as specified in the Journal Instructions. These are due by the second Sunday of units 2-8.

Timelines

As a class we will be constructing a timeline of Early U S History. We will use Tiki-Toki for this and will all be contributing to the same timeline.

Each unit you will have the opportunity to post an entry on our class timeline. We will be building the timeline together in Tiki-Toki. Here are the instructions for the timeline assignment. There are timeline assignments for all seven units (1-7), but you are only required to submit six. of them. You must submit both steps to receive credit.

Final Project/Assignment:

Each student will submit a final project consisting of creating a timeline of their own, choosing one of the topics they worked on throughout the semester, identifying 10 topics that connect to that topic, researching them and adding them to the timeline.

Primary document analysis:

Each student will write an essay analyzing a set of primary documents.

Extra Credit Opportunity.

Analyze a historical film.

Summary of units:

For each unit you are required to:

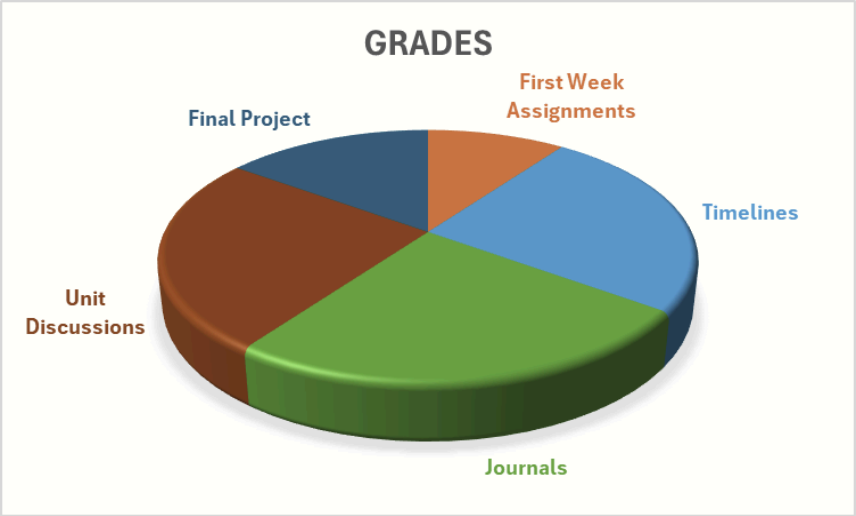
1. Read the assigned chapters
2. Participate in a discussion
3. Submit a timeline assignments
4. Submit a journal

Grading

The Grades for this course will be calculated as follows:

Assignment	% of Total
First Week Assignments	10%
Unit Discussions	25%
Journals	25%
Timelines	25%
Final Assignment	15%
	100%

	Percent
A+	99.00% – 100.00%
A	94.00% – 98.90%
A-	90.00% – 93.90%
B+	87.00% – 89.90%
B	84.00% – 86.90%
B-	80.00% – 83.90%
C+	77.00% – 79.90%
C	72.00% – 76.90%
C-	70.00% – 73.90%
D+	67.00% – 69.90%
D	64.00% – 66.90%
D	60.00% – 63.90%
F	Less than 60.00%



In the event UNM closes during finals week, final grades for students will be calculated based on all work assessed up to that point in the course.

Miscellaneous Policies

I expect that students will develop critical thinking skills through class participation. Students are expected to login regularly and submit their work on time. In addition, they are expected to display courteous behavior with respect for their instructor and fellow students and honesty in their academic and personal interactions.

Late and Missed Assignments: Assignments are due at the time and date specified. Late discussion posts are not allowed. Other assignments will be accepted up to two weeks beyond the due date. If a serious crisis situation occurs please inform me as soon as you can so that I can work with you accordingly. Unless other arrangements have been approved by your professor no assignments will be accepted later than two weeks beyond the assigned due date. Assignments for the first half of the term will close at the end of Unit 5. All other assignments except Unit 8 and the final unit will close on Monday of Week 8.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource

Course Policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated text:

Use of Generative AI Tools: For most assignments in this course, you are expected to complete your own work without AI assistance. These assignments are designed to build your critical thinking, argumentation, and historical analysis skills — skills that atrophy if AI does the thinking for you.

Some activities in this course will explicitly involve AI as part of the assignment (for example, an AI-literacy exercise early in the semester). When an assignment specifically calls for AI use, follow those instructions; they supersede the general policy below.

For all other work: brainstorming with AI (e.g., asking it to explain a concept, generate discussion questions, or help you think through a research angle) is permitted. Using AI to draft, substantially rewrite, or generate the content of your essays, discussion posts, or other submitted work is not. If you're unsure which category something falls into, ask me before submitting.

If you consult AI in any permitted way, you must disclose it: name the tool, the date, and the exact prompt(s) you used, in a brief note attached to your submission. Undisclosed AI use will be treated as a violation of the Academic Honesty policy.

You should also understand that AI tools have documented, discipline-specific problems for historical work — including fabricated citations, invented quotations, and misattributed sources — that make unverified AI output an unreliable and potentially dishonest basis for historical argument. Treating AI-generated claims as fact without independent verification is not acceptable historical practice in this course.

Any source cited in your work — whether found through AI, a database, or any other means — must be one you have personally located, accessed, and read. AI tools frequently generate citations to sources that do not exist, or that exist but do not say what the AI claims. Submitting a citation you have not personally verified, regardless of its origin, will be treated as a fabricated source under the Academic Honesty policy.

Questions about what's permitted for a specific assignment? Ask me before you submit, not after.

Keep in mind that AI generated content tends to be too general to accurately address many of the assignments in this class and that AI has its own accuracy issues, so as a student you may wish to rely most heavily on your own knowledge and skills and use AI as a helpful assistant.

Also keep in mind that the assignments for this class ask for specific examples from the course materials as well as your evaluations and conclusions of the course materials. AI generated text will not be able to write that information for you - you need to write that yourself. Also, AI is notorious for "hallucinations," that is making up sources. If you submit assignments with invalid sources you will be penalized for that, from a partial point deduction to a zero for the assignment. It is your responsibility to check all of your sources to make sure they exist.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the Arcoiris Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Academic Freedom and Intercultural Diversity*:* All students are expected to respect the opinions and diverse perspectives of others, including such factors as gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, and other relevant cultural identities. Each student is guaranteed the right to freely express his or her ideas, no matter what they are or how unpopular they are. All students are expected to maintain an atmosphere of respect and tolerance for diverse perspectives. Sexist, racist, heterosexist or other prejudicial comments will not be tolerated.

Title IX: In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see pg 15 - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Course Introductions (August 17 - 30)

Assigned Readings:

- Materials for Discussion over History and Historical Thinking
- AI articles

Assignments:

- Thursday, August 20 Introductions Initial Post
- Sunday, August 23 Introductions Responses
- Monday August 24 Discussion board post on "What is History"
- Wednesday, August 26 AI assignment and discussion
- Sunday August 30 Responses to History Discussion
- Sunday August 30 Responses to AI Discussions

Unit 2: Indigenous America to European Americas (August 31 - September 13)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*:**

- Chapter 1: American Origins
- Chapter 2: Making an Atlantic World

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*:**

- Chapter 1: American Origins
- Chapter 2: Making an Atlantic World

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

5. Sunday, September 6 Initial posts in discussion forum
6. Monday, September 7 Labor Day Holiday
7. Thursday, September 10 Timeline Post for Unit 2
8. Sunday, September, 13 Responses in discussion forum
9. Sunday, September, 13 Journal for Unit 2

Unit 3: From colonization to colony (September 14 -27)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*::**

- Chapter 3: Colliding Cultures
- Chapter 4: British North America

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*:**

- Chapter 3: Colliding Cultures

- Chapter 4: British North America

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

- Sunday, September 20 Initial posts in discussion forum
- Thursday, September 24Timeline Post for Unit 3
- Sunday, September 27 Responses in discussion forum
- Sunday, September 27 Journal for Unit 3

Unit 4: Colonial Society and Revolution (September 28 - October 11)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*::**

- Chapter 5: Colonial Society
- Chapter 6: The American Revolution

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*::**

- Chapter 5: Colonial Society
- Chapter 6: The American Revolution

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

1. Sunday, October 4 Initial posts in discussion forum
2. Wednesday, October 7 Timeline Post for Unit 4
3. **Thursday, October 8 Fall Break**
4. **Friday, October 9 Fall Break**
5. Sunday, October 11 Responses in discussion forum
6. Sunday, October 11 Journal for Unit 4

Unit 5: Forming a new republic (October 12 - 25)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*::**

- Chapter 7: A New Nation
- Chapter 8: The Early Republic

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*::**

- Chapter 7: A New Nation
- Chapter 8: The Early Republic

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

10. Sunday, October 18 Initial posts in discussion forum

11. Thursday, October 22 Timeline Post for Unit 5
12. Sunday, October 25 Responses in discussion forum
13. Sunday, October 25 Journal for Unit 5
14. Sunday, October 25 **All Late Assignments from Units 1-4 must be submitted by this date**

Unit 6: Religious and economic change and the rise of Cotton (October 26 - November 8)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*:):**

- Chapter 9: Getting Forward
- Chapter 10: American Democracy

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*::**

- Chapter 9: Getting Forward
- Chapter 10: American Democracy

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

15. Sunday, November 1 Initial posts in discussion forum
16. Thursday, November 5 Timeline Post for Unit 6
17. Sunday, November 8 Responses in discussion forum
18. Sunday, November 8 Journal for Unit 6

Unit 7: Expansion and Crisis (November 9 - 22)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*::**

- Chapter 11: Growth and Conflict
- Chapter 12: The National Crisis

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*:**

- Chapter 11: Growth and Conflict
- Chapter 12: The National Crisis

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

19. Sunday, November 15 Initial posts in discussion forum
20. Thursday, November 19 Timeline Post for Unit 7
21. Sunday, November 22 Responses in discussion forum
22. Sunday, November 22 Journal for Unit 7

Unit 8: Civil War and Reconstruction (November 23 - December 6)

Assigned Readings:

***American Yawp textbook*::**

- Chapter 13: The Civil War
- Chapter 14: Reconstruction

***American Yawp Primary Source Reader*::**

- Chapter 13: The Civil War
- Chapter 14: Reconstruction

Be sure to read all of the primary sources. Most are excerpts and they are all short.

Assignments:

- **Thursday, November 26 Thanksgiving Break/Holiday**
- **Friday, November 27 Thanksgiving Break/Holiday**
- Sunday, November 29 Initial posts in discussion forum
- Thursday, December 3 Timeline Post for Unit
- Sunday, December 6 Responses in discussion forum
- Sunday, December 6 Journal for Unit
- **Sunday, December 6 All past due assignments must be submitted by this date**

Final Week (December 7 - 12)

Monday, December 7 Extra Credit Assignments are due
Wednesday, December 9 Primary Source Analysis due
Friday, December 11 Final Projects are due
Saturday, December 12 No assignments will be accepted after this date