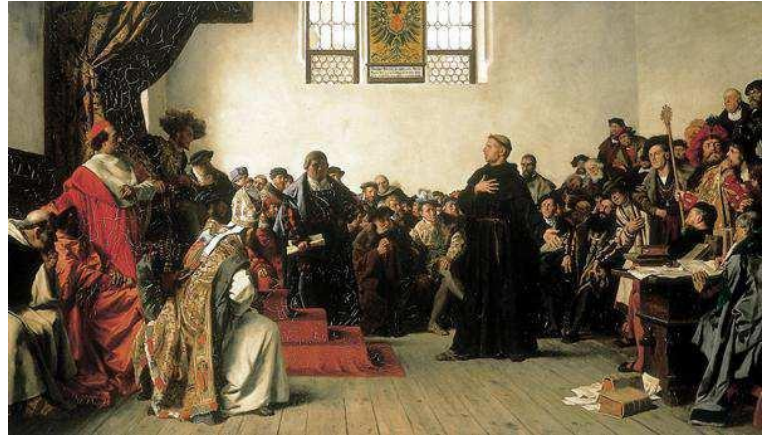


Modern United States History

History 1120 Section 503, Spring 2026



General Information:

Instructor: Sue Taylor, PhD

Email: taylor@sue@unm.edu

Phone: (505) 225-8305

Online Office Hours(via Zoom):

T 1:00-2:00 pm and W 6:00-7:00 pm on [Zoom](#)

By Appointment through [You Can Book Me](#)

Course Description

HIST 1120 - History of the United States II. 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. Meets New Mexico General Education Curriculum Area 5: Humanities.

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. 2.*

OER and Stanford University Press, 2019. Available at: americanyawp.com

Locke, Joseph L. and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp Reader: A Documentary Companion to the American Yawp, Vol.*

2. OER and Stanford University Press, 2019. 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

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 Reconstruction to the present.

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 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 1:00 - 2:00 pm and Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:00 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
 - o Create, download, update, save and upload MS Word documents
 - o Create, download, update, save and upload MS PowerPoint presentations
 - o 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.

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 1-7 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 1-7.

Timelines

As a class we will be constructing a [timeline](#) of Modern 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 as well as make a connection to an entry posted by one of your classmates. 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 write an [essay analyzing a set of primary documents](#).

Extra Credit Opportunity.

Create an individual timeline consisting of their timeline entries over the semester and then complete an [analysis of their timeline entries](#).

Summary of units:

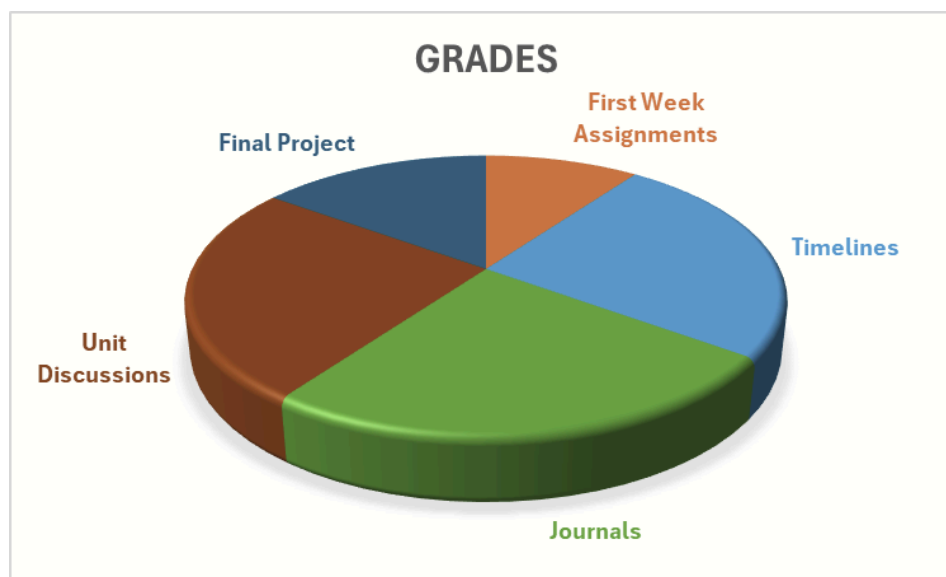
For each unit you are required to:

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

The Grades for this course will be calculated as follows:

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



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 updated January 2026

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.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: According to University of New Mexico Policy Statement on Academic Dishonesty "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and non-disclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records. UNM policies concerning academic honesty can be found at: <http://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>

Plagiarism occurs when someone – knowingly or unknowingly – presents the words or ideas of another person as his or her own. This is a violation of UNM rules as well as the expectations for this class. Any work turned in for this class must meet UNM standards for academic honesty. Students unsure about how to apply these rules should consult with the instructor *prior to* turning in written work.

According to the policy “Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or who otherwise fails to meet the expected standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.”

As the policy applies to this course: **Anyone caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive an immediate 0 for that assignment or exam—NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Incidents of plagiarism may also be reported to the Dean of Students, at the discretion of the instructor.**

Course Policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated text:

Regarding the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. Chat GPT, Google Bard, or others): for this course, it is expected that you not use AI for your assignments. Your assignments are designed for you to apply critical thinking skills, draw conclusions, and communicate those conclusions as appropriate. If, however, you decide to consult AI you must treat it as any other source and cite it in accordance with the Academic Honesty guidelines stated above. Failure to disclose the use of AI will be deemed plagiarism and will be treated accordingly. I would expect that not more than 25% of what you submit for any assignment has been directly generated by AI and you should be prepared to document that for me if I ask. Using AI for brainstorming is different from using it to write your essays, discussion, or other assignments. You should also be sure you understand the known issues with using AI for academic work. AI is still in a developmental stage and is not always reliable. If you have questions about this please ask. You should also realize that Grammarly is an AI platform and if you use Grammarly to edit your work you should also cite that.

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.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



This course is hosted on Canvas Learn, which is ADA compliant.

Qualified students with special learning needs are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the class about any specific assistance that may be required to support the student's learning. It is the instructor's intent to assist qualified students with special learning needs by making course modifications that will ensure a successful learning experience for the student.

Students are asked to contact the Access Resource Center in order for support staff to assist the instructor with course modifications.

The Access Resource Center contact information is: Phone (505) 277-3506. Their website is: <http://as2.unm.edu/>.

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/ga-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](#)