AMH 2010
US History to 1877

COURSE SYLLABUS
CRN: 51882

Summer Semester, A Session, 2026

15 May 2026 – 31 July 2026

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students, via e-mail or Canvas announcement, when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This is not a course in which students may work at their own pace. There will be pre-dated learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Instructor Information:

Dr. Robert Saunders, Jr., Chair
Social Sciences Division
211 Social Sciences Building
Gulf Coast State College

rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu

Social Sciences Senior Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Jody Walton

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Please include your name and course title in the subject line of any e-mails sent to the instructor. I ask that you do not send me an email as if you are sending a text. Common courtesy dictates that you tell me who you are.

Instructor Education:

> **BA, History, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland, 1986**
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> **MA, History, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland, 1988**
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> **PhD, History, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 1994**

In-Person Office Hours:

My in-person office hours are from 12:00-2:00 pm Monday through Thursday in Room 211, Social Sciences Building. Contact me via email If you'd like to meet with me via Zoom at any other time.

AMH 2020 Catalog Description:

In this course, students will trace the history of the United States from before European contact to 1877. Topics will include but are not limited to indigenous peoples, the European background, the Colonial Period, the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, issues within the new republic, sectionalism, Manifest Destiny, slavery, the American Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Required Textbook:

The textbook for this course, titled [U.S. History](#) is a completely free, online, and downloadable textbook and is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender."

License: [U.S. History](#) by OpenStax is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License v4.0

SLOs

- **Students will describe the factual details of the substantive historical episodes under study.**
- **Students will identify and analyze foundational developments that shaped American history from before European contact to 1877 using critical thinking skills.**
- **Students will demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped United States history.**
- **Students will demonstrate competency in civic literacy.**

RSI for this Course

The RSI (regular, substantive interaction) for this course will include:

- **Students taking thorough notes on the digital lectures AND completing the lecture quiz embedded into each lecture. The aggregate value (meaning all combined) of the lecture quizzes will constitute 10% of the overall grade for the course;**
- **Weekly or bi-weekly (depending on the length of the term) audio announcements from the professor outlining the assignments for each**

module as well as discussing the major historical topics, the most salient points, and how the module contents align with the course's Student Learning Outcomes; and,

Civics Literacy Competency

Civic Literacy, Course Competencies, and Outcomes: In 2020 the State of Florida added a new rule regarding Civics Literacy. The old Civics Literacy rule required all students to successfully complete AMH 2020 or POS 2041.

The new rule requires students to successfully pass AMH 2010 (effective Fall 2024), AMH 2020, or POS 2041 and achieve a passing score on a Department of Education-approved civics exam--including the Florida Civics Literacy Exam (FCLE).

The four competencies as required with the FCLE include:

- An understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
- An understanding of the U.S. Constitution.
- Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.
- An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.

The Division of Social Sciences has created a Preparation Module for students wishing to prepare for the FCLE. The module is housed within a designated Canvas page. You can self-register for the Canvas Prep Module.

There also is a link within the module for you to register for the FCLE.

Practice Civics Literacy Extra-Credit Quiz

The FCLE is not part of the grading scheme for AMH 2010 and must be taken through the GC Testing Center. However, three extra-credit points will be added to the final average for students who pass the Practice Civics Literacy Extra-Credit Quiz with 60%. (The quiz is located within "Modules" via the course Canvas page). Five extra-credit points will be added to the final average for students who pass the Practice Civics Literacy Extra-Credit Quiz with a minimum of 80%.

The extra-credit quiz will be available throughout the semester and may be taken up to three times—Canvas will record your highest score.

NOTE: PASSING THE <u>PRACTICE</u> CIVICS LITERACY QUIZ WILL NOT GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR THE STATE-WRITTEN FCLE, WHICH MUST BE PASSED TO SATISFY THE CIVICS LITERACY REQUIREMENT.

Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required.

Make-Up Work Policy:

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. "Computer problems" is not an acceptable excuse.

Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each Learning Module. Take the embedded quiz within each lecture—I cannot overstress the importance of the digital lectures;
- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below); and,
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

Student Expectation Statement:

The student is expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, by listening to all digital lectures, by reading the assigned readings, by submitting the Biosketch essay, and by completing all four exams as scheduled.

Method of Evaluation:

Exam # 1	21.25%
Exam # 2	21.25%
Exam # 3	21.25%
Exam # 4	21.25%
Lecture Quizzes	10%
Biosketch Essay	05%

Assignment of Grades:

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Assessment Instruments:

Exams:

- The four exams will be comprised of multiple-choice, true-false, and matching questions.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser with Camera is required for all testing.
- Each exam will be available for a specific time period. See the Course Schedule in this syllabus for the dates during which time the exams will be available.
- The exams will be delivered online via Canvas.
- The exams will be timed; each is strictly closed book and closed notes.
- See the exam instructions within the course Canvas page for the time limit.

Biosketch Essay:

The Biosketch Essay should be submitted as a Word document and uploaded directly into Canvas no later than 11:00 pm on 21 May 2026. This brief assignment requires you to draft a 250-300 word essay about yourself, being certain to include items such as career aspirations, educational background, previous college-level history courses, etc. YOUR ESSAY SHOULD BE GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT WITH NO MISSPELLINGS OR "TYPOS."

IMPORTANT! As I use the Biosketch submission to determine attendance, students who do not submit the Biosketch essay by the due date will be reported as "No Show" students and dropped from the class roster.

FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY HAVE SUBMITTED A BIOSKETCH ESSAY TO ME FOR A DIFFERENT COURSE: Draft a 250-300 word "Career Goals" essay in which you discuss your career aspirations, explain why you chose such a path, and detail what it is about your chosen profession that you believe will be most rewarding and why. Contact me if you have already submitted a "Career Goals" essay.

You should also include as much "contact information" as possible so that I will be able to contact you quickly if necessary. It is recommended that you draft the essay using whatever word processing program you have on your computer, closely edit the essay, and then upload it into Canvas via the Biosketch module.

Lecture Quizzes.

Each of the lectures includes a brief quiz embedded into the recording that you can use to test your comprehension of the materials. The lecture quiz scores will be combined and account for 10% of your final average.

Make-up Work Policy:

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify me as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course.

COURSE OUTLINE OF LEARNING MODULES

Module	Dates	Module Assignments
1	15 May-04 June	Biosketch due: 21 May 2026 Textbook Chapters: 1-4 Lectures: 1-5 (with embedded quizzes) Exam 1: 03-04 June 2026
2	05 June–25 June	Textbook Chapters: 5-8 Lectures: 6-9 (with embedded quizzes) Exam 2: 24-25 June 2026
3	26 June-16 July	Textbook Chapters: 8-11 Lectures 9-12 (with embedded quizzes) Exam 3: 15-16 July 2026
4	17 July-31 July	Textbook Chapters: 12-15 Lectures: 13-15 (with embedded quizzes) Exam 4: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY!!! 30-31 July 2026

<u>ALL GRADES WILL BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON 1 August 2026</u>

Social Sciences Policies AY 2025-2026

Academic Integrity Policy -

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an

educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

- "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.
- "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects.
- "Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.
- The use of AI software in any form to create class assignments may violate GCSC's Academic Integrity Policy. Before employing AI technology in any manner and to any degree, students should consult with their professors for all courses offered through the Social Sciences Division.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement -

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures -

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the current GCSC Student Handbook.

Email & Voicemail Response Time -

Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may or may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance -

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

Withdrawals -

Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals -

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades -

Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- **Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.**
- **Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.**

Important Note:

The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F."