



# Course Syllabus

## United States History to 1877

AMH 2010 / CRN: 85190 / Fall 2026

C Session (10/12/2026 – 12/10/26)

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites: None

## Contact Information

### Instructor

Jon R Hetzel, M.S.  
Adjunct Professor  
[jhetzel@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:jhetzel@gulfcoast.edu)

Office: Remote  
Office Hours: *Email*  
Response Time: 24-48 hours

## Social Sciences Division Chair

Robert Saunders, Jr., PhD.  
Professor and Chair  
[rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu)  
850-872-3826

### Division Administrative Assistant

Ms. Jody Walton  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
[jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu)  
850-872-3825

## Course Information

### Important Note

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.

### 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.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

- 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.

### Course Materials & Resources:

OpenStax, [US History](#), Web Version Last Updated: May 20, 2025. ISBN-13: 978-1-938168-36-9

The OpenStax textbook for this course is a completely free, online, and downloadable text “designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory American history 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).”

License: *U.S. History* by OpenStax is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License v4.0

### Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. 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 course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online discussions, quizzes and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus and within Canvas for more information.

## Attendance and Make-Up Policies for this Course

### Attendance Policy:

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Students “attend” class by completing assignments as scheduled.

### 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). “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

## AI Policy for this Course

### Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

## Student Expectations

Communication and feedback within the course will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, and assignment feedback.

Additionally, as a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the instructions within the course syllabus along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. Be certain you understand the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in the course and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a deeper learning experience.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Respond Via Student email:** I will respond to your emails within 24-48 hours excluding weekends and holidays, unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** Announcements will be posted to keep you updated and help you manage your time. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.

## Course Requirements:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

Students enrolled in this section of AMH 2010 can expect a comprehensive, highly detailed, and balanced study of American history to 1877.

- I am an Adjunct Instructor in my Fourteenth year of instruction. I have taught at both Gulf Coast State College and Florida State University. I am always open to questions and to handle any problems you are experiencing with the course. Please be Proactive and email me with questions prior to concerns developing into problems.
- This online course is organized into modules, each consisting of reading assignments, power points, and discussion board questions uploaded by the professor. There may also be films/documentaries relevant to the material within each module.
- Students can expect to receive replies to emails to the professor within 24-48 hours. Reply times may be extended over weekends and holidays.

- Students enrolled in this section of AMH 2020 are expected to use Canvas, the OpenStax textbook website, and their GCSC email address for accessing the learning materials for this course and for all internet-based communication.
- Students enrolled in this course will be required to:
  - Read all of the textbook chapters assigned within each Learning Module;
  - Complete all assignments by the scheduled date;
  - Contribute to the Discussion Board as prescribed, per module;
  - Complete all quizzes and exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course calendar in Canvas).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them

## Assignments/Assessment Instruments

### I. Exam

There are two Exams for this course, the Midterm and Final. They are comprehensive and mixed tasks for both. Each exam will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, 4-short term identification questions, and 1 essay question. A study guide will be provided approximately 1 week prior to each exam. Exams must be completed by 11:59PM CST on the day they are due. You have two hours for each exam so start the exam prior to 9:59PM CST to get access to the full two hours. "Computer problems" are not a sufficient excuse for an extension.

### II. Quizzes

There is a Syllabus quiz and 6 multiple choice questions quizzes for this course. The quizzes cover the previous chapters and are progressive throughout the course. You may take the quiz only once, and they are timed at 15 minutes for 15 questions. Please be prepared to take the quiz prior to starting as the time limit suggests you are familiar with the material. These quizzes are open book/notes. Quizzes must be completed by 11:59PM CST on the day they are due. No extensions will be granted. Additionally, quizzes must be completed in order to review the questions for the midterm and final. If you do not complete a quiz, you will NOT have access to those questions.

### III. Discussion Boards

There is a Discussion Board for each chapter. Prompts are provided, and responses are required. Discussion Boards make up a significant portion of your grade and will aid you greatly in acquiring a more in-depth knowledge of the course material and aid you greatly with exam preparation. The use of AI platforms is prohibited. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation

of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

## Course Schedule

Dates	Module	Module Assignments
Date	Details	Due
Mon Oct 20, 2026	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 2</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 3</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Quiz 1</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon OCT 24, 2026	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 15</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 15, 2026	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 1</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 4</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 5</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">History Video</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Syllabus quiz</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 19, 2026	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 6</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 7</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 22, 2026	Quiz <a href="#">Quiz #2</a>	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 23, 2026	Quiz <a href="#">Midterm- Requires Respondus LockDown Browser</a>	due by 11:59pm

	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 8</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Mon Oct 26, 2026</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 9</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Quiz #3</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Thu Oct 29, 2026</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 10</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 11</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Mon Nov 2, 2026</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 12</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 13</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Quiz #4</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Thu Nov 5, 2026</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 14</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Mon Nov 9, 2026</b>	Discussion Topic <a href="#">Chapter 16</a>	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz <a href="#">Quiz #5</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Thu Nov 12, 2026</b>	Assignment <a href="#">Extra Credit</a>	due by 11:59pm
<b>Mon Nov 16, 2026</b>	Quiz <a href="#">Final</a>	due by 11:59pm

## Grading

### Grading Scale

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

## Calculation of Grades

Midterm – 25%  
Final – 25%  
Participation -25%  
Quizzes – 25%

## Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any 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 sixty 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 all remaining work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F.”

## General GCSC Course Policies

### 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. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### GCSC Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

### Withdrawal Policy

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.).

There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- **Student Withdrawal (W1)** - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- **Administrative Withdrawal (W2)** – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

### Academic Integrity

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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"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. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"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.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)" is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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.

## Classroom Recording

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 GCSC Student Handbook.

## Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

## Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

## Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

- If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.