



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: HIST 2010 Early United States History

Section ID: 82110.202580

Semester and Year: Fall 2025

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 25, 2025

End Date: December 11, 2025

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: American History I - The United States to 1877. A survey of the settlement and development of the colonies, the Revolutionary period, the making of the Constitution, the diplomatic, economic and political problems of the new government, the growth of Nationalism, Jacksonian Democracy, territorial expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. **F, S, Su**

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: MTWRF; 10:45AM - 11:40AM; CHS

Course Drop Deadline: October 31, 2025

Instructor Information

Name: April Griffin

Office Location: Main

Office Hours: 8:15-8:45, 3:15-3:45 Daily

Office Phone: 423-608-4570

Email: April.Griffin@ws.edu, griffinh@cocke.k12.tn.us

Supervisor Name: Dr. Suzanne Stephens

Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6785

Secretary Name: Wanda Harrell

Secretary Phone: 423-585-2633

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

image
not
available

The Unfinished Nation

ISBN: 9781259912535

Authors: Alan Brinkley, John Michael Giggie, Andrew Huebner

Publication Date: 2018-11-01

Edition: 10th Edition

Supplemental or Optional Materials

Students in the Dual Enrollment classroom will also utilize Google Classroom for materials.

Category Learning Outcomes

GOAL:

The goal of the History requirement is to illuminate the past and enhance our understanding of the present. Students learn about the contributions of past cultures and societies to the contemporary world and their influence on political, geographic, economic, religious, and intellectual institutions, structures, and processes across a range of historical periods. Students are also exposed to how historians use evidence to interpret the past and are challenged to think critically about evidence, including primary and secondary sources.

This course will focus on developing the Core Competencies of:



Global and Cultural Awareness











Critical Thinking



Information Literacy

This table describes the Category Learning Outcomes and Primary Core Competencies for this course.

CLO #	Category Learning Outcomes	Primary Core Competencies
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1	Analyze the impact of political, geographic, economic, social, cultural, religious, and intellectual institutions, structures, or processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.		
2	Identify and contextualize historical eras, events, movements and trends from a national and global perspective.		
3	Examine both primary and secondary sources to answer historical questions and distinguish between historical fact, opinion, and interpretation.		
4	Evaluate both primary and secondary sources to determine their value and credibility.		

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

This table describes the Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives and identifies the related Category Learning Outcomes for this course. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

SLO #	Student Learning Outcome/Objective	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
1	Identify significant historical events in American History from the establishment of the first English colonies through the Reconstruction period.	X	X		
2	Provide examples of the role of politics, the economy, and diplomacy in the formation of the American government.	X	X		
3	Assess the major social, political, and cultural issues that arose within the United States from 1789 through 1877.	X	X		
4	Differentiate between primary and secondary sources and integrate these sources into the study of history			X	X

Instructional Approach and Methods

The class is lecture based. There will be in-class activities to supplement the lectures. There will be tests and assignments throughout the year. Students will also complete a research project.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

Instructional and Evaluation Methods:

Exams and quizzes, Essays and Assignments - 60%

- o All essays must be submitted via DropBox on eLearn. They will be rated by TurnItIn which checks for plagiarism. A TurnItIn rating greater than 50% will not be graded and the student will either accept a zero grade or resubmit the assignment.

- o Each student may choose to resubmit up to 3 essays to improve his/her grade.

· Participation and Discussion Board – 25%

- o Students will have a weekly discussion board, especially if the school/college is not meeting in-person.

- o Participation will involve in-class activities and cannot be made up if absent.

· National History Day – 15%

- o Students will complete an in-depth research project related to the theme “Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas.”

Testing Procedures:

Test will be given in-person or through eLearn. If students are not present in class the day of the test, they must make up the test after school.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79

D	60-69
F	0-59

Assignments

Assignments/Projects:

ESSAY 1 Compare the efforts of the Spanish, French, and British to explore and colonize the New World. What motivated each group? Where did they explore and settle? How did they interact with the native population? What types of settlements did they establish?

ESSAY 2 Discuss the factors that led to the American Revolution. What did the English do to anger the colonists? How did the colonists respond? How did the colonists' reactions lead to greater tension?

Essay 3 Describe the three major phases of the Revolutionary War. Who were the leaders involved in each phase on each side? What were the major events of each phase? How did Americans win the war?

ESSAY 4 Explain the problems that led to the drafting of a new Constitution. What occurred during the writing of the Constitution? Who was involved? What were the issues that emerged during the ratification process?

ESSAY 5 Describe the causes, course, and consequences of the War of 1812. What events led to the war? What were some of the major battles of the war (don't just list the battles, why were they important)? How did the war end? What problems were revealed by the war? What actions did the government take to resolve those problems during and after the war?

ESSAY 6 Discuss the history of the Bank of the US. Why was the First Bank chartered? What were some of the concerns about the First Bank? Why was the Second Bank chartered? What were the arguments of those who opposed the Second Bank? What actions did Andrew Jackson take against the Second Bank? What actions did Nicholas Biddle take in his attempts to protect the bank? What happened to the economy because of Jackson's actions?

ESSAY 7 How did the expansion of territory contribute to the sectional divisions in the United States? Give specific examples and explain how each problem was handled.

Final Exam ESSAY 7 Choose a current world event/issue. How has the study of this period of American history helped to be able to better understand what is going on in the world today? **OR** Choose an event we have studied this semester that is similar to a current event. Compare the two events.

I will be looking for you to write details in the essay, not generalities. Remember to cite any outside sources (news articles or reports, etc.) that you consult. **All Essays must be submitted via eLearn and have a Turn-It-In score lower than 50%.**

National History Day Research Project

All student will complete either individually or in a small group an extensive research project. Mini-assignments throughout the semester will be given to keep the students on track for the project. The project will be due the first week of December.

Class Participation

There will be in-class activities throughout the semester. We will also use class time to learn and practice research methods.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of AI for assignment-generation is strictly prohibited. Do not use AI to write essays or assignments. All essays will be run through Turn It In which will flag the essay as plagiarized which will result in a zero for the assignment, per WSCC Academic Integrity policy. For non-essay assignments, I reserve the right to reverse search any text.

The use of AI for research assistance is permitted. If you use AI to help with your research, make certain to cite it properly. However, this is much like using Wikipedia for research. It is a starting point, but not an authority.

Week Of	Topic/Activity
Aug 4	Introduction, European Backgrounds Exploration and Settlement

Aug 11	Colonization
AUg 25	Colonial Culture
Sep 2	Toward the Revolution
Sept 8	The Revolution
Sept 15	Building a New Nation The Constitution Federalists vs. Republicans
Sept 22	The Age of Jefferson
Sept 29	The War of 1812 The Era of Good Feelings Growing Nationalism
Oct 14	Jacksonian Democracy
Oct 20	Culture and Economy
Oct 27	Reform & Slavery

Nov 3	The South
Nov 10	The Impending Crisis
Nov 17	The Civil War
Dec 1	Reconstruction
Dec 9	Final Exam

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Should the school not be meeting in person, check eLearn and Google Classroom for assignments and announcements.

Virtual Office Hours	For web-based courses, the easiest way to reach me is through email. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours with the exception of weekends and holidays. griffin@cocke.k12.tn.us
Library Information	This is the library website (https://library.ws.edu/c.php?g=181040&p=1191972).
Technical Support	This is the Helpdesk website (http://helpdesk.ws.edu/).
Web Addresses/Resources	None
Guidelines for Communication: Email, Discussion Posts, Chat	Participate and collaborate constructively with peers. Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. To view the current Student Handbook, click on the following link: [Student Handbook \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=1896) <http://catalog.ws.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=1896>

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see

your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\).
ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\).
ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\).
helpdesk.walters.edu](https://helpdesk.walters.edu)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\).
ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.walters.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](https://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](https://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/home/)
[ws.edu/home/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/home/)

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)

<ws.edu/set/>

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)