**Wayland Mission Statement**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Contact Information**

**Course**

: HIST 2301 VC02 – United States History to 1877

**Campus**

: WBUonline

**Term/Session**

**:** Fall 2025

**Instructor**

**:** Dr. Autumn Lass

**Office Phone Number**

**:** Communicate via Email and Zoom meetings

**WBU Email Address**

**:** [lassa@wbu.edu](mailto:lassa@wbu.edu)

**Office Hours, Building, and Location**

**:** Online via Zoom

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

**:** Blackboard

**Course Information**

**Catalog Description**

**:** European background, exploration and discovery, colonization, the War of Independence, the Constitution, early national period, Jefferson and Jackson, expansion, and the era of sectionalism culminating in the Civil War and Reconstruction.

**There is no prerequisite for this course.**

**Textbook Information**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials**

**:**

Schaller, Michael. Ed. *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context* (Volume 1). Oxford University Press, 2021.

Schaller, Michael. Ed. *Readings* *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context* (Volume 1). Oxford University Press, 2021.

*The textbook for this course is part of the* ***Wayland’s Automatic eBook*** *program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore* [*Automatic eBook FAQ*](https://bookstore.wbu.edu/site_inclusive.asp) *page.*

**Optional Materials**

**:** <<List optional materials recommended to enhance student learning>>

**Course Outcome Competencies**

**:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to understand and describe:

* Causes, process, and results of the exploration and settlement of the American colonies
* Causes, course, and results of the American revolutionary period
* Political, social, and economic events of the early national period
* Political, social, and economic transformation during the Jacksonian era
* Causes, course, and results of slavery and the era of sectional conflict
* Events and significant persons in the lives of ethnic minority and female Americans
* Causes, course, and results of the Civil War
* Political and social ramifications of Southern Reconstruction

**Attendance Requirements**

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**University Policies**

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence (GAI) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/writing-center/Academic%20Integrity%20Statement%20Pol%208.4.1%20Attch%20Oct%2020222.pdf)

1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.
   1. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like Chat GPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
   2. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
   3. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

**Disability Statement**

**:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, [hammerr@wbu.edu](mailto:hammerr@wbu.edu) or call (806) 292-9150.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria**

**Overall Requirements and Grade Allocation (1000-point scale)**

* Weekly Study Logs – 300 points (6 @ 50 each)
* Weekly Quizzes – 300 points (6 @ 50 points each)
* Social Media in History – 240 (6 @ 40 points each)
* Escaping the National Archives – 100 points
* Historical Creative Expression & Discussion – 60 points

**Course Grading Scale:**

* 900 – 1000 = A
* 800 – 899 = B
* 700 – 799 = C
* 600 – 699 = D
* 0 – 599 = F

**Assignment Descriptions:**

* *Weekly Study Logs:* Students submit a **weekly log** summarizing key takeaways from readings and podcasts. **Logs must be handwritten and legible**. Students must use the template provided on Blackboard. Study logs may ONLY include information from the podcast lectures and textbook readings. Any information included that is not featured in the textbook or online podcast will result in an immediate zero. Students post and upload their notes as an image or PDF File.
* *Weekly Quizzes:* Each week, students will complete a **60-minute** content quiz featuring objective questions that reflect the themes of the week's unit. Students will have two attempts to take the quiz and the average score of the attempts. Students will not be able to access the quiz until AFTER they have submitted their weekly study log.
* *Social Media in History Discussions:* Each week, students will be assigned to read a section from the primary source reader, then participate in a discussion forum that mirrors a social media platform. Students will create posts reacting as if they were witnesses, journalists, or historical figures.
* *Historical Creative Expressive*: Students will create a creative expression (drawing, poem, song, etc.) that showcases what they thought was the most interesting event in class, then share that creation with their classmates in a discussion. (More details on Blackboard)
* *Escaping the National Archives* is an engaging alternative to a final exam that challenges students to apply what they’ve learned interactively. The goal is to solve a series of puzzles, challenges, or riddles that require critical thinking, problem-solving, and subject knowledge.
* *Bonus Opportunities:* The course includes a variety of bonus activities, which will be announced and scheduled by the instructor. **Since bonus opportunities are offered throughout the semester, final grade totals will not be rounded up, and no additional opportunities will be provided after final grades are posted.** Students who engage in academic dishonesty will forfeit the privilege of earning any further bonus points in the course.

**The University has a standard grade scale:**

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

**Student Grade Appeals**

**:** Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule**

TBD

**Additional Information**

<<Section can be deleted if not needed>>