

HISTORY 120 – The United States to 1877

SPRING 2026 (2nd 8 weeks-4/13/26-6/7/26)

Section 71783

FULLY ONLINE - CANVAS

This course examines the major political, economic, intellectual, and social forces at home and abroad that shaped American life from the colonial period through the post-Civil War period known as Reconstruction. We will pay specific attention to intercultural encounters among indigenous Americans, Africans and later African Americans, and Europeans. We also examine the political and material notions of Americanism and freedom within different subsets of populations in the United States, and how these ideas changed over time. Our driving questions are “What is freedom?” and “How was freedom defined by different groups across the continent and over time?” You may be required to work in assigned groups, you will participate in presentations and discussions, and certainly you will be required to be an active learner in this class – yes, even online! There is a LOT of reading and writing required for this course, so expect to spend a lot of your time in both activities. Being able to convey your thoughts verbally and in essay format is a skill that takes time and practice thus you will have ample opportunity to practice. The course meets the California State University requirements for United States History. *You should expect to write the equivalent of 15-20 pages (3750-5000 words) for this course in variety of assignments that may include: short or long answer essay exams/quizzes, research projects, identifications and/or historical reflections/journals throughout the duration of the course.*



Figure 1 Benjamin Franklin in a beaver-pelt cap, Line engraving by A. de St Aubin after C. N. Cochin, Junior, 1777, CC-BY-4.0 courtesy of the Wellcome Collection.

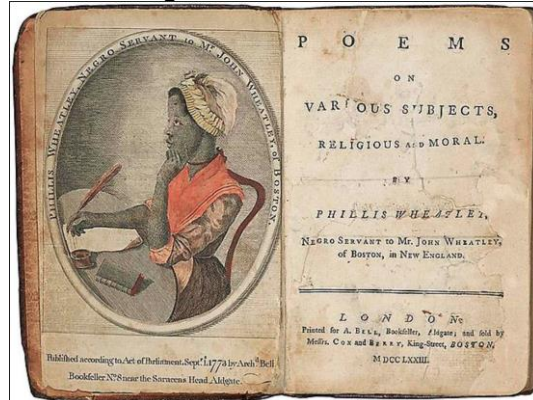


Figure 2 A 1773 edition of Phillis Wheatley's 'Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral.' Randy Duchaine/Alamy

"No idea is more fundamental to Americans' sense of themselves as individuals and as a nation than freedom. The central term in our political vocabulary, "freedom"—or "liberty," with which it is almost always used interchangeably—is deeply embedded in the record of our history and the language of everyday life. The Declaration of Independence lists liberty among mankind's inalienable rights; the Constitution announces as its purpose to secure liberty's blessings. Obviously, other peoples also cherish freedom, but the idea does seem to occupy a more prominent place in public and private discourse in the United States than elsewhere."

- Eric Foner, "[American Freedom in a Global Age](#)"

Instructor Information:

Megan Lange: **CANVAS INBOX PREFERRED**

424-477-2104

lange_megan@sac.edu

Office Location: *my office is closed during January*

Office Hours: by appointment – phone/Zoom/Pronto

Website: www.langemegan.com



SAC Mission: Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners.

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Course Student Learning Outcomes:

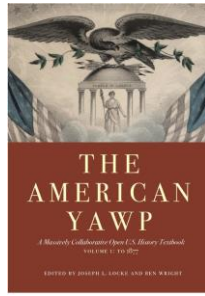
Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Critically analyze and interpret primary documents and secondary sources, and will be able to interpret qualitative and quantitative data in order to evaluate historical events;
- 2) Develop communication skills through oral and written exercises, and develop analytical skills by critically interpreting historical events;
- 3) Analyze how local, national, and international policies and practices developed in the past continue to impact their contemporary lives.

Course Requirements:

The study of history involves a lot of reading and analyzing content. As such, this course requires a lot of reading and writing. You will be given detailed instructions and grading rubrics for each assignment, and all assignments are due on the date they are listed on the calendar. There is one required course texts for this class, and **it is FREE!** We will be using *The American Yawp, Volume 1: To 1877* (ISBN 9-781-50360-671-5), available online, as a downloadable pdf, print copy, or eBook. While there are links embedded throughout the course shell, they are here as well:

- [Online](#)
- [pdf download](#)
- [print copy or eBook](#) (\$25.00)



Canvas

HIST 120 is fully online using CANVAS as the learning platform. You can access Canvas through the SAC website, or by going directly to <http://rscsd.instructure.com> –use your Self-Service username and password to login and choose “HIST 120” from your course list to access our course shell. If you attempt to login but are unable to do so, please follow the [steps provided by the SAC Distance Education](#) office.

If you have other questions about Canvas and how it works, you can ask me or you can call their Help Desk at 1-844-612-7428 - save this number!

Direct ALL questions related to schedule and course content to me, using the “Inbox” tool embedded in Canvas (it works just like email).

Is this your first fully online course? Great! I highly recommend that you complete the [Quest for Online Success](#) available to all SAC students. Even if you are not new to online, you may be new to SAC or to Canvas, and this training component will help you get prepared for a semester online at Santa Ana College. I will award 3pts of Extra Credit for proof of completion of this training course.

Course Policies:

Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space is a safe and open space, conducive to learning. Respect for yourself, fellow classmates and me, the instructor, is required for lively and productive discussion. Dissenting opinions are not only tolerated, but they are encouraged. I will jump in to discussions from time to time to add probing questions or to clarify information that was posted.

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Attendance/Class Participation:

Since we do not meet face to face in a classroom, the guidelines for attendance differ slightly. I will however still monitor your comings and goings in the course, as well as time spent on some activities, made possible by Canvas. I encourage you to log in to our course shell daily; this is an extremely fast-paced course and the entire class contents will be open to you as of Day 1; as they said in the eighteenth century, don't dillydally!

In addition, there are three preliminary milestones you need to meet in order to stay enrolled in the class:

- 1. Log in to the course shell by MONDAY, APRIL 13, 11:59pm; if I see you have not logged in by Tuesday you will be dropped from the course.**
- 2. Review the Course Information module in its entirety, and complete the introductory/syllabus quiz by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 11:59pm.**
- 3. Post a reply to Discussion 1, Introductions -Week 1, by FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 11:59pm as well as two responses to your peers by SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 11:59pm.**

****Failure to meet any of these three milestones will result in being dropped from the course. I may reinstate you upon request.****

Throughout the session, if I see that you have not logged in or engaged with course material for over a week, this too may result in being dropped from the course. I encourage you to communicate with me early and often if you are experiencing difficulties (with technology, schedule or other) to avoid getting behind or being excluded. The last day to drop the course **without** a "W" is APRIL 22, 2026; **with** a "W" is MAY 24, 2026.

Grading Policy:

Assignments and exams will be given points according to the following scale:

- Module Discussions (10 total) = 150 points (15 points each)
 - Primary Source Analysis (PSA) (2 total) = 60 points (30 points each)
 - Chapter Quizzes (12 total) = 60 points (5 points each)
 - DLA/DOTA (1 total) = 15 points (completed in the Learning Center, in-person or online)
 - Annotated Bibliography/Thesis Statement = 50 points
 - Topic Poster Presentation = 60 points
 - Readiness Quizzes (2 total) = 15 points (7 & 8 points each)
 - Exams (2 total) = 70 points (35 points each)
- TOTAL = 480 points**

Your percentage achievement will be computed by dividing your cumulative point total by 480.

Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the semester, but total point value will not exceed 5% (24 points) of total possible points. **Please note that missing assignments will be automatically scored with half credit.** While this helps maintain accuracy in final grade calculation, it is certainly insufficient for a passing final score. I encourage you to aim to complete most, if not all, assignments – they are designed to help you learn the content more thoroughly and to become expert communicators!

All assignments must be submitted typed – no handwritten papers will be accepted. You can check your grade at any time via Canvas GRADES.

All late work and extra credit must be submitted by WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 to be considered for credit.

The following grading scale will be applied:

A	90-100 %	432+ points
B	80-89%	384-431
C	70-79%	336-383
D	60-69%	288-335
F	59% or below	287 or below

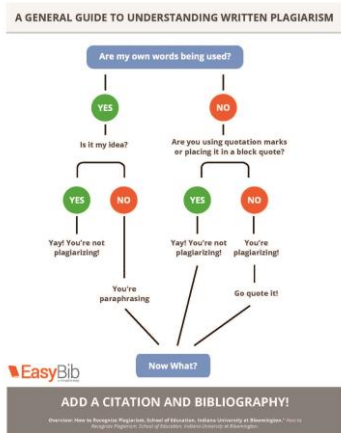
Late Work: There is a lot to cover in this course, and it is important that you keep up with assigned deadlines and due dates. I do however understand that "life happens" and there may be some instances when you need a little extra time. For this reason, you will have the option to choose ten (10) of the available sixteen (16) module discussion posts to respond to - **while I do not accept late discussion posts**, if you miss a module or single discussion, it doesn't count against you. Each initial post you provide for the discussion is due by Friday night and your peer responses are both due Sundays. Any discussion forum that you participate in above the required 10 is worth 4pts Extra Credit.

Additionally, there are chapter quizzes for you to complete by Fridays (orientation quiz is mandatory to remain enrolled), with an extension of two days per quiz for late submissions; *you can skip three chapter quizzes with no point penalty*. A minimum of 10% will be deducted from all late submissions, with the exclusion of week 4 assignments for which there is no late submission accepted. As mentioned previously, I encourage you to communicate early and often with me regarding issues you may experience with deadlines or keeping up with the course. *Technology or Internet issues are not excuses for late work; as an online student you are expected to have regular and consistent access to the course site for the duration of the session*. This may mean you need to visit the [Academic Computing Center](#) to submit assignments - plan ahead and plan accordingly.

A couple of good rules to follow: save your work in a document on your computer in addition to the submission field, and do not wait until the last second to attempt a submission (often everyone else is trying to submit at the same time and the system/site tends to be overwhelmed).

Education Plan: Do You Have an Education Plan? An education plan is essential to completing your education and to insuring that every class you take counts toward your college graduation and toward getting a job or moving forward with your professional development. If you have not worked out an education plan with a Santa Ana College counselor contact the [counseling office](#) and schedule an appointment. Do it today!

Academic Honesty – Cheating and Plagiarism:



From the current Student Catalog: *“Students at Santa Ana College are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one’s research, to steal the words or ideas of another, or to cheat on an examination, corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. Academic dishonesty is seen as an intentional act of fraud, in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. As institutions, we also consider academic dishonesty to include forgery of academic documents, intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others, assisting other students in acts of dishonesty or coercing students into acts of dishonesty.”*

Limited sanctions include an academic action such as assigning a lower grade or a grade of "F" or "0" for the assignment, project, or test. College-wide sanctions include any sanction that will affect a student's standing with the college-at-large, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the college. **I will not give you credit for work that is not your own. This also includes copy/paste from online translators, paraphrasers, AI-generated responses or over-use of writing tools like Grammarly.** If you need assistance understanding what constitutes plagiarism I am more than happy to work with you.

Additionally, you are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools. My job is to assess your learning of historical content and production, not your ability to effectively input AI prompts. Remember, **I will not give you credit for work that is not your own.**

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When in doubt, cite your source. We will practice using Chicago-Style citations in this history class, a standard for the history discipline.

When in doubt, cite your source. If you are unclear of what to do, the infographic above from EasyBib might be a good place to start.

Available Support Services (Tutors, Writing Lab): If you require extra academic support at any time throughout the semester, contact me. The SAC Learning Center offers remote tutoring to assist you with your reading and writing skills. See their [webpage](#) for more details. In addition, I am more than happy to help you with supplementary study resources. NetTutor is also available, accessible through our course shell.

Students With Disabilities: Please speak with me directly regarding any special accommodations you require in this course. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are also encouraged to contact [Disabled Students Programs and Services \(DSPS\)](#) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion (714-564-6295; hours: M-TH 8:00am-5:00pm & F 8:00am-12:00pm or by appointment). Please meet with DSPS Staff to verify your eligibility for any classroom accommodations and for Academic assistance related to your disability. DSPS is located in the Johnson Student Center, JSC-108.

The Health and Wellness Center offers quality short-term care to support your academic success. Their diverse team provides both in-person and telehealth services, including physical and mental health care; most services are free for currently enrolled Santa Ana College and School of Continuing Education students. To schedule an appointment with a Nurse, Physician, or Psychologist, visit them in Johnson Student Center - 110, or call (714) 564-6216.

Intersession Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm and Friday, 8:00am-11:30am.

For after-hours or weekend emergencies:

- 1) Call the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.
- 2) Text COURAGE to 741-741 (Crisis Text Line).
- 3) Contact the OC WarmLine for free emotional support at (714) 991-6412.

Sexual Harassment: It is the policy of the Rancho Santiago Community College District to provide an educational, employment and business environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment, as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and Federal law.

The Rancho Santiago Community College District forbids any form of sexual harassment. Prompt disciplinary action will be taken against any student or employee engaging in sexual harassment. If you feel that you have been the victim of sexual harassment please contact Jennifer De La Rosa, the District Administrator of Title IX [pronounced "nine"], at (714) 564-6211 / titleix@sac.edu OR if you are the victim of sexual assault call 9-1-1 OR visit the campus Wellness Center.

Students with Undocumented Status: I am an unapologetic and unafraid trained ally to undocumented students and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns about your status or would like guidance toward resources to ensure your success while at Santa Ana College. Check out our [college website dedicated to informing the community about undocumented-related resources \(i.e. AB540, DACA, financial aid, etc.\)](#).

SAC Pride! now has a dedicated faculty liaison as well as a dedicated counselor and a Pride! student space is coming soon too! You can get contact information as well as access to additional resources through the [SAC Pride! home page](#) and you can always ask me for more information as well. There is also a [Canvas Safe Space](#) available with films, resources, and much much more. I am proud to affirm LGBTQIA2S+ students!

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No Trolls: Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space is a safe and open space, conducive to learning. Respect for yourself, fellow classmates and me, the instructor, is required for lively and productive discussion. Dissenting opinions are not only tolerated, but they are encouraged. “Trollish” behavior, however, in the online environment is not permitted and will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal of remarks, exclusion from discussion(s) or zero points. A troll is defined as someone who deliberately starts quarrels or posts inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic responses to elicit a negative emotional response from a target. We can (and will!) disagree, but let’s do so respectfully.

In Case of Emergency: Download the Rave Guardian app (for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#)) to easily communicate your whereabouts and other safety concerns with campus staff. In addition, follow directions on text and email notifications sent by the school.

*****This syllabus is subject to change at any time and all currently enrolled students will be updated accordingly.*****

Calendar/Schedule of Class Readings, Topics, And Assignments

DATE	TOPIC	TEXT READINGS	ASSIGNMENT(S) <i>due Sunday nights 11:59pm unless otherwise noted</i>
WEEK 1 April 13-19 MODULE 1	Introductions/ Orientation	Plagiarism/citation module	Profile Update; Introduction Discussion Module 1 (required – choose 9 more throughout the session for full credit);
MODULE 2	Indigenous America, before 1600	American Yawp, Chapter 1 ; African American History, Chapter 1; Richter, <i>Facing East</i>	Syllabus Quiz (required – choose 12 more Chapter Quizzes throughout the session for full credit)
WEEK 2 April 20-26 MODULE 3 April 22 is last day to drop <i>without</i> a “W”	Colonial Societies, 1598-1776	American Yawp, Chapters 2, 3 & 4; African American History, Chapters 2 & 3; Smallwood, <i>Saltwater Slavery</i>	
WEEK 3 April 27-May 3 MODULE 4	The American Revolution, 1763- 1791; The Constitution	American Yawp, Chapters 5 & 6; The Remedial Herstory Project, Chapter 4 ; Lepore, <i>Book of Ages</i>	Primary Source Analysis (1)
WEEK 4 May 4-May 10 MODULE 5	The New Republic, 1791-1820	American Yawp, Chapters 7 & 8	Poster Project Planning; DLA/DOTA

SMILE! You’re half-way through the course!

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DATE	TOPIC	TEXT READINGS	ASSIGNMENT(S) <i>due Sunday nights 11:59pm unless otherwise noted</i>
WEEK 5 May 11-May 17 MODULE 6	Democracy in America, 1820-1860	American Yawp, Chapter 9; Zinn, <i>“As Long As Grass Grows or Water Runs”</i>	Mid term Exam (modules 1-4)
WEEK 6 May 18-May 24 MODULE 7 May 24 is last day to drop with a “W”	Religion, Reform, and Cotton, 1820-1860	American Yawp, Chapters 10 & 11	Primary Source Analysis (2)
WEEK 7 May 25 -May 31 MODULE 8 <i>Monday Holiday</i>	Manifest Destiny, 1800-1860	American Yawp, Chapters 12 & 13; Hogan, <i>Abraham Lincoln and Mexico</i>	Research Annotated Bibliography, Poster Project
WEEK 8 June 1-7 MODULE 9	The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-1877	American Yawp, Chapters 14 & 15	Poster Project peer review due Friday, 6/5 Exam due Sunday 6/7 FINAL EXAM (modules 5-8) NO EXCEPTIONS
** SAC Commencement 6/4 - SCC Commencement 6/5**			

Do you know what Satisfactory Academic Progress means?

For financial aid purposes, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and complete 67% of their attempted units (which includes all coursework). F, NP, and W grades will lower GPA and/or completion rate. Students not meeting satisfactory academic progress will be notified of an opportunity to appeal in Self-Service. If their appeal is approved, their financial aid will be reinstated. Students must also complete their educational program within a maximum time frame of 150% of the units required to complete that educational program. Example: A student who is registered in a program with 60 required units for completion is eligible for financial aid while attempting their first 90 units. For more information, Santa Ana College’s SAP policy can be found at <https://sac.edu/StudentServices/FinancialAid/Documents/SAP%20Policy.pdf>