Purpose of the Class:

Based on the concept that learning about the past helps us to understand conditions in the present, the study of historical events is useful in our lives. Active learning of history affects an awareness of the past, in direct comparison with current events, so that past errors will not be replicated tomorrow. Moreover, the present should be analyzed and evaluated in relation to similar patterns in the past. Genuine learning evokes an expansion of consciousness, understanding, and empathy. Although we cannot possibly cover all of the pre-1865 history of the United States in a short survey course such as this one, we will focus on some of the most important topics. These include Indigenous responses to marginalization and interactions with colonizers, intellectual and ideological currents and their impact on events, relationships between racism, slavery and westward US expansion as well as the significance of class, gender, economics, physical environments, consumer capitalism, market and transportation related changes, and noteworthy individuals. The learning of this history bridges the gap between past, present, and future while considering the significance of time. The past comes to life as we recognize that we ourselves are historical figures. Individually and collectively, we will learn about the ideals and dreams that people had in the past and ways in which those philosophies are now applied to current issues or problems. Students will practice critical thinking, reasoning, and writing skills in order to prepare themselves as tomorrow’s leaders, teachers, scholars, and elites.

Required Textbooks:


Books are available at the University Book Store and at off-campus bookstores. They may also be rented at chegg.com. A copy of each book is also on reserve at the UTEP Library Reserve Desk.

Course Assessment:

Assessment will be accomplished via evaluation of individual contributions to group presentations, quizzes, and examinations as follows:

**Group Presentations: (50 pts.)**

During the second class meeting, you will be tasked with the forming of groups consisting of two to five classmates each. Your groups will participate in various exercises including the assembly of a movie screenplay portraying events in the life of a slave girl. Each of you will have responsibility for a different aspect of the project to guarantee a fair share of the work. The instructor will distribute the specific requirements during class.
Quizzes: (50 pts. total)
Several eight-minute quizzes will be administered on unannounced days in order to assess your knowledge of the reading assignments. These will consist of mini-essay questions or conceptual prompts.

Four exams, including the final exam: (4 x 100 pts.)
Exam material is drawn from the textbooks, lectures, discussions, and films. Exams are cumulative; for example, anything covered in the lesson materials before the first exam may also be included on subsequent exams. Each exam shall consist of five parts: essay questions, conceptual prompts for short-answer identification responses, multiple-choice questions, true / false statement prompts, and a matching exercise.

Final Grade for the Course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Student Grade</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>50 (10%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>450-500 points, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50 (10%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>400-449 points, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>350-399 points, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>300-349 points, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>0-299 points, F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>500 (100%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remediation and Make-up:

The assessment of your group’s presentation represents a critical portion of its members’ grades and occurs only once during the semester. If you miss class on the day when your group presents and if you wish to remedy this portion of the grade, then you may elect to present a lecture individually for a grade.

Remediation or make-up for quizzes is unavailable. You must attend class in order to take each quiz.

Exams may not be retaken or re-tested; once you have taken an exam, the grade earned is the grade that will be received. It is in your best interest to take the exam as scheduled. If you do not take one of the first three exams when it is scheduled, then you must make-up the exam during the final exam period after completing the final exam. However, all make-up exams are essay exams and they will be more rigorous.
Course Policies and Procedures

You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the classroom policies and procedures described below. Problems in the classroom may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Classroom environment:
You must uphold a mature level of interaction with classmates and with the instructor. Please respect other students by listening to them when they respond to the classroom discussion. Please do not work on other courses during class. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate. You should try to complete all of your calls and text messaging before or after class. If a call must be taken during class, which should only be in the event of an emergency, you should step outside of the classroom. If a laptop computer is utilized for taking notes, the volume control should be set to mute or off before coming to class. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (tweeting, web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class. If your conduct distracts the instructor or other students, you will be asked to leave.

Guests:
Guests may attend class with instructor permission and under the condition that they are not disruptive to the class.

Special Accommodations:
Students with physical, mental or emotional challenges that require accommodation(s) in order to participate in this course should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at the Union Building, East, room 106. Telephone: 747.5148. Email: Cass@utep.edu. Internet: sa.utep.edu/cass/. It is your responsibility to speak with a counselor in order to receive necessary help. Within the first week of the beginning of the semester, you must provide documentation from DSS in order to receive any accommodation(s). Failure to contact CASS and provide documentation in a timely manner may delay such accommodation(s) being made.

Disputed grades:
If you disagree with a grade, you should consult the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours, or you should schedule an appointment.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:
You are expected to do your own work on all graded material submitted for all course requirements. The names and student numbers of students suspected of knowingly using, or attempting to use, another person's work as though such work were their own, and of students suspected of permitting, or attempting to permit, another student to use their work, will be given to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Such conduct may constitute grounds for sanctions ranging from the assignation of a grade of “F” for the work to expulsion from the University. If you are uncertain regarding what actions constitute plagiarism, or about the University policy, then you should consult the instructor.

Dropping the Class:
You are entitled to drop this class with a grade of “W” until the official university drop deadline, as described in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. You are responsible for dropping the class. There will be no faculty-initiated drops, except under special circumstances.
**Calendar and Reading Requirements:**
This calendar is subject to change by the instructor.

Week 1 (Aug. 23, 25)  
Ancient American Civilizations  
Foner, ch. 1.

Week 2 (Aug. 30, Sep. 1)  
Pre-Columbian America, Invasion, and Resistance  
Foner, ch. 1.

Week 3 (Sep. 6, 8)  
Early Colonies  
Foner, ch. 2.

Week 4 (Sep. 13, 15)  
English Conquest and Resettlement  
Foner, ch. 3.  
Sep. 13: Exam 1. (Foner, ch. 1-3)

Week 5 (Sep. 20, 22)  
Colonial Degeneration, Responses, and Conflicts  
Foner, ch. 4.  
Sep. 22: Screenplay Assignment Due.

Week 6 (Sep. 27, 29)  
Revolutionary War, 1775-1783  
Foner, ch. 5.

Week 7 (Oct. 4, 6)  
The First Republic, 1776-1788  
Foner, ch. 6.

Week 8 (Oct. 11, 13)  
The Federalist Years, 1788-1800  
Foner, ch. 7. Jacobs, ch. 1.  
Oct. 11: Exam 2. (Foner, chapters 1-7; Jacobs, ch. 1.)

Week 9 (Oct. 18, 20)  
The Jeffersonian Era, 1800-1824  

Week 10 (Oct. 25, 27)  
Manifest Destiny, Western Invasion, and Resistance  

Week 11 (Nov. 1, 3)  
Jacksonian America, 1828-1854  

Week 12 (Nov. 8, 10)  
Slavery and Racism  
Nov. 8: Exam 3. (Foner, ch. 1-11; Jacobs, ch. 1-25.)

Week 13 (Nov. 15, 17)  
The Age of Reform, 1820-1840  

Week 14 (Nov. 22)  
Sectionalism, 1846-1861  
There is no class on Nov. 24, a national holiday.

Week 15 (Nov. 29, Dec. 1)  
Civil War, 1861-1865  

**FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME:** Thursday, Dec. 8, 4:00-6:45 p.m. (Foner, ch. 1-14, Jacobs, ch. 1-41)