

History 1301: History of the United States to 1865

Class Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Gary L. Kieffner
Assistant Instructor: Ligia Arguilez
Business, room 309
Mondays and Wednesdays:
7:30-8:50 a.m.
Class series: 11255
Instructor phone: 915.747.7060
Instructor email: Kieffner@utep.edu

Fall Semester 2017
Instructor Office: Liberal Arts, rm. 331
Instructor Office Hours:
Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:00-4:15 p.m.;
Tuesdays: 7:35-8:05 p.m.;
or by appointment
Assistant Instructor Office and Office Hours: TBA

Purpose of the Class:

Learning about the past helps us to understand conditions in the present. Active learning of history affects an awareness of the past, in comparison with current events, so that past errors may be prevented tomorrow. Moreover, the present should be analyzed and evaluated in relation to similar patterns in the past. Although we cannot possibly cover all 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, relationships between racism, slavery and westward US expansion, and other topics. Students will practice critical thinking, reasoning, and writing skills in order to prepare themselves as tomorrow's teachers, scholars, and leaders.

Required Textbooks:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Volume I: To 1877. Fourth Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2014.
Ernesto Chávez. *The U.S. War with Mexico: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2008.

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 occur via evaluation of contributions to team collaborations and presentations, written assignments, a test and a final examination as follows:

Team Collaboration for Video Collection Compilation: (50 pts.)

During the first week of class, you will be assigned to a team consisting of seven to twelve classmates each. Each day in class, you will collaborate with your teammates to locate, select and submit one YouTube video via Blackboard. The instructor will assign the daily topic and criteria in class. Each member of your team who is present on any given day will receive a grade according to the quality of the video you collectively select and submit based on the following criteria: its source (i.e., the YouTube author), the topic, video content and general quality of the production. Each post on Blackboard must include the name of your team, the names of all teammates present in class on that day, the title of the video, and its URL.

Team Presentation: (50 pts.)

Your team 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.

Midterm Test: (100 pts.)

Test material is drawn from assigned chapters in the textbooks, lectures, discussions, and films.

Term Paper: (100 pts.)

You will individually write a term paper in the form of an essay based on a topic selected from the instructor's list of topics. The essay must be a minimum of ten pages in length. The instructor will distribute the specific requirements during class.

Final Exam: (200 pts.)

Final exam material is drawn from the textbooks, lectures, discussions, and films. The exam is cumulative; for example, anything covered in the lesson materials before the midterm test may also be included on the final exam.

Final Grade for the Course:

Requirements	Weight	Student Grade	Grading Scale
Video Submissions	50 (10%)	_____	450-500 points, A
Team Presentation	50 (10%)	_____	400-449 points, B
Midterm Test	100 (20%)	_____	350-399 points, C
Term Paper	100 (20%)	_____	300-349 points, D
Final Exam	200 (40%)	_____	0-299 points, F
Total Points	500 (100%)	_____	

Remediation and Make-up:

Remediation for video selection absence or lack of team participation is unavailable. You must attend class and collaborate with your team in order to get a good grade.

The assessment of your team'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 team presents and if you wish to remedy this portion of the grade, then you may elect to present a lecture individually for a grade.

The grades of papers submitted after the deadline will decrease at the rate of ten percent per each day they are late. Remediation for papers that are more than nine days late will be available upon request by the student and will consist of a double-length paper written on a new topic, as assigned by the instructor.

The midterm test may not be retaken or re-tested; once you have taken the test, the grade earned is the grade that will be received. It is in your best interest to take the test as scheduled. If you do not take the midterm test when it is scheduled, then you must take the makeup midterm during the final exam period after completing the final exam. However, the makeup midterm test is an essay test and it will be rigorous.

There is no make-up for the final exam. All students must take the final exam during the scheduled time.

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. At designated times of team collaboration in specific classroom activities, electronic devices such as laptops, cell phones, beepers, or electronic devices may be used. At all other times, electronic devices must be turned off or set to vibrate, and stowed away. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (tweeting, web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, video viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class. If your conduct distracts the instructor or other students, you will be asked to leave.

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 CASS 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:

Video collection submissions and team presentations are the only collaborative assignments that are graded. All other assessments are for individual productions. 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 is 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. 28, 30)	Ancient American Civilizations Foner, ch. 1.
Week 2 (Sep. 6)	Pre-Columbian America, Invasion, and Resistance Foner, ch. 1. There is no class on Sep. 4, Labor Day
Week 3 (Sep. 11, 13)	Early Colonies Foner, ch. 2. Sep. 11: <u>Team Presentation Due.</u>
Week 4 (Sep. 25, 27)	English Conquest and Resettlement Foner, ch. 3.
Week 5 (Oct. 2, 4)	Colonial Degeneration, Responses, and Conflicts Foner, ch. 4.
Week 6 (Oct. 9, 11)	Revolutionary War, 1775-1783 Foner, ch. 5.
Week 7 (Oct. 16, 18)	The First Republic, 1776-1788 Foner, ch. 6.
Week 8 (Oct. 23, 25)	The Federalist Years, 1788-1800 Foner, ch. 7. Chávez, Documents 2 & 6, pp. 37-38, 44-45. Oct. 23: <u>Midterm Test.</u> (Foner, ch. 1-7; Chávez, Docs. 2 & 6)
Week 9 (Oct. 30, Nov. 1)	The Jeffersonian Era, 1800-1824 Foner, ch. 8 and 9. Chávez, Part One, and Doc. 7, pp. 45-46.
Week 10 (Nov. 6, 8)	Jacksonian America and Manifest Destiny, 1828-1854 Foner, ch. 10. Chávez, Parts One and Two.
Week 11 (Nov. 13, 15)	Slavery and Racism Foner, ch. 11. Chávez, Parts One and Two.
Week 12 (Nov. 20, 22)	The Age of Reform, 1820-1840 Foner, ch. 12. Chávez, Parts One and Two. Nov. 20: <u>Term Paper due.</u>
Week 13 (Nov. 27, 29)	Sectionalism, 1846-1861 Foner, ch. 13. Chávez, Parts One and Two.
Week 14 (Dec. 4, 6)	Civil War, 1861-1865 Foner, ch. 14.

FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME: Friday, December 15, 7:00 a.m.-9:45 p.m. (Foner, ch. 1-14; Chávez, Parts One and Two)