

United States History Before 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2018, HIST 1301, CRN 12532

TR 3:00-4:20, Liberal Arts Bldg, Rm. 102.

PROFESSOR: *Scott Comar, Ph.D.*

EMAIL: *sccomar@utep.edu*

OFFICE: *LART 329*

OFFICE HOURS: *MWF 11:30-12:30 and by appointment.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will examine United States history through the periods of pre-colonization, colonization, Independence, nation-state formation, national expansion, and Civil War. Thinking critically, students will analyze various primary and secondary sources, interpret them, and form their own conclusions based on their investigations. In this way, students will learn that writing history involves a process of analysis, synthesis, and translation in which historians constantly reinterpret the past. Thinking like historians, students will consider how interpretation, causation, historical change and context, and various contingencies all shaped historical outcomes. This course will also introduce students to academic writing through various exercises in which they will learn about essay structure and formatting. Students will also consider the experiences of many diverse historical actors, such as Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans. Examining history and writing academically, students will offer their own interpretations of the past in course papers and exams as they learn to think like historians.

REQUIRED READINGS

Jones, Jacqueline. et al. *Created Equal: A History of the United States*, Volume 1. 5th Edition. USA: Pearson, 2017.

-All students must have this book.

-Additional class readings for assignments are posted on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance is mandatory** for this class. If you miss four classes, you will be dropped. Students are expected to attend class, take notes, and complete all reading and writing assignments. Please arrive to class on time and show respect to your fellow classmates. Students are expected to take notes in this class. Note taking and attendance will help you succeed in this class. Regular attendance is also necessary because a significant part of this class involves group work and in class assignments. **There is no makeup for missed**

in class assignments unless you have valid documentation that you missed class because of a school sponsored activity. Makeup exams will only be available to those who have valid documentation for missing a regular exam. **Students will be dropped for excessive absences.**

Thinking Historically

Interpretation: History is not merely a set of facts to be memorized; instead, historians interpret the past and their interpretations continually change as a result of new evidence and changing perspectives.

Causation: Historians debate the causes of historical events and, since history is an interpretative exercise, historians often disagree over why events happened.

Change: Historians investigate what has changed over time and what has remained the same.

Connections: To avoid past mistakes and to make sense of the present, historians identify connections between the past and present.

Context: Historians insist that the past must be understood on its own terms; thus, any historical event, idea, or person must first be understood in the context of their historical era.

Contingency: Historians are aware that events happen for a range of reasons, but change one factor and that event may not have occurred as it did.

2. **Laptop computers** may be used for note taking only. Laptop computers may not be used for checking e mail, surfing the internet, or visiting web sites (Absolutely No Facebook). The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for text messaging is strictly prohibited. **During examinations and/or quizzes absolutely no electronic devices may be used.** Violators will be immediately reported to the Dean's Office.

3. **Classroom conduct:** Students must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a university classroom. Any behavior that is distracting to other students or to the instructor is strictly out of order. This includes arriving late to class and leaving early except in the case of extreme emergencies. Disruptive students will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and the Deans Office. Regents Rules and Regulations for classroom conduct are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm>.

4. **Students must have** a UTEP e mail account. Students also must have access to **Blackboard**. Computers are provided at the UTEP library and at computer labs in the UGLC and Liberal Arts buildings.

5. **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** According to sections 1.3.1 of the UT Regents' Rules and Regulations, "It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a

disciplinary grade such as an "F" or a zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty..." In short, anyone caught cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict

Resolution. For more on cheating see UT Regents' Rules and Regulations section 1.3.1.1. **Don't plagiarize, be original and always cite your sources** (paraphrases and direct quotes).

6. **Students with Disabilities:** If you require accommodations or suspect that you have a disability please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or visit Room 106 of the Union East Building. For more info visit <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.
7. **Scantron Cards and Bluebooks required.** There are two exams for this class: a mid-term and a final. Students must bring one bluebook for each exam. In addition, students must bring scantrons for various workshops and quizzes. Be smart and be prepared. Get your scantrons and bluebooks early and have them ready.
8. **Students are required to read before class.** Students are required to read chapters before class in order to effectively participate in class discussions. Success in workshops and quizzes depends upon student knowledge of the readings.

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Essays: Each student will submit two 750-1000 word essays. These papers must be computer-generated, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12 pt. font (Times New Roman). Paper 1 is worth 150 points, whereas Paper 2 is worth 200 points. Students must submit these papers by the end of the class period on the assigned due date. Late papers will only be accepted for up to 24 hours after class, though they will be penalized (-25 points for Paper 1 and -35 points for Paper 2). All late papers submitted by email must also be submitted as hard copies within a week of the original submission. Moreover, they must include a print out of the email submission, as that will serve as the paper's time/date stamp. Together these papers represent 35% of the student's total grade. See Blackboard for further Instructions.

(PAPER ONE: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

(PAPER TWO: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam, both of which will require Blue Books. Both the midterm and the final will be based on a central question. Student answers should be based on specific examples provided in lectures and course readings, and their essays should demonstrate mastery of the writing skills developed in the course workshops. The midterm exam represents 15% (or 150 points) of the student's total grade, while the final exam represents 20% (or 200 points). All examinations must be completed at the time scheduled unless the student can present a verifiable and acceptable excuse. Make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the original exam.

(MIDTERM: A =135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

(FINAL EXAM: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

Quizzes and In Class Assignments: Students will work in small groups in class and complete short quizzes and workshop assignments based on class readings. This is why it is very important that students read all class readings before class. Each workshop and quiz is worth 15 points, and these will count for 30% of your final grade. There are a total of 23 workshops and quizzes; the extra three may be completed for extra credit. **Missed workshops and quizzes cannot be made up.** Please bring scantron cards for all quizzes. Some workshops will also require scantron cards. Be prepared.

Grades:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| -Essay 1 (15%) | 150 points |
| -Essay 2 (20%) | 200 points |
| -Midterm Exam (15%) | 150 points |
| -Final Exam (20%) | 200 points |
| <u>-Workshops and quizzes (30%)</u> | <u>300 points</u> |
| Total | 1000 points |

A = 900-1000, B = 800-899, C = 700-799, D = 600-699, F = below 599.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

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| Week 1 | Aug 28 | Course Introduction. Form Groups. Chapter 1, “First Founders.” |
| | Aug 30 | Finish Chapter 1. Workshop 1 , Blackboard Article, “Americas First Immigrants.” |
| Week 2 | Sept 4 | Contact. “European Footholds in North America,” Chapter 2. Quiz 1 |
| | Sept 6 | Contact. “European Footholds in North America,” Chapter 2. Workshop 2 , “1491” and “A Pox in the New World” on Blackboard. |
| Week 3 | Sept 11 | Colonization. “Controlling the Edges of a Continent.” Chapter 3. Workshop 3: Textbooks, Indians and the Settlement of America. |
| | Sept 13 | Quiz 2: Writing Workshop / Fall Census Day is Sept 12 |
| Week 4 | Sept 18 | “African Enslavement: The Terrible Transformation.” Chapter 4. Workshop 4. |
| | Sept 20 | Quiz 3. Writing Workshop |
| Week 5 | Sept 25 | “Colonial Diversity” and “The Limits of Imperial Control.” Chapters 5 and 6 Workshop 5. |
| | Sept 27 | Quiz 4: Rough Draft of Essay Due for Peer Review Workshop |

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| Week 6 | Oct 2 | The American Revolution Chapter 7 Workshop 6. Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline Oct 28. |
| | Oct 4 | Essay 1 Final Draft Due. PBS Liberty “Oh Fatal Ambition.” |
| Week 7 | Oct 9 | “ New Beginnings ” Chapter 8. Workshop 7. |
| | Oct 11 | Midterm Exam Blue Book Required |
| Week 8 | Oct 16 | “ Revolutionary Legacies. ” Chapter 9. Workshop 8. |
| | Oct 18 | Quiz 5: Chapter 9. |
| Week 9 | Oct 23 | “ Defending and Expanding the New Nation. ” Chapter 10. Workshop 9. |
| | Oct 25 | Quiz 6: Chapter 10. |
| Week 10 | Oct 30 | “ Society and Politics in the ‘Age of the Common Man.’ ” Chapter 11. Workshop 10. |
| | Nov 1 | Quiz 7: Chapter 11. |
| Week 11 | Nov 6 | “ Peoples in Motion, 1832-1848. ” Chapter 12. Workshop 11. |
| | Nov 8 | Quiz 8: Peer Review. Rough Draft Essay II Due |
| Week 12 | Nov 13 | “ The Crisis over Slavery. ” Chapter 13. |
| | Nov 15 | Chapter 13: Quiz 9 / Essay II Final Draft Due |
| Week 13 | Nov 20 | The Civil War, 1861-1865. Chapter 14. Quiz 10 |
| | Nov 22 | Thanksgiving holiday/ University closed. |
| Week 14 | Nov 27 | The Civil War |
| | Nov 29 | Reconstruction: Chapter 15 Quiz 11 |
| Week 15 | Dec 4 | Review |
| | Dec 6 | Review |
| Final Exam | Dec 13 | 4:00pm – 6:45pm / Thursday Dec. 13. |

Please read everything in this syllabus very carefully. It is your roadmap to success.