

United States History to 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Spring 2023 –HIST 1301, CRN: 21071

TR, 7:30-8:50am. UGLC. Rm. 128

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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. 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

Cartwright, Brad and Susan Stanfield. *Contextualizing America's Past: An Activities Based Reader through 1877*. Austin, TX: Sentia Publishing, 2018. ISBN 978-1-7320601-8-0.

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty: An American History*. Vol. 1 To 1877. Seagull 6th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2020. ISBN 978-0-393-67914-4.

-All students must have these books.

-Additional class readings for assignments are posted on Blackboard.

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

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.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance is mandatory** for this class. 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 because of a school sponsored activity. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student for excessive absence and lack of effort.

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting using UTEP student ID cards. Card readers are located at the entrance of the classroom. When you enter class, simply hold your student ID card against the reader. It may not be necessary to remove the card from your wallet or purse. If the light on the device turns green or blue, your card has been read properly and your

attendance has been recorded. If the light remains red, the device was unable to read your card; please present it again gently until the green or blue light appears. If you do not see the green or blue light, you may need to remove your card from your wallet or purse in order to

ensure that it is detected. Your attendance will be recorded up to 15 minutes before and 15 after your class is scheduled to start. You need a UTEP student ID to attend this class. Missing IDs are still unexcused absences.

2. **Laptop computers and cellphone** may be used for note taking and answering iClicker questions 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 Office of Student Conduct.
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. Please be respectful of others and do not talk during lectures. Students are required to take notes during lectures. Disruptive students will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
4. **Students must have** a UTEP e mail account. Students also need to have access to **Blackboard**. Computers are provided at the UTEP library and at the computer lab in the UGLC and Liberal Arts buildings. All emails to Instructor and TAs must have all class info and full student name in email subject line. Emails must be sent from UTEP email account.
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 <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.
7. **Scantron Cards and Bluebooks required.** There are four exams for this class. Students must bring Scantron Cards (50 Question) and bluebooks. Be smart and be prepared.
8. **Students are required to read before class.** Students are required to read chapters before class in order to effectively participate in workshops.

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Essays: Each student will submit one 1000-1200 word essay. This essay must be computer-generated (MS Word or PDF), double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12 pt. font (Times New Roman). The essay is worth 100 points. Students must submit their papers by the end of the class period on the assigned due date. **All Essays must be uploaded to the essay assignment module on Blackboard by the assigned due date. Do not email your essays to us. We will not accept essays through email.**

Exams: There will be four exams. Two will require Blue Books and two will require Scantron cards. Both the midterm and the final will be bluebook exams based on one question. Exams 1 and 3 will be Scantron exams based on the textbook. Student answers should be based on both lectures and course readings and their essays should demonstrate mastery of the writing skills developed in the course. The midterm exam and final exams are worth a possible 150 points each towards the student's total grade. All examinations must be completed at the time scheduled unless the student can present a verifiable and acceptable excuse. Make-up exams for exams 1-3 will be scheduled at the end of the semester (date, time, and location to be announced). There is no makeup for the final exam.

(Midterm & Final Exams: A =135-150, B=120-134, C=105-119, D=90-104, F= 0-89)

Participation Grades: We will be using iClicker to engage in interactive discussion in which you will participate with your smart phone or laptop computer. You will be required to download the iClicker program and register using your name as it is listed in the UTEP roster. This activity is worth a possible 100 points. There are no make ups for the iClicker participation activities.

Workshops: Students will work in small groups in class and complete workshop assignments based on class readings. These are all small group assignments. Students must be in class to receive credit for workshops. It is very important that students review all workshops before class. Each workshop is worth 15 points, and these offer you a possible 300 points towards your final grade. There are a total of 20 workshops. **Missed workshops cannot be made up. Late workshops will not be accepted.**

Grades:

-Essay	100 points
-Exam 1	100 points
-Midterm Exam (Exam 2)	150 points
-Exam 3	100 points
-Final Exam	150 points
-Participation Grade	100 points
-Workshops	300 points
Total	1000 points

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

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

CAP = Contextualizing Americas Past

GML = Give Me Liberty

Week 1	Jan 17	University Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
	Jan 19	Class Intro. / Form Groups Precolonial / Preconquest America. Read GML Chapter 1 AND “America’s First Immigrants” on Blackboard Workshop 1 , On Blackboard: (reading & questions) Due 1/22
Week 2	Jan 24	European Contact and Early Colonization. Read GML Chapter 2. Workshop 2 CAP p. 11. Due in class
	Jan 26	Workshop 3 CAP p. 17. Due in class
Week 3	Jan 31	Colonization. “Creating Anglo America” Read GML Chapter 3. Workshop 4 CAP p. 21 Due in Class Census Date Feb 1
	Feb 2	Workshop 5 is a Writing Workshop on Blackboard Due in Class
Week 4	Feb 7	Slavery and the Terrible Transition. GML Chapter 4. Workshop 6 CAP p. 33 Due in Class
	Feb 9	Exam 1 Scantron Required
Week 5	Feb 14	Colonial Diversity and the Roots of Revolution. Read GML Chapter 5. Workshop 7 CAP p. 39 Due in Class
	Feb 16	Workshop 8 CAP p. 59 Due in Class
Week 6	Feb 21	The American Revolution. GML Chapter 6 Workshop 9 CAP p. 69 Due in Class
	Feb 23	Workshop 10 (peer review workshop) – must be a full first draft Rough Draft of Essay 1 Due for Peer Review—must be hard copy
Week 7	Feb 28	Founding a Nation GML Chapter 7 Workshop 11 CAP p. 115
	Mar 2	Final Draft for Essay 1 Due. PBS Liberty
Week 8	Mar 7	“Revolutionary Legacies.” GML Chapter 8 Workshop 12. CAP p. 123
	Mar 9	Midterm Exam / Bluebook Required
Spring Break	Spring Break	March 13-17, No Classes
Week 9	Mar 21	National Defense and Expansion. GML Chapter 9
	Mar 23	Workshop 13 CAP p. 131 Due in Class
Week 10	Mar 28	The Age of Common Man GML Chapter 10 Workshop 14 (on Blackboard) Due April 2 Workshop 15 CAP p. 141 Due in Class
	Mar 30	Workshop 16 CAP p. 147 Due in Class / Drop/W Deadline is March 30
Week 11	April 4	Migrations and Expansion GML Chapter 11 Workshop 17. CAP p. 169 Due in Class
	April 6	Workshop 18. CAP p. 175 Due in Class

Week 12	April 11	The Crises over Slavery GML Chapter 12 Workshop 19 CAP p. 181 Due in Class
	April 13	Exam 3 Scantron Required
Week 13	April 18	The Civil War. GML Chapter 13
	April 20	Workshop 20 CAP p. 207 Due in Class
Week 14	April 25	The Civil War GML Chapter 14
	April 27	The Civil War
Week 15	May 2	Civil War and Reconstruction GML Chapter 15
	May 4	Review
Final Exam	TBA Week 16	TBA / Bluebook is Required for Final Exam

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

The instructor reserves the right to revise anything on this syllabus.