

United States History to 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2023 –HIST 1301, CRN: 10443

TR, 7:30-8:50am. College of Business Admin. Rm. 323

PROFESSOR: Scott Comar, Ph.D.

EMAIL: sccomar@utep.edu

OFFICE: LART 333 (747-5875)

OFFICE HOURS: TR 10:00-11:50am.

TA: TBA

E MAIL: TBA

OFFICE: TBA

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

PASS Leader: TBA

E MAIL: TBA

OFFICE: TBA

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

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

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty: An American History*. Vol. 1 *To 1877*. Seagull 7th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2022. ISBN 9781324041344.

-All students must have this book.

-Additional class readings for assignments are posted on Blackboard.

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.

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.

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.

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2. **Laptop computers and cellphones** 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. Do not procrastinate.

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Essays: Each student will submit one essay (1,300 words minimum). 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 assignment is worth 150 points total—this includes the peer review workshop. **All Essay final drafts 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 (100 pts each). Exams are based on both lectures and course readings. 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.

Participation Grade: Attendance Required. 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 20 points, and these offer you a possible 300 points towards your final grade. There are a total of 15 workshops. **Missed workshops cannot be made up. Late workshops will not be accepted.**

Quizzes: There will be 10 quizzes assigned throughout the semester (see syllabus calendar below). All quizzes will be posted in online modules on Blackboard (Blackboard required) All quizzes are due at the end of the week on the listed due dates. You will have a generous window period to complete all of the quizzes. No late work will be accepted. Read all instructions very carefully.

Grades:

- Essay 150 points
Peer Review = 50 pts
Final Draft = 100 pts
- Exams (X4) 100 pts each 400 points
- Participation Grade 100 points
- Workshops (X15) 20 points each 300 points
- Quizzes (X 10) 10 points each 100 points
- Total 1050 possible points

A = 945-1050, B = 840-944, C = 735-839, D = 630-734, F = below 629.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

GML = Give Me Liberty / BB=Blackboard

Week 1	Aug 29	Class Intro. / Form Groups Precolonial / Preconquest America. Read GML Chapter 1 AND “America’s First Immigrants” on Blackboard Quiz 1 Due on Blackboard before Sunday Sept 3 at 11:59pm
	Aug 31	Workshop 1 , On Blackboard: (reading & questions) Due 8/31 Workshop 1 will be done in class. Print the worksheet and bring it to class. Could also print the reading. Use the EPCC computer lab to print. Workshop materials will be on Blackboard. ¹

¹ All Workshops are group workshops. Class attendance is required to receive credit. For all workshops, you will print the worksheets on Blackboard and bring them to class. Worksheets can be typed and printed or filled out in pen. Further instructions will be given in class and on Blackboard. Each group is responsible for turning in one worksheet.

Week 2	Sept 5	European Contact and Early Colonization. Read GML Chapter 2.
	Sept 7	Workshop 2 Due in class / Quiz 2 due on BB before Sunday Sept 10 at 11:59pm
Week 3	Sept 12	Colonization. "Creating Anglo America" Read GML Chapter 3. Quiz 3 Due on BB before Sunday Sept 17, 11:59pm Census Date Sept 13
	Sept 14	Workshop 3 Due in Class
Week 4	Sept 19	Slavery and the Terrible Transition. GML Chapter 4. Workshop 4 Due in Class
	Sept 21	Exam 1 Scantron Required
Week 5	Sept 26	Colonial Diversity and the Roots of Revolution. Read GML Chapter 5. Quiz 4 Due on BB by Sunday, Oct 1 at 11:59pm
	Sept 28	Workshop 5 Due in Class
Week 6	Oct 3	The American Revolution. GML Chapter 6 Workshop 6 in class / Quiz 5 due on BB by Oct 8 at 11:59pm
	Oct 5	Workshop (peer review workshop) – must be a full first draft Rough Draft of Essay 1 Due for Peer Review—must be a printed hard copy
Week 7	Oct 10	Founding a Nation GML Chapter 7 Quiz 6 due Oct 15 on BB before 11:59pm
	Oct 12	Workshop 7 / Final Draft for Essay 1 Due Oct 15 on Blackboard.
Week 8	Oct 17	"Revolutionary Legacies." GML Chapter 8 Workshop 8.
	Oct 19	Exam 2
Week 9	Oct 24	National Defense and Expansion. GML Chapter 9 Quiz 7 due by Oct 29 on BB before 11:59pm
	Oct 26	Workshop 9 Due in Class
Week 10	Oct 31	The Age of Common Man GML Chapter 10 Quiz 8 due Nov 5 on BB
	Nov 2	Workshop 10 Due in Class / Drop/W Deadline is Nov 3
Week 11	Nov 7	Migrations and Expansion GML Chapter 11 Quiz 9 due NOV 12 on BB
	Nov 9	Workshop 11. Due in Class
Week 12	Nov 14	The Crises over Slavery GML Chapter 12 Workshop 12 Due in Class
	Nov 16	Exam 3 Scantron Required
Week 13	Nov 21	The Civil War. GML Chapter 13 Workshop 13 Due in Class
	Nov 23	Thanksgiving Holiday- University Closed
Week 14	Nov 28	The Civil War GML Chapter 14 / Quiz 10 due Dec 3 on BB
	Nov 30	Workshop 14
Week 15	Dec 5	Civil War and Reconstruction GML Chapter 15
	Dec 7	Workshop 15
Finals	Week 16	Final Exam TBA

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.