

United States History to 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2016. HIST 1301. CRN 12984
Learning Communities 18330 / 18331
T TR. 10:30-11:50. UGLC 126

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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 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. This class is part of a Learning Community that is working in conjunction with HIST 1301. Several of the readings and assignments in this class will be integrated with the work you do as learning community members.

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. 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 absence.

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. 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, 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 light appears. If you do not see the green 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 one-half hour before or after your class is scheduled to start.

3. **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 OSCCR for cheating.

4. **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 Deans Office. Regents Rules and Regulations for classroom conduct are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm>.

5. **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.

6. **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 Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution 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 OSCCR: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/>. 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).
7. **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 302 of the Union East Building. For more info visit <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.
8. **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 quizzes and workshops. Be smart and be prepared. Get your scantrons and bluebooks early and have them ready.
9. **Students are required to read before class.** Students are required to read assigned chapters and posted readings before class in order to effectively participate in workshops and quizzes.

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 must be 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.

(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 purchased from the UTEP bookstore. Both the midterm and the final will include one question (see below). 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 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 (See Blackboard): Students will work in small groups in class and complete short quizzes and workshop assignments based on class readings. These are all group assignments. 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 22 workshops and quizzes. 20 definitely count towards your grade. The last two may be completed for extra credit. Missed workshops and quizzes cannot be made up.

Grades:

-Essay 1 (15%)	150 points
-Essay 2 (20%)	200 points
-Midterm Exam (15%)	150 points
-Final Exam (20%)	200 points
-Workshops (30%)	300 points
Total	1000 points

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

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1	Aug 23	Course Introduction. Form Groups. Chapter 1, "First Founders."
	Aug 25	Finish Chapter 1. Workshop 1 , Blackboard Article, "Americas First Immigrants."
Week 2	Aug 30	Contact. "European Footholds in North America," Chapter 2. Workshop 2 , "1491" and "A Pox in the New World"
	Sept 1	Chapter 2. "European Footholds." Quiz 1: Chapters 1 and 2.

Week 3	Sept 6	Colonization. “Controlling the Edges of a Continent.” Chapter 3. Workshop 3: Textbooks, Indians and the Settlement of America.
	Sept 8	Quiz 2: Writing Workshop
Week 4	Sept 13	“African Enslavement: The Terrible Transformation.” Chapter 4. Workshop 4.
	Sept 15	Quiz 3. Writing Workshop
Week 5	Sept 20	“Colonial Diversity” and “The Limits of Imperial Control.” Chapters 5 and 6 Workshop 5.
	Sept 22	Quiz 4: Rough Draft of Essay Due for Peer Review Workshop
Week 6	Sept 27	The American Revolution Chapter 7 Workshop 6. Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline Oct 28.
	Sept 29	Essay 1 Final Draft Due. PBS Liberty “Oh Fatal Ambition.”
Week 7	Oct 4	“New Beginnings” Chapter 8. Workshop 7.
	Oct 6	Midterm Exam Blue Book Required
Week 8	Oct 11	“Revolutionary Legacies.” Chapter 9. Workshop 8.
	Oct 13	Quiz 5: Chapter 9.
Week 9	Oct 18	“Defending and Expanding the New Nation.” Chapter 10. Workshop 9.
	Oct 20	Quiz 6: Chapter 10.
Week 10	Oct 25	“Society and Politics in the ‘Age of the Common Man.’” Chapter 11. Workshop 10.
	Oct 27	Quiz 7: Chapter 11.
Week 11	Nov 1	“Peoples in Motion, 1832-1848.” Chapter 12. Workshop 11.
	Nov 3	Quiz 8: Peer Review. Rough Draft Essay II Due
Week 12	Nov 8	“The Crisis over Slavery.” Chapter 13.
	Nov 10	Chapter 13: Quiz 9 / Essay II Final Draft Due
Week 13	Nov 15	The Civil War, 1861-1865. Chapter 14.
	Nov 17	Quiz 10: Chapter 14.
Week 14	Nov 22	The Civil War

	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Day No Class
Week 15	Nov 29	Reconstruction: Chapter 15 Quiz 11
	Dec 1	Review
Final Exam	Dec 8	10:00 – 12:45

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