

United States History to 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2019 –HIST 1301, CRN: 11117

Learning Community CRNs: 16562, 16777, 17476. 17477.

MWF – 9:30-10:20, UGLC 106

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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 various Learning Communities that are working in conjunction with HIST 1301. Some of the readings and assignments in this class will be integrated with the work you do as learning community members.

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.

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

-All students must have these books.

-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.

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.

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 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 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 (CSSO) 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/>.
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. 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 two 850-1000 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.

(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 be based on one question. 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 is worth a possible 150 points towards the student's total grade, while the final exam offers 200 points. All examinations must be completed at the time scheduled unless the student can present a verifiable and acceptable excuse. Make-up exams for the mid-term exam will be scheduled at the end of the semester.

(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)

Workshops: Students will work in small groups in class and complete workshop assignments based on class readings. These are all small group assignments. This is why it is very important that students read all class readings before class. Each workshop is worth 15 points, and these offer you a possible 375 points towards your final grade. There are a total of 25 workshops.

Missed workshops cannot be made up.

Grades:

-Essay 1	150 points
-Essay 2	200 points
-Midterm Exam	150 points
-Final Exam	200 points
-Workshops	375 points
Total	1075 points

A = 968-1075, B= 860-967, C = 752-859, D = 645-751, F = below 644

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

CAP = Contextualizing Americas Past

Week 1	Aug 26	Course Introduction. Form Groups.
	Aug 28	Precolonial / Preconquest America. Read Chapter 1, "First Founders."
	Aug 30	Read Chapter 1: First Founders Workshop 1 , On Blackboard: "America's First Immigrants." (read before class)
Week 2	Sept 2	Labor Day Holiday – University Closed
	Sept 4	Contact. "European Footholds in North America," Read Chapter 2.
	Sept 6	Workshop 2 CAP p. 11 Workshop 3 CAP p. 17 Due
Week 3	Sept 9	Colonization . "Controlling the Edges of a Continent." Read Chapter 3.
	Sept 11	Workshop 4 CAP p. 21 Census Date
	Sept 13	Workshop 5 is a Writing Workshop on Blackboard
Week 4	Sept 16	"African Enslavement: The Terrible Transformation." Chapter 4.
	Sept 18	Workshop 6 CAP p. 33
	Sept 20	Workshop 7 CAP p.39

Week 5	Sept 23	“Colonial Diversity” and “The Limits of Imperial Control.” Chapters 5 and 6
	Sept 25	Workshop 8 CAP p. 59
	Sept 27	Workshop 9 Rough Draft of Essay 1 Due for in class Peer Review
Week 6	Sept 30	The American Revolution Chapter 7
	Oct 2	Workshop 10. CAP p. 69
	Oct 4	Final Draft for Essay 1 Due. PBS Liberty “Oh Fatal Ambition.”
Week 7	Oct 7	“New Beginnings” Chapter 8
	Oct 9	Workshop 11 CAP p. 115
	Oct 11	Midterm Exam / Bluebook Required
Week 8	Oct 14	“Revolutionary Legacies.” Chapter 9.
	Oct 16	Workshop 12. CAP p. 123
	Oct 18	Workshop 13 CAP p. 135
Week 9	Oct 21	“Defending and Expanding the New Nation.” Chapter 10.
	Oct 23	“Defending and Expanding the New Nation.” Continued.
	Oct 25	Workshop 14 CAP p. 131
Week 10	Oct 28	“Society and Politics in the ‘Age of the Common Man.’” Chapter 11.
	Oct 30	Workshop 15 CAP p. 141
	Nov 1	Workshop 16 CAP p. 147 Drop Deadline
Week 11	Nov 4	“Peoples in Motion, 1832-1848.” Chapter 12.
	Nov 6	Workshop 17. CAP p. 169
	Nov 8	Workshop 18. CAP p. 175
Week 12	Nov 11	“The Crisis over Slavery.” Chapter 13.
	Nov 13	Workshop 19 CAP p. 181
	Nov 15	Workshop 20 Peer Review-Essay II Rough Draft Due
Week 13	Nov 18	The Civil War, 1861-1865. Chapter 14.
	Nov 20	Workshop 21 CAP p. 199
	Nov 22	Final Draft Essay II Due
Week 14	Nov 25	Civil War & Reconstruction. Chapters 15. Workshop 22 CAP p. 203
	Nov 27	Workshop 23 CAP p. 195
	Nov 29	Thanksgiving Holiday – University Closed
Week 15	Dec 2	Workshop 24 CAP. P 207
	Dec 4	Workshop 25 CAP P. 211
	Dec 6	Dead Day No Class
Final Exam	Wed. Dec 11	10:00-12:45 Final Exam / Bluebook Required

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