

United States History to 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Spring 2019. HIST 1301. CRN 25437
MWF 9:30-10:20. UGLC 128

PROFESSOR: *Scott Comar, Ph.D.*

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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.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

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.

-All students must have these books.

-Additional class readings for assignments are posted on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance is mandatory** for this class. You will be dropped for excessive absence. 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.

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 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 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, TA and PASS Leader must have your full name and the class meeting days and times in the header. Emails without this information will be ignored.

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: <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).

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. Bluebooks required for midterm and final exams. 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.

8. 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.

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)

Week 5	Feb 18	“Colonial Diversity” and “The Limits of Imperial Control.” Chapters 5 and 6
	Feb 20	Workshop 8 CAP p. 59
	Feb 22	Workshop 9 Rough Draft of Essay 1 Due for in class Peer Review
Week 6	Feb 25	The American Revolution Chapter 7
	Feb 27	Workshop 10. CAP p. 69
	Mar 1	Final Draft for Essay 1 Due. PBS Liberty “Oh Fatal Ambition.”
Week 7	Mar 4	“New Beginnings” Chapter 8
	Mar 6	Workshop 11 CAP p. 115
	Mar 8	Midterm Exam / Bluebook Required
Week 8	Mar 11	“Revolutionary Legacies.” Chapter 9.
	Mar 13	Workshop 12. CAP p. 123
	Mar 15	Workshop 13 CAP p. 135
Week 9	Spring Break	Mar 18-22 Spring Break No Classes
Week 10	Mar 25	“Defending and Expanding the New Nation.” Chapter 10.
	Mar 27	Workshop 14 CAP p. 131
	Mar 29	Cesar Chavez Holiday No Classes
Week 11	April 1	“Society and Politics in the ‘Age of the Common Man.’” Chapter 11.
	April 3	Workshop 15 CAP p. 141
	April 5	Workshop 16 CAP p. 147 Drop Deadline
Week 12	April 8	“Peoples in Motion, 1832-1848.” Chapter 12.
	April 10	Workshop 17. CAP p. 169
	April 12	Workshop 18. CAP p. 175
Week 13	April 14	“The Crisis over Slavery.” Chapter 13.
	April 17	Workshop 19 CAP p. 181
	April 19	Workshop 20 Peer Review-Essay II Rough Draft Due
Week 14	April 22	The Civil War, 1861-1865. Chapter 14.
	April 24	Workshop 21 CAP p. 199
	April 26	Final Draft Essay II Due
Week 15	April 29	Civil War & Reconstruction. Chapters 15.
	May 1	Workshop 22 CAP p. 203
	May 3	Workshop 23 CAP p. 195
Week 16	May 6	Workshop 24 CAP. P 207
	May 8	Workshop 25 CAP P. 211
	May 10	Dead Day No Class
Final Exam	Wed. May 15	10:00-12:45 Final Exam / Bluebook Required

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