TEXAS HISTORY--HIST 3331.002
Fall 2011

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DESCRIPTION:
This course examines Texas history from pre-contact America to the present. It addresses the events, people, places, ideas, and issues that shaped Texas society, politics, international relations, economics, and culture during this span of time. This course will also focus on the history of the South Texas borderland. To do well in this course you must engage the material intellectually and critically. At the same time, you cannot discuss historical issues at a serious level without knowledge of the vocabulary (including dates). Hence, success hinges upon your ability to learn a substantial amount of material and then do something with it (i.e. interpret it, explain it, expound upon it).

SUGGESTIONS:
The best way to manage what will seem like an endless list of topics, events, names and dates is to organize your understanding of that information around the themes, perspectives and concepts that give shape and meaning to the material. Each lecture will, therefore, begin with a brief discussion of the themes and concepts relevant to that set of material. Use these themes and concepts to help make sense of the material.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Although the course is designed to develop students' understanding of the major issues and central themes in Texas history, the course is designed to achieve several other objectives as well.

Students will explain the role of major events in shaping the course of Texas History; Using lecture, reading, and visual text materials students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in the form of essays, critiques, discussions, and research assignments;

In utilizing primary and secondary sources students will develop interpretive and analytical skills.

ASSESSMENT:
Your course grade will be based on the following assignments:
Exams:

Matching (40%) – The first section of each exam will include matching questions, drawn from the lectures and the assigned readings. The subjects from the readings on this section of the exam will come from the lists provided to you.

In-class essays (60%) – Essay questions will comprise the second section of each exam. The essays will be drawn from a pool of 5-7 questions handed out before the exam. These essays will ask you to describe, explain, and analyze assigned readings as well as materials discussed in class. The focus of these essays will come from lecture materials, but you will also be expected to supplement the lecture materials with relevant information from your assigned reading. They will require you to describe, explain, and analyze key themes in American history. You should write your in-class essays as if you were writing to a college-educated reader who is not a specialist in history; in other words, you should not expect the reader to “know what you are thinking.” Explain the issues and give as much supporting evidence as you can. Your answers should be thorough essays, not text messages.

In order to do well on the exams, it is essential that you attend class regularly, take good notes, and read your assigned materials. There are no short-cuts to academic success. It demands energy and effort on your part.

Analysis Assignment - (35% each) You will receive a separate handout detailing the instructions and expectations for this assignment.

ATTENDANCE: I will not take attendance as part of the course grade. You are adults and can decide whether or not you wish to attend class. However, this class covers a week’s worth of material and students who miss class do quite poorly. If you miss a class you are responsible for attaining class notes for that day from a fellow student.

Extra Credit -- You have enough of importance to do in the regular assignments for this course. No extra credit opportunities will be available.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

CLASS POLICIES:
*Missed Exams:* All missed exams will be made up DURING THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD ONLY. You will complete the final exam first, then I will give you the
necessary make up exams. Realize that make up exams will consist of only ONE essay question worth 100% of the exam grade. Thus it is in your best interest to NOT MISS any scheduled exams.

_Late papers: late papers will have five points deducted per each day late INCLUDING WEEKENDS._ This is NOT negotiable. There will be exceptions only in the most extreme cases, and those will require some sort of documentation. The best strategy is to begin working on all assignments as early as possible. The "course schedule" below, lists the dates on which assigned chapters will be discussed. It would behoove you, however, to read farther ahead than the syllabus suggests. I strongly encourage you to try to have a working draft of each of the two papers complete at least one week before the due date. That way, if you have printer problems, or something happens that prevents you from working on the paper a day or two before it is due, you will still have a product to submit. I will not accept "computer problems" as an excuse.

_Grade Appeals during the semester --_ In grading your exams the primary concerns are to maintain fair standards. You have the right to appeal if you believe that you have received an exam grade which does not reflect the quality of your work, or if you do not understand why an answer you gave was graded in the manner in which it was. Please feel free to bring the matter to my attention. For your critical essays, see me, as I will be grading them.

_Assistance –_ Our office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. Feel free to come by and talk with me, or with your class assistant, during our office hours. If you cannot make these times, ask to make an appointment. If you need academic assistance in this course or any of your other courses please visit the **Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) located in the Glasscock Student Success Center.** This department offers a number of helpful services such as: tutoring, supplemental instruction, the writing center and the Academic Insight Mentors. For more on their services go to casa.tamucc.edu. Remember, you’ve paid for these services in your tuition, get the most out of your money.

_Freedom of Speech --_ Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment. Reducing confusion, providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request a clarification.

_Academic etiquette --_ Universities must maintain standards of academic etiquette in order to affect an atmosphere conducive to learning. You are expected to demonstrate courtesy to one another in and out of the classroom. Turn off your mobile devices, before coming to class, and use laptop computers only for legitimate academic reasons. Talking to one’s neighbor(s) during class lectures or general discussions, chronic lateness, using cell-phones or text message gadgets in class, surfing the web, leaving class before it has been dismissed, etc., is inherently disruptive and thus injurious to the rights of others to the opportunity to learn. As such, it is unacceptable in a university classroom. Students who are unable to abide by these rules of academic etiquette and
normal civility will be removed from the class. It is also extremely discourteous to leave class after submitting a critical essay. For your essay to be accepted, you must stay for class.

*Academic Integrity* -- Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question, and, in more serious cases, lead to further academic penalty. For definitions of and penalties for plagiarism, see University Procedures, 13.02.99.C3.01 "Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases" at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/students/130299C301.pdf

*Dropping a Class* -- I hope no student needs to drop a course. However, events sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. November 5th is the last day to drop a course for the semester with an automatic grade of "W".

*Examinations* -- On exam days, leave your books, backpacks, etc., at the front of the room or along the sides of the corridors before taking the exam. Electronic devices will not be permitted.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.

**Blackboard:** I will be putting class materials, grades and important announcements on this course’s blackboard page. You can access this page at iol.tamucc.edu. If you are having difficulties accessing the site please let me know as soon as possible. I strongly advise you check the blackboard page regularly!

**ADVISING:** “The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a Faculty Mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.”

If you are a student in one of the university’s other colleges please go to http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/colleges/index.html to find the contact information for your major’s particular academic advisor. *It is crucial for your academic success that you meet with your advisor regularly.*
GRADE APPEAL PROCESS: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 August 25th
Introduction and Course Basics
Pre-contact Texas / European Exploration and Texas GTT Chapters 1 and 2

WEEK 2 September 1
Spanish Texas
GTT Chapter 3
Graham Thoughts and Questions due In BlackBoard pages 1-73

WEEK 3 September 8
Mexican Independence and Troubles in Texas
GTT Chapters 4 and 5
Graham Thoughts and Questions due In BlackBoard pages 74-159

WEEK 4 September 15
Texas Revolution / Exam Review
GTT Chapter 6

WEEK 5 September 22
EXAM 1

WEEK 6 September 29
The Republic of Texas and the Mexican War
GTT Chapters 7 and 8
Kings of Texas Thoughts and Questions due in BlackBoard pages 175-conclusion.

WEEK 7 October 6
Slavery in Texas / Graham Discussion
GTT Chapter 9
Moore Handout
Graham PAPERS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS, 7:00 PM

WEEK 8 October 13
Secession and the Civil War
GTT Chapters 9 and 10
Quiz 2

WEEK 9 October 20
Civil War (cont.)
Exam Review
GTT Chapter 10

WEEK 11 October 27
EXAM 2

WEEK 12 November 3
Reconstruction and Changes to the Economy
GTT Chapters 11 and 12

WEEK 13 November 10
South Texas and the Rise of Commercial Agriculture
GTT Chapter 12
Carroll Thoughts and Questions due in BlackBoard pages 1-85

WEEK 14 November 17
Reformers and the Great Depression
GTT Chapters 13 and 14
Carroll Thoughts and Questions Due in Blackboard pages 86-147.

WEEK 15 No Class THANKSGIVING
WEEK 16  December 1
World War II and the Emergence of Modern Texas
Chapter 15
Carroll Analysis Due 7:00 pm

Final exam: Thursday December 8th at 7:00 pm