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. In order 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 a knowledge of the vocabulary (including periods, events, names, and 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).

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.

Finally, the course is designed to be relevant to your life. With each passing class period, the course will describe a world that will look increasingly familiar. Taken seriously, this course can be a life enriching experience that will benefit you well beyond the end of the semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
*Students will exercise their analytical and writing skills by generating analyses of monographs, journal articles or other relevant materials as assigned by faculty.
*Students will express an understanding of the major individuals and events in Texas history in class discussions and essay exams.
*Students will demonstrate an ability to apply historical concepts (such as change and continuity) on essay exams, class discussion and reading assignments.
*Students will strengthen their knowledge base through readings, discussions and written assignments in preparation for the teaching certification examination.
ASSESSMENT:
Your course grade will be based on the following assignments:

Exam #1 10%       Exam #2 20%       Final Exam 30%
Carroll analysis 15%       Cullen and Wilkison analysis 25%

All exams will be comprised of two parts. Part one will consist of 8 identification questions. You will answer 5. Each answer is worth 5% of the exam grade. Part two will consist of two essay questions, of which you will answer only one. This answer will be worth 75% of the exam grade.

BOOK ANALYSES: See separate instructions and grading rubric.

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. Realize, however, that 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. I only give lectures once. I am always happy, however, to meet with students to answer questions or "fill in gaps" in their notes.

EXTRA CREDIT:
I do not offer extra credit assignments.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:


O’Donald Cullen, David, Kyle G. Wilkison eds. The Texas Left: The Radical Roots of Lone Star Liberalism (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2010).

CLASS POLICIES:
MISSED EXAMS: I will schedule a separate meeting for students to make up each missed exam. There will be no make-up for the final exam.
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 certain 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.
PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. If you present material written by someone else as your own you will receive a grade of "0" for that specific assignment, and you will be subject to further disciplinary action. For specific information on plagiarism see the university catalog. If you are not sure about how to incorporate material into a paper or review see me.

CHEATING ON EXAMS: If you are caught cheating on an exam you will receive a grade of "0" for that exam. At worst a "0" will virtually assure a failing grade in the course, at best it will ensure a very low grade. You may also be subject to further disciplinary action by the university.

INDIVIDUAL GRADE APPEALS: Students are welcome to appeal grades that they believe were assessed incorrectly. If a student’s work was graded by a grader, then that student must meet with the grader first to discuss the possibility of a grade change. If the student is still dissatisfied for any reason, he or she may bring the exam to me. If I graded your work originally, then you may bring the work directly to me. Once a grade appeal gets to me, I will read the work and re-grade it. That is the grade that will be recorded. I may change the grade up or down. That second grade is not negotiable. If a student is still dissatisfied she or he will be advised to file a formal grade challenge with a higher authority.

GENERAL DECORUM: Be respectful of your fellow students and me. Don’t be disruptive by talking, holding hands, reading anything, eating, or monopolizing discussions. Turn off your cell phones, and beepers. Come to class on time. Do not anticipate the end of class by putting away your materials. You are training to be tomorrow’s professionals. Act like it.

PENALTIES: Individuals who consistently behave in an inappropriate manner and distract the class will be warned. In cases of chronic violations of the class rules, students will be removed from the classroom. If removal does not stop future disturbances, students will be referred to the Dean of Students’ Office for further disciplinary procedures.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC 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.
GRADE APPEALS 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     September 5
Lecture—Introduction to course; Precontact Texas; Spanish Texas
Readings—Calvert, De Leon & Cantrell (CDC) chapter 1
Discussion—Review assignments

WEEK 2     September 12
Lecture—Spanish Texas; Mexican Revolution; Independent Mexico
Readings—(CDC) chapter 2; Carroll Introduction, Conclusion and chapter 1

WEEK 3     September 19
Lecture—American Immigration; Texas Revolution
Readings—CDC chapter 3; Carroll chapters 2 & 3

WEEK 4     September 26
EXAM # 1 AT START OF CLASS
Lecture—The Republic of Texas

WEEK 5     October 3
Lecture—Struggles for Statehood; The Mexican War
Readings—CDC chapter 4; Carroll chapters 4 & 5

WEEK 6     October 10
Lecture—Disunion; Civil War
Readings—CDC chapter 5; Carroll chapter 6
WEEK 7 October 17
CARROLL PAPERS DUE AT START OF CLASS. PAPERS RECEIVED BY ME AFTER CLASS BEGINS WILL BE COUNTED ONE DAY LATE. This means that if you slip it under my office door during class, it will not be in my hand until after class and will therefore be counted as late. Get to class on time and bring your paper with you. If you forget to bring it or have computer problems or a flat tire or are late for any reason, the penalty will be imposed. No excuses. I will take electronic copies AS ATTACHMENTS to emails. But even those must be time stamped by 7:00 p.m. on October 17.

Lecture—Reconstruction
Readings—CDC chapter 6

WEEK 8 October 24
EXAM #2 AT START OF CLASS
Lecture—Texas in Transition
Readings—CDC chapter 7; O’Donald Cullen & Wilkison (C&W) chapter 1

WEEK 9 October 31
Lecture—Early Twentieth Century Texas
Readings—CDC chapters 8 & 9; C&W chapters 3 & 4

WEEK 10 November 7
Lecture—The Great Depression; WWII
Readings—CDC chapter 11 & 12 pp. 346-353; C&W chapter 5 & 6

WEEK 11 November 14
EXAM #3 AT START OF CLASS
Lecture—Modern Texas Politics
Readings—CDC chapter 12, pp. 353-380; C&W chapter 8

WEEK 12 November 21
Watch first hour and a half of “Giant”
Lecture—Texas Today
Readings—CDC chapter 13; C&W chapters 9, 10 & 11

WEEK 13 November 28
THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
WEEK 14 December 5
O’DONALD CULLEN & WILKISON PAPERS ARE DUE AT START OF CLASS.
   The same policies apply as with the Carroll paper.
Readings—CDC chapter 14
Finish watching “Giant”
Discuss final exam

WEEK 15 December 12
**FINAL EXAM ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 12**