United States History to 1865
History 1301, Triad E, Section 251
Spring 2015
Dr. Martin

Class Meets: Tues/Thurs, 12:30-1:45 CI 138
Office Hours: and by appointment
Office: FC 253B (2nd floor, end of the hall on the parking-lot side of the building, behind the glass door)
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Course Description:
This course will introduce you to North American and United States History from Native American habitation to the Civil War. We will use a few “big questions” to look at some of the major political, economic, and especially social changes that took place during this period, paying particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender. What does it mean to be an American, who can claim membership in the nation, and how do these things change over time? By the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of the founding, expansion, and temporary disintegration of the United States taking place before 1865.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will:
• demonstrate critical thinking by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information, gathering and assessing information relevant to a question, and analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information
• develop communication skills by interpreting and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication
• demonstrate personal responsibility by evaluating historical choices and actions, and relating consequences to decision making
• develop social responsibility by identifying intercultural competence and civic responsibility in past regional, national, and global communities

Assignments:
The core of your grade will come from three in-class essay exams.
Exam 1 – 15% of your overall grade
Exam 2 – 20% of your overall grade
Exam 3 – 25% of your overall grade

The second component of your grade is a group project, where you and your assigned group will create a game based on an event that took place in US History before 1865. This project will necessitate outside research, and is due on our Final Exam day. I will post an assignment sheet with more detailed instructions.
Group Project – 20% of your overall grade

The rest of your grade will come from four announced in-class reading quizzes.
Together, these quizzes are worth 20% of your overall grade. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and CANNOT, under any circumstances, be made up.
Attendance - I expect you to attend every class. Even though I do not take attendance, knowing the material covered in lecture is essential to doing well on the exams. I do not post or share my notes or slides.

Extra Credit – Find George! George is worth an extra 2 points on paper 4.

Grade Breakdown:
A: 90-100  D: 60-69
B: 80-89  F: 59 or below
C: 70-79

If you have a question about an individual grade on an assignment, please come to my office hours or schedule an appointment to discuss. If you would like to dispute your grade, I am more than happy to speak with you, but you need to wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned before approaching me.

Texts:
Required:
Theda Perdue and Michael Green, The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears, 2007


Supplies: Three bluebooks, one for each exam.

Policies and Expectations:
Since you are in college, I expect you to approach this class like the responsible adults you are. This means:
- Arriving to class on time
- Turning off cell phones, music players, and other distractions. And putting them away. Your phone needs to stay in your backpack/bag/purse during class time – you do not need a phone out during lecture. Please do not text during class time, or I will ask you to leave lecture. Take care of it before or after class.
- You are welcome to use laptop computers for appropriate classroom activities, such as taking notes, but I reserve the right to ask students who are doing other things (like checking email, facebook, or completing assignments for other courses) to leave class.
- I WILL NOT accept late work. Seriously. All assignments must be submitted on the due date at the beginning of your class time – no exceptions. This includes all written work, exams and quizzes. Written assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class in print form. If they are turned in after I start the day’s lecture, they are considered late and will not be accepted. I expect you to be in class to take all exams and quizzes. I do not offer make-ups except under EXTRAORDINARY circumstances. Vacations, colds, doctor’s appointments, changes in work schedules, etc. do not count as extraordinary. That said, I want you to succeed in this class, so if something comes up that will impact your ability to come to class and meet the expectations of the course, please let me know as soon as possible.
- All written work must be handed in as a hard copy. Assignments will NOT be accepted via email.
- All papers must be stapled. Buy or have access to a stapler – I will not accept multi-page work that is not stapled together. Double-sided printing is fine.
- I do not post or share notes or Powerpoint slides. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate.
- You are responsible for adding and dropping yourself from the course.
- You are responsible for tracking your grade in the course. There are many free grade calculator apps you can put on your phone that will help you with this.
- I may occasionally send you emails regarding the course. You are responsible for checking your Texas A&M email account frequently.
- I expect you to abide by TAMUCC’s Student Code of Conduct, which can be found at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/index.html
- TUMUCC’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism are available at http://cla.tamucc.edu/forms/academicmisconductprocedures.pdf. If you cheat or plagiarize on one or more assignments you will fail this course.

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by these policies.

- In the event of a hurricane, I will follow the published policies of TAMUCC. If the campus remains officially open during the time that our class normally meets then class will proceed as scheduled (including all graded events). If the university closes campus then we will push the course requirements to the next official class meeting. If an exam date is cancelled, the exam will be held during the next official class meeting, so come prepared.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Disability Services
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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Grade Appeals Process
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.
Provisional Course Outline
(this is subject to possible change)

Week 1
1/22 Expectations and Introductions

   Read for 1/22: Write assignment due dates in your calendar
   Purchase books

Week 2
1/27 Native America
1/29 Europe before America

   Read for 1/27: Watch Jared Diamond, “Guns, Germs, and Steel”

Week 3
2/3 Worlds Collide
2/5 Spanish Colonialism

   Read for 2/3: Slave Ship, Intro and CH 1

Week 4
2/10 British Colonialism – Jamestown and Chesapeake
   Reading Quiz 1
2/12 British Colonialism – New England and South

   Read for 2/10: Slave Ship, CH 2, 3

Week 5
2/17 “Up From Slavery”
2/19 Exam 1

   Read for 2/17: Slave Ship, CH 4, 5, 6

Week 6
2/24 The Road to Revolution
2/26 Independence and Meanings of Liberty

   Read for 2/24: The Declaration of Independence (Click on “read transcript”)
   http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html
   Remember the Ladies – on Blackboard
   Slaves Petition – on Blackboard
Week 7
3/3 Winning Independence
3/5 A New Constitution

Read for 3/3: Slave Ship, CH 7, 8

Week 8
3/10 “A Midwife’s Tale”
Reading Quiz 2
3/12 Consolidating a New Nation

Read for 3/10: Slave Ship, 9, 10, Epilogue

Spring Break March 16-20

Week 9
3/24 A Cotton Kingdom
3/26 The Market Revolution

Read for 3/24: The Cherokee Nation, Intro and CH 1

Week 10
3/31 A Growing Republic
4/2 Exam 2

Read for 3/31: The Cherokee Nation, CH 2 and 3

Week 11
4/7 The Age of Jackson
4/9 Life Under Slavery

Note: 4/10 – Last day to drop

Read for 4/7: The Cherokee Nation, CH 4, 5 and 6

Week 12
4/14 Moral Crisis and an Age of Reform
Reading Quiz 3
4/16 Texas and the War with Mexico

Read for 4/14: Seneca Falls “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”
http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html
The Cherokee Nation, CH 7 and Epilogue
Week 13
4/21 Rising Sectional Tensions
4/23 John Brown


Week 14
4/28 The Second American Revolution - The Civil War
Reading Quiz 4
4/30 The Civil War con’t


Week 15
5/5 Games Due in Seminar

Final Exam Date – Tues, May 13, 11-1:30, Exam 3