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 exams.
Exam 1 – 15% of your overall grade          Exam 2 – 20% of your overall grade
Exam 3 – 25% of your overall grade

Portfolio – The final writing portfolio you are completing in seminar will count for this course as well. Your seminar leader will tell you more about this. Worth 10% of your overall grade.

The rest of your grade will come from two response papers linked to your course readings. These papers will be typed, double-spaced, 3-4 pages long. These papers are each worth 15% of your grade, for 30% total. Papers are due to your seminar instructor through Blackboard. Papers will not be accepted late, or via email.
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.

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

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:**


Crash Course US History Videos – free on youtube


**Supplies:** Three bluebooks, one for each exam. They will be submitted to your seminar instructor per their instruction. You must submit your bluebooks by the due date in order to take the exams.

**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](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](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 or other event, 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.tamu.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
1/21  Expectations and Introductions

Assignment for 1/26: Slave Ship, Intro and CH 1

Week 2
1/26  Native America
1/28  Europe before America

Read for 2/2: Slave Ship, CH 2, 3
Watch: Crash Course US History The Black Legend, Native Americans, and Spaniards
Optional: Watch Jared Diamond, “Guns, Germs, and Steel” episode 2
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E5oph7UEio&list=PLGgdXfL8nB7w_nKY2mG2jiaC3T70k9bUR (watch part 7 through 12 on this link, or find one that works for you)

Week 3
2/2  Worlds Collide
2/4  Spanish Colonialism

Read for 2/9: Slave Ship, CH 4, 5, 6
Watch: Crash Course US History When is Thanksgiving?, and The Natives and the English

Week 4
2/9  British Colonialism – Jamestown and Chesapeake
2/11  British Colonialism – New England and South

Read for 2/16: Slave Ship, CH 7, 8
Watch: Crash Course US History The Quakers, the Dutch, and the Ladies
Week 5
2/16 Review Day
2/18 Exam 1

Read for 2/23: Slave Ship CH 9
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
Watch: Crash Course US History Taxes & Smuggling

Week 6
2/23 The Road to Revolution
2/25 Independence and Meanings of Liberty

Read for 3/1: Slave Ship, CH 10, Epilogue
Watch: Crash Course US History The Constitution, The Articles, and Federalism

Week 7
3/1 Winning Independence
3/3 A New Constitution

No reading for 3/8: Work on your paper

Week 8
3/8 “A Midwife’s Tale”
Slave Ship Paper Due
3/10 Consolidating a New Nation

Read for 3/22: Nothing – enjoy your break
Watch: Crash Course US History Thomas Jefferson & His Democracy, and The Market Revolution

Spring Break March 14-18
Week 9
3/22 A Cotton Kingdom
3/24 The Market Revolution

Read for 3/29: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, p. 2-5, CH Childhood- A Perilous Passage in the Slave Girl’s Life (p. 8-51)

Week 10
3/29 Review
3/31 **Exam 2**

Read for 4/7: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, CH The New Tie to Life – Scenes at the Plantation (p. 51-80)
Watch: *Crash Course US History* Age of Jackson, and Slavery

Week 11
4/5 A Growing Republic and The Age of Jackson
4/7 Life Under Slavery

**Note: 4/8 – Last day to drop**

Read for 4/11: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, CH The Flight – Aunt Nancy (p. 80-122)
Seneca Falls “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”
[http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html](http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html)
Watch: *Crash Course US History* 19th Century Reforms, and War & Expansion

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

Watch: *Crash Course US History* The Election of 1860 & the Road to Disunion, and The Civil War Part 1

Week 13
4/19 Rising Sectional Tensions
4/21 The Second American Revolution - The Civil War

Read for 4/26: Nothing - Work on your paper
Watch: *Crash Course US History* The Civil War Part 2
Week 14
4/26  The Civil War con’t
      Paper Due
4/28  Review

Read for 5/3: Nothing - study

Week 15
5/3  Exam 3

Overall grades available on SAIL, around May 16

Have a great break!