"The history we need in order to make meaningful assessments of our collective options is the very history most often absent, most especially in America: the history embodied in the places where we are." —Freeman House, Totem Salmon

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Why and how does place—both physical places and the social production of space—matter in the study of modern American history? How have people constructed place over time, both physically and mentally? How have locals, citizens, and other actors decided who belongs in a place and who does not? In this graduate-level reading seminar, we will examine these questions through extensive reading, writing, and discussion of cutting-edge scholarship in environmental history, urban and rural history, and the history of space and place. Additionally, you will be practicing public history by applying classroom knowledge to create a digital history tour of downtown Corpus Christi.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of HIST 5380: Space and Place in Modern America, students will:
- gain a better understanding of American history and the role of both natural and built environments in shaping the nation’s past.
- develop the ability to think systematically about how historians make arguments, use evidence, construct narratives, and engage with a larger body of scholarship.
- identify the various themes and debates within the historiography of modern America.
- improve writing skills and gain the ability to craft book reviews suitable for journal publication.
- successfully practice public history by creating a local walking tour, learn about digital tools for historians, and acquire experience for the job market.

REQUIRED TEXTS


Note: many of these books will available in the library on a 3-hour reserve.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING (1,000 total points possible)**

Note: more detailed assignment directions will be posted on Blackboard.

**Participation (2 halves @ 150 points each = 300 points):** Participation, class attendance, contributions to discussion, preparedness, and classroom citizenship are key requirements which will be rewarded. Your participation for each half of class will be graded separately. Your attendance at each class meeting is required.

**History Pin Walking Tour (300 points):** This innovative class project is your opportunity to gain public history experience by applying your historical knowledge to create a digital history tour of downtown Corpus Christi. At the end of the semester, the final walking tour will be made available to the public on the website and mobile application History Pin. The assignment will consist of five smaller, individual components due throughout the semester (100 points total) as well as the final walking tour itself (200 points).

**Place and Memory Essay (100 points):** The purpose of this essay is to explore the varying interpretations and public memory at local historical sites. Furthermore, it will offer perspective when you are developing your walking tour.

**Book Reviews (6 @ 50 points each = 300 points):** The 600-word book review is an important and distinct form in the history discipline, and one that we will practice throughout the course. You will write six book reviews total and will be given the opportunity to write two additional optional book reviews to replace low or missing grades.

**GRADING SCALE**

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A &= 1,000–895 \text{ points} \\
B &= 894–795 \text{ points} \\
C &= 794–695 \text{ points}
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D=694–595 points
F=594 points and below

LATE POLICY
If you have a serious, documentable excuse, please contact the professor about making up any missed in-class work or participation points. You may also turn in any assignments late, but unless you have received prior professor approval, assignments received after their due time and date will be marked down 5% for arriving after the due time (even one minute late) and 10% for each day late.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
Academic integrity is an important requirement for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. As a student, you are responsible for knowing how to avoid plagiarism. For more information, please see definitions of academic misconduct on the College of Liberal Arts’ website, available at http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/documents/academicmisconductprocedures1.pdf. Any student guilty of academic misconduct may receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the university’s Judicial Affairs Officer.

HOW TO SURVIVE (AND THRIVE) IN GRADUATE SCHOOL
- Graduate study can be extremely demanding and hard. You should know that many students struggle, especially during the first couple years of graduate work.
- The reactions to the high expectations and substantial workload of graduate study usually range from having zero confidence in your abilities to being overly—and annoyingly—arrogant. Trust that you belong here, but also be sure to practice humility and to treat others with kindness.
- In order to succeed, you will need to perfect your time management. Set a reading and writing schedule. And stick to it. Start early and work ahead on assignments.
- Read every day. You should also take detailed reading notes for each book.
- Show up to class on time and prepared to discuss readings.
- View writing as a process in which you will only get better if you make the conscious attempt to improve. You should start essays and book reviews early.
- Revise, revise, revise. Ask peers, the Writing Center, or others for feedback prior to turning in all written work.
- Hard work, being reliable and organized, and a positive attitude will not only help you thrive in your classes but also will often translate into better funding or job opportunities in the future.

COURSE SCHEDULE
The professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as needed prior to or during the course. Any changes will be announced in class.

Monday, 1/25: Course Introduction
Monday, 2/1: Kyvig and Marty, *Nearby History*
Assignment Due: History Pin, Part 1

Monday, 2/8: Kyvig and Marty, *Nearby History (con’t)*
Assignment Due: Place and Memory Essay

Monday, 2/15: Susan Schulten, *Mapping the Nation*
Assignment Due: History Pin, Part 2

Monday, 2/22: Susan Schulten, *Mapping the Nation (con’t)*
Assignment Due: Book Review #1 (Schulten)

Monday, 2/29: Jacoby, *Crimes against Nature*
Assignment Due: Book Review #2 Due (Jacoby)

Monday, 3/7: Coll Thrush, *Native Seattle*
Assignment Due: Book Review #3 Due (Thrush)

Monday, 3/14: NO CLASS, Spring Break

Monday, 3/28: Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American*
Assignment Due: History Pin, Part 3

Monday, 4/4: Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American (con’t)*
Assignments Due: Book Review #4 Due (Sanchez)
                    History Pin, Part 4

Monday, 4/11: Alagona, *After the Grizzly*
Assignment Due: Book Review #5 Due (Alagona)

Monday, 4/18: Kate Brown, *Plutopia*
Assignments Due: Book Review #6 Due (K. Brown)
                    History Pin, Part 5 (Practice Tour)

Monday, 4/25: Dolores Hayden, *Building Suburbia*
Assignment Due: Optional Book Review #7 (Hayden)

Monday, 5/2: Kevin Kruse, *White Flight*
Assignment Due: Optional Book Review #8 (Kruse)

Monday, 5/9 (7:15 p.m.–9:45 p.m.) Final: History Pin tour (all History faculty invited)

COURSE POLICIES

- You are expected to attend every class, arriving prepared and in a timely fashion.
- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during class time.
• All students should help foster a respectful atmosphere, regularly contribute to discussion, model excellent classroom citizenship, and promote the active participation of others.

FROM THE CASA WRITING CENTER:
“The CASA Writing Center is located in room 112 of the Glasscock Student Success Center (GSSC), also known as CASA. We provide free help for TAMUCC students at any stage of their writing process. Writing Consultants are trained to support writers in planning, outlining, drafting, organizing, and/or revising their writing and are also knowledgeable in citing sources in various documentation styles used in academic writing. We offer both face-to-face and online appointments for undergraduate and graduate students. The CASA Writing Center works closely with faculty across the TAMUCC campus to understand writing in different disciplines and to help students meet these expectations. We encourage students to make a 30-minute appointment, but we do take walk-in appointments if a Writing Consultant is available. Visit http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php to create an account using your @islander.tamucc.edu email address. Once you have an account, you can log-on to make an appointment with us.”

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, http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.