Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
United States History to 1865
HIST 1301.001, MTWR 2-3:55pm OCNR 133
SUMMER II 2018

Instructor – Crystal Ballard, M.A.
Office Location – FC 113
Office Hours – TR: 3:30-4:30pm
Phone – 361-825-5979 (Only during office hours)
Email – Crystal.Ballard@tamucc.edu

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to United States history from the Pre-Contact Societies to the end of the Civil War in 1865. We will not only consider how some of the major political and economic events of this time ultimately shaped the country’s social/cultural atmosphere, but also focus on a number of seemingly “ordinary” people who changed how Americans perceived their place in our nation. I will cover an array of topics to serve as the thematic platform for this course, such as freedom and citizenship, imperialism and nationalism, capitalism and expansion, equality and inequality. These themes will help you follow the progression of American history during this period. They will also help you relate to the realities of today and you’ll understand the significance of this history, how the issues of our past are intricately tied to those of the present.

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 writing, 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

Required Materials:

Grade Events:
Practice Run 5%
Assignment 1 15%
Assignment 2 20%
Assignment 3 20%
Assignment 4 20%
Participation/Attendance 10%
Final 10%
**Please read the portion of the syllabus below very carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand any part of the policies listed. I will operate under the assumption that you are aware of and understand them.**

**Description of Graded Events and Policies:**
Each week, we will cover a historical period in American history. Chronologically, we will begin with Contact, Exploration, and Settlement and then move into the Colonial and Revolutionary periods. Additionally, the Constitution and American Exceptionalism will be covered in the third week of the course and we will conclude with the Civil War at the end. Within these weekly historical periods, I will cover three distinct themes. From these, you will choose which theme interests you the most. For instance, if Native American rebellion during the Colonial Period is something you’d like to know more about, you will focus your scholarship in that theme for the week. I will provide links to readings and other materials needed for research via Blackboard.

From this research, you will write a short essay (minimum of 3 pages) each week and in total you will cover 4 themes. Each of these assignments will be written during Thursday’s class period. You will be allowed to bring in your notes from lecture and notes from the readings, and other personal prep materials with you on that day. **You may not use your textbook.**

We will do a **Practice Run** of this process in the first week. *(5% of grade)*

**On Friday August 3rd, you will turn in a one page FINAL reflection on what you learned about American History in the past four weeks. *(10% of grade)*

**Participation and Electronic Device Policies:**
1. To be successful in this course, it is essential that you attend class. I will ask you to sign in every day so that your attendance is documented. This will account for **10%** of your final grade. This grade also includes your involvement in class and lecture discussions. I expect you to be both physically and mentally present during class.

2. **Please refrain from being on your cell phone.** Any and all cell phone use during class, and especially during lecture, is considered extremely rude and unprofessional. Furthermore, **please refrain from using your laptop computer during class.** I’d prefer you take written notes during lecture but am aware that some of you may use your computer for this task. I will allow it. If you are on your phone or use your computer for any other means than recording lecture notes, you will be asked to leave class for the day.

**Class Conduct Policy:**
3. You are expected to be respectful of everyone in the class. We are going to cover a number of controversial topics like race, immigration, class, and religious/political ideologies, so please be mindful and respectful of your peers’ opinions and beliefs. If at any time you are blatantly disrespectful, you will be asked to leave class for the day. If your behavior warrants extreme action, I may be forced to request your removal from the course.

**Late Work Policy:**
4. **Participation** will not be allowed to be made up. I drop the lowest (2) daily sign-in grades.

5. If you miss an **Assignment(s)**, you are responsible for contacting me **before we meet for Thursday’s class** at 2pm. Make-ups must be scheduled/taken within two class days of the missed assignment (end of day Tuesday of the next week).
TAMUCC has several statements that are required as part of your syllabus, and these are listed below. These statements are required by SACS or HB2504—language must be included verbatim. They are provided every semester by the department administrative assistants.

Disabilities Accommodations:
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 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.

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.

Dropping a Class:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

Grade Appeals:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.
Tentative Course Schedule
(Subject to change at the professor’s discretion)

Week I:
July 2 – Introduction to HIST 1301.001

July 3 – Introduction continued (Historical Empathy discussion)

Section I: Foundations of America
“On the eve of contact”; “A seasoned mariner and fearless explorer” GML (16-28)
“The way for new empires” GML (39-51)
VoF (2 & 3) and VoF (8)

July 4 – Holiday

July 5 – Practice Run

Week II:

Section I: Colonial America
July 9 – “Religious belief…a complex and demanding matter” GML (53-64); VoF (10 & 11)

July 10 – “An important source of wealth” GML (74, 80-85) and VoF (15 & 19) and “Growth of colonial America” GML (91-102) and VoF (18)

July 11 – “A crime against humanity” GML (105-116) and VoF (22)

July 12 – Assignment 1

Week III:
Section II: Order
July 16 – “Liberty emerged” GML (140-155) and VoF (32) and other reading TBA

July 17 – “A cause that inspired devotion and sacrifice” GML (159-165) and “The distinction between freedom and slavery” GML (176-191) VoF (35) and other reading TBA

July 18 – “Ratification…by no means certain” GML (195-219) and VoF (42 &44)

July 19 – Assignment 2

Week IV:

Section III: The Promise of a New Nation
July 23 – “The goal of national greatness” GML (222-247) and VoF (50 & 51)

July 24 – “A series of innovations in transportation and communication” GML (251-272: “Mill Girls”) and VoF (54) and “Hostility to foreign newcomers” Nativism and VoF (58)

July 25 – “A repudiation of the Jeffersonian idea…of ‘civilized’ Indians” – (301: Indian Removal – 303) and VoF (64)
July 26 – Assignment 3

**Week XI:**

*Section IV: “War is Cruel”*

July 30 – “An institution unique to southern society” *GML* (312-326) Additional reading TBA

July 31 – “War…is the midwife of revolution” *GML* (409: Slavery and the War – 426: Women and the War) Additional reading TBA

Aug 1 – “The Divided North” *GML* (426-439) and *VoF* (90 & 92)

Aug 2 – Assignment 4

**Final: August 3**