The History of the United States to 1865
History 1301.002  Fall 2017

Instructor: Adam Costanzo, adam.costanzo@tamucc.edu, 361-825-2217
(Note: Email is by far the most efficient way to contact me.)

Office Hours: MWF:11am-noon and TR: 8am-9am in Faculty Center 274A

Course Meeting Time and Place
1301.002 M,W,F 10-10:50am, Bay Hall room 206

Course Description and Primary Themes
This course examines the formation and early history of the American republic. We will investigate the lives of ordinary people as well as the actions of national leaders. In particular, we will focus on the interplay of freedom and slavery, of prosperity and poverty, and of power and dispossession.

The course will also develop your abilities to analyze historical evidence and make historical arguments based on that evidence. Finally, we will work to develop your writing and analytical skills in both papers and discussions.

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.

Grading
Course grades are based upon your performance on the following:

  • Class Attendance and Participation: 15%
  • Weekly Online Quizzes: 10%
  • Discussion Board Posts: 15%
  • Argumentative Historical Essay Outline: 5%
  • Argumentative Historical Essay: 15%
  • Exam One: 10%
  • Exam Two: 15%
  • Exam Three: 15%

HIST 1301 GRADE BREAKDOWN
Books

The following books are available at the TAMUCC bookstore or at any number of local or online retailers. Copies are also on reserve at the TAMUCC Library.


- An ebook version of this textbook is also available at the Norton website: http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993757


Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance and participation in our discussions counts for 15% of the course grade. In addition, covering half of American history in a semester forces us to move at a very rapid pace. Students who miss classes will fall behind and find the exams and assignments much more difficult. Participation means coming to class each class period ready to discuss that week’s reading and any documents we may read or examine in class. You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts in both small group chats, small group assignments, and in large class-wide discussions. Asking questions, offering your ideas and opinions, and building upon the ideas offered by others all count as participation in our class.

Quizzes

Each week, you will be required to complete a brief online quiz in Blackboard covering one chapter from the textbook. These quizzes are due by 11:59pm on Sunday night prior to the week in which we discuss the chapter. We will drop the lowest three grades for these quizzes.

Exams

The course includes three in-class exams. Each will cover material for one third of the course. The tests will consist of identification terms that you will define and explain their historical significance and short essays that require you to offer an argument about a historical question and use the information you’ve learned in the course to support your argument. Before each test I will circulate a list of possible essays so that you can prepare yourself to write them on the exam day. If you are going to miss an exam you must get in touch with me beforehand to explain your situation and, if warranted, work out a time that you might make it up.

Writing Assignments

There are two types writing assignments due for this course, discussion board posts and an argumentative historical essay.

For the discussion board posts, we will utilize the “Discussion Board” tool in Blackboard. Most weeks during the semester, you will be responsible for posting your thoughts about that week’s reading from Voices of Freedom and for backing those ideas up with evidence from the primary sources. I’ll provide questions to prompt discussion. These posts will be due by 11:59pm on Sundays for the weeks they are due. The lowest two of these grades will be dropped.

The argumentative essay will be broken into two parts. A thesis statement and outline of evidence will be due early in the term. The full paper will be due about a month later after you receive feedback on your outline. I will provide detailed instructions and a sample to follow for this assignment. See the final weekly listing below for exact due dates and times.
Expectations & Responsibilities
You can expect the following from me as an instructor. I will:

- Create and foster a safe and stimulating learning environment in which you can take intellectual risks;
- Facilitate intellectual inquiry;
- Clarify expectations, provide assignment examples, and teach the skills needed to complete assignments,
- Assess and provide feedback for student work in a fair and timely manner,

I will expect you, as a student, to:

- Share ideas and listen to others;
- Respect our learning environment, your peers, and the instructor.
- Come prepared to learn and participate, having read required assignments before class; and
- Alert me to any concerns you may have and seek help when needed.

Citation, Plagiarism, and Academic Honesty Policies
All work that you turn in for this class must be your own creation and based upon your own ideas. The “Academic Honesty” policies described in the TAMUCC Undergraduate Catalog apply to all assignments and exams in this course.

In particular, the course will have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Any amount of plagiarism in an assignment will result in an automatic zero for that assignment. As is required by University policy, all such incidents will also be reported to the Office of Students Affairs as incidents of academic misconduct.

In class, we will discuss different types of plagiarism and academic dishonesty as well as how to avoid them. If you have any questions whatsoever about how to complete an assignment or how to properly use or cite information from our course materials, library resources, or the internet, let me know and I’ll be happy to help.

Late Policy
Papers turned in after the due date and time lose five points. Papers lose five additional points for each 24-hour period that passes after that. Papers are no longer accepted after they are seven days late. Quizzes and posts to our discussion board are not accepted for credit after their due date and time.

Communication Policy
Other than visiting my office hours, email is the best way to get in touch with me. It is my goal to respond to inquiries and comments received via email in a prompt and reasonable amount of time. If you send me an email and do not get a response within two business days, you should feel free to send a follow up email.

Before writing to me, please make every effort to answer the question on your own. For example, information on this syllabus is always available to you since it is posted on Blackboard. Similarly, your campus email is capable of saving all messages you might receive about the course. Emailing me to find out what the reading is for a given day or what building my office is in would be quite inefficient (not to mention a bit inconsiderate.)

Name Spelling Guarantee
I pledge to always spell your name correctly. If I do misspell your name, I’ll give you ten extra points on the next exam. However, I expect the same from you. If you misspell my name in an email or on a formal assignment, you’ll lose five points on the next exam.
Hurricane Policy

In the event of a hurricane, I will follow the published policies of TAMU-CC. 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, of course, 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. If we will be deviating from the above policy in any way, I’ll announce it to the class via email.

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 or log onto http://cla.tamucc.edu/advising/.

Disability and Veterans 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

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Lecture, Reading, and Assignment Schedule

The following schedule describes the reading and writing assignments for the class as well as the lecture topics to be covered each day. In order for you to best understand the details of the lectures, each reading assignment should be completed before the class meets. The required reading load for this course averages out to about 40 to 50 pages per week. Beware of falling behind on reading. If you haven’t read the week’s reading when we discuss it in class, you won’t be able to take part in our discussion and earn participation credit. Note that the dates below are for planning purposes and may change depending on events that occur throughout the semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week / Dates</th>
<th>Subject(s)</th>
<th>Required Reading Due Before Class</th>
<th>Assignments Due Sundays by 11:59pm</th>
<th>Major Assignments Due Dates and Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 8/27-9/2</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Native North America</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch1</td>
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<td>2 9/3-9/9</td>
<td>Spanish and French Colonization</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch2 Voices of Freedom Ch2</td>
<td>Ch1 Quiz Syllabus Quiz</td>
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<td>3 9/10-9/16</td>
<td>Early English Colonization</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch2 Voices of Freedom Ch2</td>
<td>Ch2 Quiz Week 3 Discussion</td>
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<td>4 9/17-9/23</td>
<td>English Colonization Continued</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch3 (See discussion board for discussion content.)</td>
<td>Ch3 Quiz Week 4 Discussion</td>
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<td>5 9/24-9/30</td>
<td>Slavery and Imperial Crisis</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch4</td>
<td>Ch4 Quiz (no discussion this week)</td>
<td>Essay Outline &amp; Thesis 11:59pm Sunday 9/24</td>
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<td>6 10/1-10/7</td>
<td>Resisting British Taxes</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch5 Common Sense</td>
<td>Ch5 Quiz Week 6 Discussion</td>
<td>Exam One Thurs. 10/5 or Fri. 10/6</td>
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<td>7 10/8-10/14</td>
<td>The American Revolution</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch6 Voices of Freedom Ch6</td>
<td>Ch6 Quiz Week 7 Discussion</td>
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<td>8 10/15-10/21</td>
<td>The Federal Constitution</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch7</td>
<td>Ch7 Quiz (no discussion this week)</td>
<td>Essay Due 11:59pm Sunday 10/15</td>
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<td>9 10/22-10/28</td>
<td>Federalists and Jeffersonians The War of 1812</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch8 Voices of Freedom Ch8</td>
<td>Ch8 Quiz Week 9 Discussion</td>
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<td>10 10/29-11/4</td>
<td>Immigration, Urbanization, Industrialization, and the Market Revolution</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch9 (See discussion board for discussion content.)</td>
<td>Ch9 Quiz Week 10 Discussion</td>
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<td>11 11/5-11/11</td>
<td>Jacksonian America</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch10 Voices of Freedom Ch10</td>
<td>Ch10 Quiz Week 11 Discussion</td>
<td>Exam Two Thurs. 11/10 or Fri. 11/11</td>
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<td>12 11/12-11/18</td>
<td>The Near Death and Rebirth of Slavery</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch11 Voices of Freedom Ch11</td>
<td>Ch11 Quiz Week 12 Discussion</td>
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<td>13 11/19-11/25</td>
<td>Women in the Rev. and New Republic</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch12 Voices of Freedom Ch12</td>
<td>Ch12 Quiz Week 13 Discussion</td>
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<td>14 11/26-12/2</td>
<td>Westward Expansion and Sectional Division</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch13 Voices of Freedom Ch13</td>
<td>Ch13 Quiz Week 14 Discussion</td>
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<td>15 12/3-12/6</td>
<td>Session and Civil War</td>
<td>Give Me Liberty! Ch14 (See discussion board for discussion content.)</td>
<td>Ch14 Quiz Week 15 Discussion</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
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<td>Final Exam see <a href="http://tiny.cc/tamucc_finals">http://tiny.cc/tamucc_finals</a></td>
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