Course Description
This course treats the history of the early American republic from the end of the Revolutionary War through the 1840s. This was a period of rapid and profound change in the nation’s economy and political culture, of revolutionary improvements in agricultural and transportation technologies, of great movements of indigenous people and newcomers across the western territories, and of religious ferment, social reform, and slave unrest. Although the course is structured around political themes—the making of the Constitution, the birth of political parties, the expansion and limits of democracy—it also devotes a good deal of time to social, cultural, religious, and economic history. Along the way we will meet a fascinating cast of characters, including Native American prophets, radical feminists, nullifiers, fugitive slaves, utopian dreamers, religious zealots, angry farmers, and nation builders.

Historical Thinking
History is more than just a static narrative of the past; rather, it is an unfolding argument made up of multiple narratives and interpretations that change with the times. The study of these arguments and shifting narratives is called historiography. Though rich in historical content, this course, like other 3000-level history courses at TAMU-CC, gives attention to historiography. Beyond memorizing names and dates and understanding the interplay between the political, cultural, and economic forces that shape history, we will practice looking at secondary sources as arguments and interpretations that reflect the biases and interests of the authors and their times. The point of this exercise? To prepare you to speak with your own voice and fashion your own arguments about the past as you advance through the history program.

Texts
The following texts are required and may be purchased at the university bookstore. The books by Rowson and Douglass are in the public domain and are available online at no cost.

Shankman, _Original Intents: Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and the American Founding_
Rowson, _Charlotte Temple_
Perdue and Green, _The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears_
Johnson and Wilenz, _The Kingdom of Matthias_ (updated edition)
Douglass, _Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass_

I have also placed a number of primary and secondary readings in the Readings folder in Blackboard.
**Learning Outcomes**
Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Understand the key events, figures, and forces that shaped the early republic
- Identify the connections between historical events and fit them into larger narrative frameworks
- Recognize, contextualize, and critically evaluate historical arguments;
- Construct well-written, persuasive essays using sound logic and concrete examples

**General Policies**

- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Depending on the severity of the offense, cases of academic dishonesty may result in a zero on the assignment; repeat offenders may receive an F in the course. I will report all cases of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Engagement and Success. See the writing guidelines handout for a more detailed discussion of plagiarism. For disciplinary procedures pertaining to academic integrity, see the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. After your fourth absence you will lose two points from your participation grade for every absence, excused or unexcused. Use your four free passes wisely. Students who come to class after roll call will be counted absent unless they notify me of their tardiness immediately following the class to have the absence removed.

- **Extra Credit:** I may provide one or more opportunities to earn extra credit or replace quiz grades by attending department-sponsored events. If so, they will be announced as opportunities arise.

**Blackboard**
I use Blackboard to post course materials (syllabus and handouts, lecture outlines, supplemental readings, readings questions, and study guides), post grades, and email students. You automatically have access to Blackboard by being registered for this class. To log on, go to [https://bb9.tamucc.edu](https://bb9.tamucc.edu). If you have problems logging on, contact the Island Online Helpdesk at 825-2825.

**Graded Assignments**

- **Exams:** There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. Portions of the final exam may be cumulative, though most of it will cover material studied since the midterm. Tests will consist primarily of essay, short answer, and identification questions; they will be based on the lectures, readings and films. They are designed to assess your content knowledge along with your ability to synthesize, analyze, and clearly communicate what you know. You are required to use blue books for these exams. Students who miss the midterm exam due to illness, family crisis, or extracurricular activity may take a make-up test if they: 1) notify me in advance of the test; and 2) provide official documentation clearly explaining the absence. There is no make-up for the final exam. You are responsible for scheduling your makeup with me; you must take it within one week of the midterm exam.
- **Essays:** you will write three formal essays related to the assigned readings and requiring little or no outside research. See the separate handout for essay format, requirements, topics, due dates, late policy, and information on plagiarism.
- **Participation:** Your ability to communicate verbally is one measure of your university education. Class discussion offers opportunities for you to sharpen your verbal communication skills, learn from one another, and make the class more interesting. To prepare for discussion, you are required to complete ten take-home reading response assignments over the course of the semester. Each of these will count one point toward your participation grade. Late reading responses will not be accepted, nor can you make up missed assignments. You cannot receive more than 10 points for these responses, but you can replace low response grades by doing additional responses.

I use a standard grading scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=59 or below. Grades will be determined as follows:

- Midterm exam: 25 points
- Final exam: 25 points
- Essay 1: 10 points
- Essays 2 and 3: 30 points (15 points each)
- Participation: 10 points
- TOTAL: 100 points

**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://www.tamucc.edu/advising/](http://www.tamucc.edu/advising/).

**Disability Services 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.

**Course Schedule**
Refer to the following course outline for assignments and due dates. It is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Writing Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 29-Sep 7</td>
<td>The Making of the Constitution</td>
<td>Shankman, <em>Original Intents</em></td>
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<td>Sep 12-19</td>
<td>The Federalist Era: Politics Foreign and Domestic</td>
<td>Essay 1 due Sep 19</td>
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<td>Sep 21-28</td>
<td>The Jeffersonians: Politics Foreign and Domestic</td>
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<td>Oct 3-5</td>
<td>Women, Gender, and Sex in the Early Republic</td>
<td>Rowson, <em>Charlotte Temple</em></td>
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<td>Oct 10-12</td>
<td>The War of 1812</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>Oct 19-24</td>
<td>The Market Revolution in the North</td>
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<td>Oct 26-31</td>
<td>Slavery in the Early Republic</td>
<td>Douglass, <em>Narrative of the Life</em></td>
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<td>Nov 2-7</td>
<td>The Age of Jackson I: Sectionalism and Politics</td>
<td>Essay 2 due Nov 2</td>
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<td>Nov 9-14</td>
<td>The Age of Jackson I: Indian Removal</td>
<td>Perdue and Green, <em>Cherokee Nation</em></td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Material</td>
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<td>Nov 16-21</td>
<td>The Age of Jackson II: Religion and Social Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28-30</td>
<td>The Age of Jackson II: Religion and Social Change</td>
<td>Johnson and Wilenz, <em>Kingdom of Mathias</em></td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
<td><strong>Essay 3 due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 12, 8:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
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